

# SA SYNOD BULLETIN

United Congregational Church of Southern Africa

Synod of  
South Africa

Tuesday, February 05,  
Volume 1, Issue 2



## From the Office of the Synod Secretary

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Assembly of the UCCSA in Zimbabwe is now something of the past. I was inundated with questions about the logic for having the Assembly in a country with much turmoil and suffering. Media reports made it even worse. This resulted in many people not availing themselves to go to the Assembly. The SA Synod ended with only 60 % of our delegation.

The people of Zimbabwe, however, were very determined to host the Assembly successfully. Some even referred to it as their birthright to host the Assembly.

We were accommodated in the homes of members in Bulawayo. These humble people gave their best with the limited resources available and under the most difficult political and economic circumstances. The Zimbabweans were honoured to host the Assembly. Rev Ndlovu and the church in Zimbabwe really made us proud.

On the other hand the courage of the Zimbabweans makes you feel so ashamed when you think that many of us were hesitant to attend the Assembly, worried whether there will be enough food, water, etc. It reiterates how much we can be thankful to God for what we have.

This calls to mind a story I once read. As a deadly tornado ripped through Will County, Illinois, a young father sat cradling his infant

child, born just 3 weeks before. When the fierce, howling winds finally subsided and calm had returned, the man's house was gone. And so was his baby. But according to the news report, the father found his child in a field near his house – alive and well! And so was the rest of his family.

When asked by a reporter if he was angry that he had lost everything he owned, he replied, *"No, I just thank God I have my baby and my family. Some people don't have that. Nothing else is important."*

Often it takes times of tragedy to remind us what really matters in life. When things are going well, we can easily get preoccupied with what we own. We become tied to so many non-essential, unimportant things. We tend to grow overly concerned about cars, houses, furniture, appliances, clothes and countless other trappings of modern life. But when life is reduced to the essentials, as it is in Zimbabwe, we recall again that life is enough reason to praise God.

Going to Zimbabwe at this time was very special and believe me, a massive encouragement to our friends across the borders. We can now only express our gratitude to God for the people of Zimbabwe for their hospitality and friendship.

## NEW PRESIDENT-ELECT

The South Africa Synod is honoured to be able to have nominated the Rev Simon Zazaza for the position of President-Elect of the UCCSA. Rev Zazaza was unopposed elected at the recent Assembly in Zimbabwe and will take over the Presidency from the Rev Patrick Coltman in 2005.

Simon is currently the minister at Trinity United Congregational Church in Yeoville, Johannesburg. He is most probably the youngest President (Chairperson) of the UCCSA.

We wish him and his wife, Dorothy, well as they prepare for his term of office.

**Sing praise to  
the Lord, you  
saints of His,  
and give  
thanks at the  
remembrance  
of His holy  
name.**

Psalm 30:4

***"HIV/AIDS  
is not God's  
punishment  
for the  
wicked .... Aids  
is a  
disease"***

(Archbishop Ndungane)

# PRAYER DIARY

**Please pray for:**

- The Synod Secretary, Office Staff and families.
- The General Secretary, Office Staff and families.
- The President and his family as he represent us on various platforms.
- The Synods of Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe.
- Zimbabwe as they search for and walk on the road to the process that will restore Zimbabwe to the position that will enable all citizens to live together in peace and unity.
- God’s protection on the people of Zimbabwe so that more lives will not be lost; that lives and properties will not be destroyed; that the actions taken by both sides of the political arena will not create an atmosphere in which dialogue becomes even more difficult
- The forthcoming SA Synod TMC meeting in Johannesburg from 29<sup>th</sup> September 2003 to 1<sup>st</sup> October 2003.
- The forthcoming UCCSA TMC and Interns

meeting in Johannesburg from 20<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2003.

- The forthcoming SA Synodical Committee meeting in East London from 25<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> November 2003.
- The stalemate we experience at the Kuruman Moffat Mission with the Anglican Church and we can soon reach an amicable solution.
- Rev REF Thompson on his appointment as Treasurer of Council for World Mission.
- Rev ID Ndlovu and his wife, Eunah, as Rev Ndlovu left Zimbabwe to study for an MA degree in Theology at Eden Seminary in the United States, while Eunah keeps the homefires burning.
- Rev Majaha Nhliziyo, the newly appointed Synod Secretary of Zimbabwe, as he takes on the daunting task of leading God’s people to the

***“The purpose of Prayer is not to get what we want, but to become what God wants!”***

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fund Steering Committee meeting In Johannesburg	7 November 2003	Applications for grants and loans should be submitted to Christian Development Trust.
CWM Consultation on Theological Education in Johannesburg	20 October 2003 to 4 November 2003	Rev P Dibeela will represent the UCCSA
All Africa Conference of Churches meeting in Yaounde, Cameroon	22 to 27 November 2003	President will represent the UCCSA
CWM Training In Mission programme starting in Cape Town	7 February 2004	Ms Lindy Lindenberg will represent UCCSA
CWM Regional Consultation in Windhoek, Namibia	March 2004	Every Synod should appoint one (1) person to attend
CWM Global Youth Convention in Johannesburg	15 to 23 June 2004	Every Synod should appoint two (2) representatives to this Consultation. Preferably one male and one female
The recent Assembly appointed Mrs Florince Norris as Trustee on the Africa Regional Empowerment Fund (CWM).		

## Rev Adora Lee

The UCCSA accepted an offer from Common Global Ministries to accommodate an HIV/AIDS Co-ordinator for Southern Africa and welcomed **Rev Adora Lee** at the recent Assembly in Bulawayo.

Rev Lee will devote a third of her time to the UCCSA and will be based in the UCCSA offices in Brixton. She is available to all constituencies of the UCCSA. The remaining two thirds will be shared between the Uniting Presbyterian Church and other partners of Common Global Ministries in Lesotho and Swaziland.

She is very keen to work with our constituencies. Among other things Rev Lee will assist with:

- \* Co-ordinating AIDS ministries in the UCCSA.
- \* Developing a network of AIDS ministries in the UCCSA.
- \* Regions and Local Churches to develop and implement HIV/AIDS initiatives.
- \* Regions and Local Churches to develop project proposals and analysis for HIV/AIDS projects.

***Basically she will act as a resource person to our constituencies and she will only work on invitation of the regions and local churches.***

You can contact her at the UCCSA offices at:

011) 837-9997 or e-mail at [revadora@mweb.co.za](mailto:revadora@mweb.co.za)



## Rev Scott Lovaas

The UCCSA accepted another offer from Common Global Ministries to accommodate the **Rev Scott Lovaas** who is based in Cape Town. Different possibilities for the use of Scott's skills and talents are being pursued by the UCCSA Mission Council. His wife, Anne Marsh, is working with the Rondebosch United Church.

His first task was to create a Deacon's Handbook for deacons in local churches. The handbook would be informative and would give guidelines to help individual deacons with worship and pastoral care. This is done in conjunction with the UCCSA Theological Committee.

Regions and Synods should feel free to make use of Scott's skills for such training. The idea is that deacons can use this handbook prior or during a visit.

***Basically Scott will also act as a resource person to our constituencies and he will only work on invitation of the regions and local churches.***

You can contact him at:

(021) 683-5628 or [lovaas@iafrica.com](mailto:lovaas@iafrica.com)

***"The God who delivered us yesterday is worthy of our obedience today!!"***

## Chief Albert Luthuli Legacy Project

Under the ministerial presence of Rev Scot Couper the construction on the Groutville church is scheduled to be completed on 30 November 2003.

An ***ecclesiastical opening*** of the church structure as part of the Chief Albert Luthuli Legacy Project is scheduled for the 16th December 2003. This will include a new adjacent building.

The event will concentrate on the foundation of the church (a tribute to Rev Aldin Grout and American and South African co-operation through mission), justice (Luthuli will be mentioned to emphasise the church's struggle against Apartheid), congregationalism in Southern Africa, contemporary denominational partnerships and most importantly, the local church at Groutville. The launch of the Chief Albert Luthuli Legacy

Project will take place on the 21st March 2004. This event will have governmental, political, international, justice and of course, Chief Albert Luthuli foci to the event.

Arch-Bishop Desmond Tutu will ceremonially "launch" the 'church component of the project. The event promises to be a star-studded cast. Both the President of South Africa, Thabo Mbeki, and Nelson Mandela is hoped to be in attendance. Other dignitaries world-wide are invited.

The Groutville United Congregational Church is assisted with this project by the Department of Arts and Culture and the Minister of Arts and Culture, Dr Ben Ngubane.

**IMPORTANT!**



# UCCSA MISSION STATEMENT

## 2003 – 2005

### WE SHOW OUR FAITH ....

We, the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa (UCCSA) acknowledge that:

- ◆ The mission we are engaged in is not ours but is God's continuing mission of love to the world and to humanity which God has created and is creating.
- ◆ Our mission action is a partnership with God and with one another.
- ◆ All UCCSA members and churches should live their faith through word and deed according to the biblical principle in James 2: 14 : *"What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works."*

### BY WHAT WE DO ....

We commit ourselves to demonstrate our faith in practical terms locally, nationally and denominationally as stewards in covenant relationship by:

- ⇒ Striving to be a missional church empowering members and congregations to put their faith into action that will overcome the scourges of poverty, violence, crime, injustice, racism, sexism, HIV/AIDS and other social ills.
- ⇒ Declaring that in a world torn apart by wars, racial, cultural, ethnic strife and inter-religious jealousy and animosity, we will build a ministry of reconciliation.
- ⇒ Endeavouring to be faithful followers of Christ Jesus developing our leadership – both lay and ordained – for mission.

Through prayer, worship, Bible Study and personal meditation we will be empowered by God's Spirit to

.....

***SHOW OUR FAITH BY WHAT WE DO!!!***

## Synod of South Africa

#### Postal Address:

P.O. Box 96180  
BRIXTON 2019

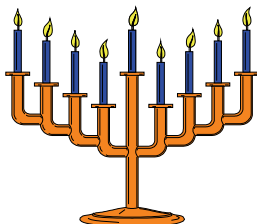
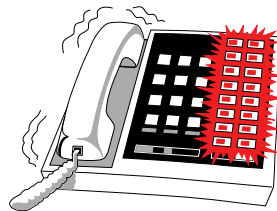
#### Street Address:

150 Caroline Street  
BRIXTON 2092

Phone: (011) 830-0312

Fax: (011) 837-4858

Email: [aclassen@netactive.co.za](mailto:aclassen@netactive.co.za)



***SYNOD OFFICE  
WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE  
DECEMBER HOLIDAYS  
FROM  
12 December 2003  
To  
13 January 2004***