Message to the Church

The United Congregational Church of Southern Africa 36th Assembly met at Matola, Maputo, Mozambique from 22nd - 27th September 2011. This was the first Assembly to be hosted by the UCCSA Mozambique Synod in 44 years of the UCCSA. The synod of Mozambique made a sterling effort to make the delegates at home.

We met under the theme, 'Christ is calling us: participating in suffering and struggle'. The mood of expectancy that something new and greater is about to happen in the UCCSA was abundant. The Assembly theme was the centre of everything that took place from devotions, workshops, reports, and in greetings from our partners as well as in all our deliberations. We came to realise the potency and the missional implications that derive from this theme. It is our hope that the whole church will use this theme as a launching pad for the next phase of our mission work. The UCCSA's commitment to be a justice church in all our actions and our very being was re-emphasised in many ways throughout the programme, as it was the backbone of the programme. It is envisaged that this will filter and enthuse the whole church as we move forward in our missional calling.

We started each day with worship that was led by the Assembly chaplains, Revs Salvador Macule and Corin Magielies. Bible Studies were a foundation for each day's business. We were inspired by studies that sought us to reflect on the social ills in our different communities. Social problems such as drugs, alcohol abuse and addiction by pregnant women, lack of support for the families of those serving prison terms and others were discussed in the Bible study groups.

There was an array of thirteen workshops that were offered to the delegates and these covered issues of Land, leadership development, ecumenical involvement, wellness and spirituality and justice.

The Assembly was arranged in order to facilitate table talks and a thorough engagement of issues. The arrangement to sit in table groups allowed for free discussion but also allowed for a mix of voices from various Synods at each table. The address by the General Secretary was as incisive as it was passionate.
The General Secretary reminded us of our being a missional church and implored us to remember that a key aspect of the Congregationalism is the understanding of the local church as the vanguard for the mission activity of the church. He asserted that in Southern Africa communities would be incomplete without a church building or some form of religious presence. We therefore have to find ways of accompanying our local churches to invest in our children and youth and grow leadership for the next generation.

Our General Secretary’s Address also focused on the Horn of Africa and the centenary of the African liberation. Extensive deliberations ensued and the Assembly agreed to support the people of Somalia in their struggle and suffering. The General Secretary also stated that we a need a structure that builds just relations, sharing of resources and facilitates the mission of God. He stated that our meetings should be a place of prayer, fellowship and living out the Mission of God. The modern church needs dynamism of structure rather than bureaucratic systems that have developed over time.

This year the Joseph Wing lecture was given by the Rev Dr Simanga Khumalo, Head of the School of Theology and Religion at the UKZN. The lecture entitled ‘Drinking from our Wells” was structured around the legacy of people like John Langalibalele Dube and his Wife Nokuthela Dube (nee Mdima), Steve De Gruchy and Rev William Willcox. The legacy of John Dube was the founding of a first school owned and run by black people and the founding of the first Zulu newspaper “ILanga lase Natal.” He was also one of the founders and the 1st President of the ANC and co-founded a company that bought land for black people, however the more significant legacy of John Dube was the fact that he laid a foundation for the development of leadership for the total liberation of the people. Nokuthela Dube, his wife, not only played a key role in the life of John Dube but also was apolitical figure in her own right, showing interest in Pan-Africanism and as well as understanding the importance of education and its holistic nature. Rev William Willcox pioneered the mission work in Mozambique and was opposed to oppressive laws of both the government and the church. Steve De Gruchy a man who needs no introduction to the UCCSA developed a theology of rural ministry, water and mentored academics and theologians. Dr Simanga emphasised that Mission is a transforming experience but it can also be transformed in the process. Dr Simanga brought out the synergy between politics and theology through the examples of the work of John Dube, Wilcox, Steve De Gruchy and Nokuthela Dube, (nee Mdima).

Assembly took time off on Saturday to visit the city of Maputo and gain a bit of exposure to the real life situation of the people. We mingled with people at the market and in the street as well as on the beach. We were made aware of the challenges that the majority faces on a daily basis.
However we could not fail to notice the signs of hope as people interacted with us and welcomed us to their world.

Sunday services gave us another window of the church and people of Mozambique. Messages where delivered by preachers before breaking into table fellowships. The love and warmth of the church was clearly evident in the abundance of the hospitality provided. It was sincere and Christian. The afternoon rally was another enjoyable experience of creative worship, music, choral singing, and powerful preaching.

Assembly took many resolutions and most of these were designed to give fresh impetus to the UCCSA as a justice church. A host of decisions and resolutions have been adopted on issues such as the establishment of a central fund for the support of ministry in the UCCSA, solidarity with people of Haiti, Somalia and Zimbabwe. The Assembly also addressed issues of land and landlessness, corruption and nepotism, and restructuring for mission.

The Rev. Basil Manning was inducted as the new President of the UCCSA, whilst the other Officers include; President-Elect Rev. Phylip Strydom and Treasurer Mrs Florence Norris.

As we return to our homes, we do so with hearts of gratitude for the warm reception from the Synod of Mozambique. We do so with renewed energy for the missional challenges that continue to confront us from all corners of the UCCSA. Our theme, “Christ is calling us: Participating in Suffering and Struggle”, is the banner under which we go forward and under which our mission work is structured.

We wish all our churches and ecumenical partners God’s blessings.
Reflections on 36th UCCSA Assembly - Mozambique

I attended the Denominational Assembly for the first time! With the theme Participating in Suffering and Struggle, the Assembly's focus was not only on the Church's issues but it was also looking at the Mission of God in the world. How we are to partake in the sufferings with the people of Somali, Haiti etc. I was deeply challenged by the Assembly programme; the workshops, the address by the General Secretary, mini themes of the days. The Assembly Resolutions was all in response to this urgency Paul speaks about in the book of Romans. The UCCSA is taking a stand as far as Mission (the whole purpose of the church) is concerned and I am proud of that. That was all in the name of the UCCSA's 36th ASSEMBLY...Congregationalism serving its purpose in the world that we live in....inside and outside the church.

Loreen Dladla, (Youth Delegate from Zimbabwe)

I had the wonderful privilege of attending the 36th UCCSA Assembly in Matola Mozambique from the 22th – 27th of September 2011. Overall, I was tremendously blessed by the interactions, discussions, presentations, plenary sessions and speakers. It was truly an exciting time to be a part of this memorable occasion as it was the very first time in the history of our church that an event of such magnitude was hosted by our neighboring country Mozambique. One of the areas I really appreciated was the Bible Studies. The material used was informative, thought provoking and a real eye opener. The topics discussed in the bible studies were relevant, provocative, something that the majority of us do not encounter on a daily basis. I am thankful for the opportunity of having been to Matola with other Congregationalists.

Madelene Aiken (Algoa Region – South Africa)

One of the things I appreciated by this last Assembly was the direct and sharpness of the theme which says, Christ is Calling us; participating in suffering and struggle. Sometimes we have neglected as Congregationalists to go beyond ourselves and participate in what others I going through. Our Covenant demands of us to care for each other, to not be afraid of the next person nor to be afraid of an unknown future to a known God. I will continue to pray for our church that the energy, the dreams and the hopes of the Assembly will someday be accomplished. Lastly on behalf of the North West Regional Council I would like to wish our brothers and sisters in Christ a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Rev. Olebogile Kelokilwe (Chairman North West Region – South Africa)

A Glimpse into the UCCSA 2011 Assembly

The UCCSA is known as a transnational church as it exists in five countries of southern Africa. All these countries have had an opportunity to host the UCCSA Assembly save for Mozambique.

The 2011 Assembly was unique in diverse ways and one of the key areas was the fact that Mozambique was this time ready to face the challenge of hosting such a magnificent and momentous occasion. Indeed Mozambique selflessly hosted the UCCSA Assembly that was monumentally a success.

The theme for the UCCSA, ‘Christ is Calling Us: Participating in Suffering and Struggle’ remained at the heart of all the Assembly deliberations. In line with this theme, one of the key areas in Mozambique was the Joe Wing Memorial Lecture with the Rev Dr Simangaliso Kumalo as the guest lecturer. Listening to him expound his presentation entitled ‘Drinking from Our Own Wells’ was a moment of self rediscovery and great awakening. He used his space well and that challenged all of his audience to be mindful of the resources that God has given us especially the human resource. In his own articulation, this can be traced from the history of the London Missionary Society (LMS) into the contemporary United Congregational Church of Southern Africa.

A lecturer with the University of KwaZulu Natal, Dr Kumalo drove his point home when he emphasised that as the UCCSA we have such a rich history both within ourselves and in society given the socio political involvement of our leaders. Among the many he drew our focus to some such as ZK Matthews, Inkosi Albert Luthuli, Rev Kgolo Felix Mokobi, Rev Joe Wingand Professor Steve de Gruchy. These leaders and others are ‘the wells’ from which the UCCSA and the society can drink riches of wisdom and valuable education.

Rev Gabriel Seutlwadi Tsuaneng
Your Religion Is Not Important
A brief dialogue between a Brazilian theologian Leonardo Boff and the Dalai Lama

In a round table discussion about religion and freedom in which Dalai Lama and myself were participating at recess I maliciously, and also with interest, asked him:

“Your holiness, what is the best religion?”

I was silent for a moment, marvelling and even today thinking of his wise and irrefutable response:

“I am not interested, my friend, about your religion or if you are religious or not.

“What really is important to me is your behaviour in front of your peers, family, work, community, and in front of the world.”

“Remember, the universe is the echo of our actions and our thoughts.”

I thought he would say: “The Tibetan Buddhism” or “The oriental religions, much older than Christianity” Dalai Lama paused, smiled and looked me in the eyes ….

which surprised me because I knew of the malice contained in my question.

He answered:

“The best religion is the one that gets you closest to God.
It is the one that makes you a better person.”

To get out of my embarrassment with such a wise answer, I asked:

“What is it that makes me better?”

He responded:

“Whatever makes you more compassionate, more sensible, more detached, more loving, more humanitarian, more responsible, more ethical.”

Finally he said:

“Take care of your Thoughts because they become Words.
Take care of your Words because they will become Actions.
Take care of your Actions because they will become Habits.
Take care of your Habits because they will form your Character.
Take care of your Character because it will form your Destiny.
and your Destiny will be your Life … and …

“There is no religion higher than the Truth.”

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and your Destiny will be your Life … and …

“There is no religion higher than the Truth.”
On the 19th November 2011, UCCSA President, Rev Basil Manning was the Guest Preacher for this year’s Graduation ceremony for the Preachers’ Course Class of the year 2011.

The gathering, as per custom, was at the historic site of Kuruman Moffat Mission.

76 participants of the UCCSA Leadership Academy Preachers’ Course were awarded their certificates for successfully completing the Course. Friends and families of the members of the graduating Participants graced the occasion at which the President spoke very passionately about the UCCSA being a justice church. He said we should take a critical look at ourselves in terms of our Missional effectiveness and relevance.

Also present were the Facilitators from the centres that worked since February to register and run the various centres for the sake of the success of the work of God.

Rev. Muriel Mothibi was the Presiding Minister at the ceremony.

The Rev. Johannes Stuurman, Chairperson, Kuruman Moffat Mission Board and also Rev. Kudzani Ndebele, Director, Kuruman Moffat Mission along with the Moffat members of staff and Kuruman House of Ministerial Formation students were also present to witness this fourth Preachers’ Course Graduation Ceremony. All were gathered to support and encourage the 76 women and men who have been equipped with preaching skills to serve in the Preaching Ministry.

The journey began in February 2011 with the Preachers’ Course being conducted in centres across the UCCSA, namely: Port Elizabeth, Cape Town, Bloemfontein/Free State, Durban/KZN, Kuruman, Plumtree, (Zimbabwe Synod); Francistown, Kanye (Botswana).

Each centre was staffed with Facilitators who competently delivered the six modules and ran workshops of the Course and engaged the participants in the preparation and delivery of sermons. The Ceremony began with a fitting hymn “Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine” and the refrain echoed the testimony of the participants: “This is my story, this is song, praising my Saviour all the day long.”

Rev. Stuurman extended welcome to all who journeyed to Kuruman for the Graduation. In his greetings, he challenged the graduates to be good ambassadors of the Word and practice humility in its delivery. Rev. Nhloziyo, the Director of the Leadership Academy, addressed the gathering and expressed delight that the Leadership Academy has equipped the fourth batch of Preachers’ Course graduates.

They will now join the over 500 women and men in the UCCSA Roll of Preachers. He reminded the gathering of the Principles of the Leadership Academy in striving to equip the laity as well as the clergy in fulfilling the mandate of a justice-Church through the wide range of programmes that are
offered. He cited the importance of life-long learning, re-reading the Bible, social and economic justice and mission engagement as important elements in realizing this vision. The Scripture was from Joel 20: 25-32, Hebrews 11: 33-38 and Mark 13: 9 – 11 by graduates Sadikane Tlouetsile (Kanye), Vanessa Grootboom (Port Elizabeth) and Sharon Charlotte Tshabalala (Kwazulu-Natal) respectively. Ms. Wendy Esau, Facilitator, Cape Town Centre, gave a moving introduction of the Guest Speaker and President, Rev. Basil Manning. She highlighted his passion and commitment for justice and the desire for the UCCSA to become a “justice church.”

She also affirmed that Rev. Manning has reflected in his lifestyle and attitude how the church should be, humble, faithful, honest, forgiving but forthright in its stance for justice and equity and be in solidarity with the oppressed and marginalized of society. After such a moving introduction it was time for Rev. Manning to deliver the Presidential address to the Graduates.

In his usual soft but piercing tone he challenged the graduates on the UCCSA theme: “Christ is calling us: Participating in Suffering and Struggle.” He urged the congregation not to romanticize suffering but confront it in the places where it exists, noting that a cost is involved and therefore they should be courageous and willing to accept the cost. The new preachers were also challenged by Rev. Manning not to settle with how the church normally addresses situations of suffering and struggle by engaging in welfare and reform interventions, but should be involved in direct action to deal with the root causes of people’s pain and suffering. It was a thought-provoking address which presented the new preachers and indeed everybody present with a springboard on which to begin their new ministry. The Youth Choir from Kagung, conducted by a former participant in the Preacher’s Course, Mr Sam Gasemelwe, gave a thrilling performance of beautiful and melodious music, which provided a lively and worshipful background as graduates received their certificates.

It was a spectacular moment to witness graduates in a jubilant mood and in their unique styles received their certificates and posed for photographs with the President. In a grateful response, class representative Tuelo Setlhare from Free State centre expressed heartfelt gratitude and appreciation on behalf of the graduates to the UCCSA, Leadership Academy and Facilitators for the excellent way they coached and tutored participants throughout the Course.

He assured the gathering that they would be faithful in Preaching the Word and will put in practice what they have learnt and become true life-long learners. Rev. Ndebele expressed pleasure in hosting the Graduation at Kuruman and thanked all who contributed in making the Graduation Ceremony enjoyable and enriching.

The Event ended with the Graduates making a covenant to: “serve as Christ’s ambassadors to preach the Word and to be diligent in preparation and the task of preaching.” The President, in closing the Ceremony sent the Graduates into the world to “participate with the liberating Saviour to bring hope and life to those who are struggling and suffering.”

{Let us now provide the space in our local churches for the new preachers to participate in strengthening the Preaching ministry.}

This report was submitted by Mrs Joy Walker-Edwards, Staff Leadership Academy.
Equal rights for all the measure for assessing freedom of religion

An international study process developed by the World Council of Churches (WCC) is preparing a report on freedom of religion as a fundamental human right for all.

The fundamental rights of freedom of religion or belief are often violated by both governments and individuals, acting either on their own behalf or as members of majority groups. Despite significant initiatives taken by states and the international community, religious minorities in several parts of the world are becoming the targets of discrimination, acts of violence or hostility and persecution because of their religion.

The extent to which freedom of religion or belief can be considered as an absolute right in pluralistic societies, as well as its relation to various aspects of human rights, was the centre of discussion among experts who participated in an international consultation organized by the WCC’s Commission of the Churches on International Affairs (CCIA).

Equal rights of all individuals in any society should be the broader parameter which should be seen beyond legal measures when addressing the issue of the Freedom of Religion and belief in today’s global context: This was the principle emphasized by thirty experts from 23 countries in Africa, Asia, the Americas, Europe and the Middle East.

The consultation was held in Istanbul, Turkey from 28 November to 2 December and hosted by the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

Religious freedom a historic focus of WCC
The history of the WCC’s contributions in addressing concerns related to freedom of religion and human rights was recalled by CCIA director Dr Mathews George Chunakara.

He pointed out that the CCIA, which was formed in 1946 jointly by the International Missionary Council and the structure preparing the foundation of the WCC, undertook as one of its first tasks to press for international standards on religious freedom. WCC’s contribution to drafting article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) has been widely recognized.

“All countries and their governments which ratified various human rights declarations or conventions and covenants, including the 1981 UN Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, are obliged to uphold the human rights of all citizens. But in reality this is not being observed and more and more people are facing serious threats to their right to freedom of religion and the right to exist as religious minorities,” said Mathews George.

Letter To The Editor:
9 OCTOBER 2011 – CONFIRMATION
This day was indeed beautiful as it marked an important day on the calendar in the lives of the parents having their children confirmed to full membership of the church. Little did we know that satan also had his seat taken in that morning.

The service was long in process and in the front row I noticed that the gentleman who was the father to one of candidates, dressed in a white suit wearing a head-gear, has disappeared. I wondered why and found out later that he had been requested by the Minister to leave the church, or was not allowed to continue with the confirmation process as the Minister was not aware that he was Islamic.

This raises much concern as this man have attended many other services, either sitting in the far back seat of the church, next to his wife or he will be in the church yard waiting for his wife and kid.

The questions I would like to raise as a Congregationalist is:
1. What harm has his presence done to the Congregation to be present at the commitment of his child?
2. Was it Christ-like behavior of the Minister to request/stop this father to leave the church or not allow him to continue the process?
3. Does the Bible not teach us discipleship?
4. Do our leaders equip themselves with enough information about other religions?
5. Why was this matter not addressed prior to the morning of Confirmation?
6. Did the Minister attempt to contact the member after the incident as she is now absent from church.
7. Would the UCCSA address and resolve this matter should this member lay a formal complaint against the Minister?
8. Does the action of the Minister align with the CONSTITUTION of the UCCSA? Is it the rightful place for the Ministers of the UCCSA to ask people to leave the church if they are from different religions?
9. Does this matter in its merits warrant an apology and will an apology rectify the harm done to the family.
10. Did the Minister have any concern about the feelings of this family?

I wish to conclude by saying that the Church Council and the Minister should take note of the fact that their church is running empty and to my observation, it is as a result of people wanting to act like gods instead of standing in their calling.

My journey with Christ has taught me that we should humbly serve in his Kingdom on earth and that we should not regard you higher than the other.

I prayerfully wrote this note and trust that spiritual guidance would be provided which will feed and not kill the spiritual life of our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

This is a journey which we cannot attempt on our own.

Yours in Christ
Anonymous.
Inanda Seminary Dedicates New Pool

During its At Home celebration, Inanda Seminary (est. 1869) welcomed parents, alumnae, friends and sponsors to celebrate the extraordinary progress of the school. The historic independent Christian institution celebrated its past and present by dedicating new developments that enable it to serve well long into the future. The Seminary dedicated a new swimming pool, remembrance garden and computer lab.

The estate of the late Dr Mantombazana Tshabalala-Msimang, who studied at the Seminary from 1954 to 1958, donated the pool to honour Dr Helmut Weigert, who taught at the school from 1970 to 1974. Mr Mendi Msimang, widower to Dr Tshabalala-Msimang, officially opened the pool with his daughters and grandchildren.

In 1974, Dr Weigert died attempting to save two Inanda Seminary students from drowning. Sadly, one student, Faith Busane, died. Thankfully, the other student, Lorraine Nene, survived and attended the pool's dedication. The construction of the pool represents a milestone in the life of the school in the midst of a black urban township.

The Inanda Seminary also opened a beautifully landscaped remembrance garden donated by the Seminary's alumnae ('Old Girls'). Many alumnae were present to officially honour the school by dedicating this contribution to the already verdant campus grounds.

The Solon Foundation funded a portion of the state-of-the-art computer lab. The lab provides modern security, climate control and over thirty-seven computer terminals.

The Inanda Seminary is not resting with these achievements. Currently, the school's largest structure, Phelps Hall, is being restored and renovated and the Lucy Lindley Interpretive Centre’s museum and archive are receiving new exhibitions. New dedications and celebrations will be planned for next year.

Rev. Martin Madelukang Morolong Passes On.

The Rev. Martin Morolong died on Thursday (December 8, 2011) in Serowe. Rev. Morolong was one of the first people who studied through the Federal Theological Seminary when it was founded in the early sixties. He later began his ministry in Pampierstad in the North West, South Africa. He was a keen Biblical scholar, which he led to his vocation as lecturer at Kgolagano College and later as a translator of the Setswana Bible into modern orthography. Martin Morolong was a recipient of the UCCSA Roll of Honour.

Wedding Bells Ringing in Maputo

17 December 2011 will be a very special day for two UCCSA members in Mozambique. On this day Rev. Salvador Macule and Esmenia will be getting married.

Rev. Salvodor Macule, was one of the chaplains at the recently held Assembly in Maputu and is currently a student at the University of KZN in Pietermaritzberg. Esmenia was a participant in the very first UCCSA Youth Development Programme in 2009.

On behalf of the whole UCCSA family we wish them well on their special day and many blessing on their journey ahead as a married couple.
ADVENT CALL FOR A JUST LIFESTYLE
(by Rev Majaha Nhliziyo, Director for Leadership Development)

The greatness of any nation should not be measured on its military or economic might but rather it should be measured on the way in which it treats its weaker members of society. The same principle applies on us at individual or family level. It is the manner of our treatment of those who are weak and vulnerable among us that defines our character. Advent, (Latin: adventus, = Coming) is a season that commemorates the coming of Christ and the resultant transformation of humanity under the banner of justice and peace. The following text should challenge us on our dispensation of justice especially for those who are weak and vulnerable socially and economically.

“In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, “Grant me justice against my opponent.” For a while he refused but later he said to himself, ‘Though I have no fear of God, and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.’” And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will God not grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?” (Luke 18: 2 – 8, NRSV)

Think about the story:
- The unjust judge has no interest in helping the widow,
- The simple request of the widow is that she be given justice,
- The judge is only interested in ‘freeing’ himself from the widow’s visits.
- The punch is in the comparison of the unjust judge with the Just God!
- Today, we are challenged to face pertinent issues of social, economic and environmental justice.

Implications of the story for us:
“To do justice, to love mercy and to walk humbly with the Lord our God”, is the only thing that we are asked to do. Advent, the coming of Christ and his indwelling in the human condition and identifying with the suffering of the people of God in whatever name, religion or racial grouping they may be put in, ushers a fresh reminder about human destiny. Justice is the love of God in action. It is a quality that causes God to take redemptive action for and on behalf of the vulnerable members of society. Among these vulnerable groups are widows, orphans, strangers and the homeless poor. Justice action is also acting in of faith to liberate people from all forms of bondage and set them free for joyful service of one another across religious and racial barriers. Justice requires people to step out and act in faith, courage and hope. Such action is prophetic and liberative. It is the least that is expected of the children of a Just God.

Demonstrations of the love of God in our contexts:

Consider a cause of justice in your neighbourhood or workplace. It could be visits to, as well as work with children, widows, unemployed people or anybody in need. Discuss responses that you give as a ‘justice church’ or community?

In the context of the UCCSA theme, “Christ is Calling us: Participating in Suffering and Struggle”, consider actions that your local church can be involved in, as part of a justice culture? Why not consider an alternative Christmas as a way of re-claiming the true meaning of Christmas that was stolen by forces of greed? Alternative Christmas means that we should participate in the struggle for the betterment of life for others. It means re-visiting our priorities and plans around Christmas and ‘liberating’ ourselves from lifestyles of greed, selfishness and materialism. It means being liberated for service of others, especially the marginalised in our communities.

Prayer-Thought and Action:
Let us pray that the church of God may be transformed into a place where faith and justice actions are truly inseparable; and a place where prayer is robust action with the weak, hungry and homeless people in the streets and the mostly forgotten rural areas.

“RIGHTEOUSNESS AND JUSTICE ARE THE FOUNDATION OF YOUR THRONE; STEADFAST LOVE AND FAITHFULNESS GO BEFORE YOU. HAPPY ARE THE PEOPLE WHO KNOW THE FESTAL SHOUT, WHO WALK, O LORD, IN THE LIGHT OF YOUR COUNTENANCE.” Psalm 89:15