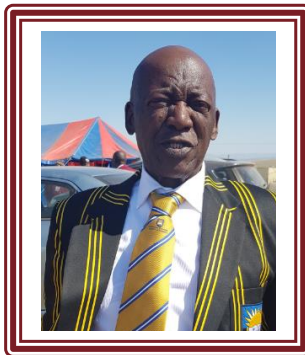


# **Bantu Methodist Church of Southern Africa**

**Presiding Bishop's Address to the  
86<sup>th</sup> Annual General Conference**





# Bantu Methodist Church of Southern Africa

86<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference held in the Ladysmith Circuit  
within the KwaZulu Natal District as from the 8th  
October 2019 to the 11<sup>th</sup> October 2019

## **Presiding Bishop's Address:**

*Mr Ex-Presiding Bishop of the Conference, Mr Past President, Mr Secretary of the Conference, Mr Treasurer, District Bishops, Superintendent Ministers, Ministers, WPU President and your Office, YWPU President and your Office, LPU President and your Office, YMPU President and your Office, YPD President and your Office, MD President and your Office, Lady District Bishops, Ministers wives, Mr Warden, Convenors and their Committees, delegates from various Districts, distinguished Guests, greeting members of our Church.*

*To start with, it is my pleasure to stand here again and give this short written address to you members of the B.M.C. SA Conference. My health in this last year of my term was not favourable at all. It started early in November last year and caught me unaware in such a way that I had to leave home and go to Cape Town to be with children to get medication of higher standard. I feel much better now. I would like to thank the Ex Presiding Bishop, Secretary and Treasurer who kept the Church moving and handled all the Church matters accordingly. Thank you so much brothers. I must also thank the Office for taking an extra mile for coming to visit me at my place of living. You showed me true love. As brethren's we have to love each other, we don't have to have time to hate each other and hold grudges.*

*Last week or so the son of the soil of Africa was laid to rest. You may hate or like him but all I know is that he was a man who could stand his ground irrespective of the giants he is facing. That is Gabriel Robert Mugabe. May his soul rest in peace.*

***Around you and me at the present situation***

*We are gathered here in Ladysmith at a time when our country is very sick, we have witnessed crime or violence relating to the foreign nations. Worst of all we have seen the incidents where the children and women are raped and abused. We have seen the escalation of the domestic violence. What has gone wrong, where has Ubuntu gone to. This havoc is really undesirable. The answer is with us Christians because the Bible says "If my people, who are called by my name will humble themselves, seek my face and pray, I will hear from heaven, I will forgive their sins and heal their land" Let us go back to our Lord.*

*It is scary that Satanism has gained control especially through our youth. Our children are captives of darkness. They have devoted themselves to things like using drugs, alcohol. Learners at school are doing all the mess beating their teachers and killing each other instead of embarking on their studies.*

***A need for urgent review:***

*The time of discussing issues but not implementing is the waste of time. Our financial situation is not a healthy and stable one. This is purely because we have failed to meet our obligation of doing contributions towards the Central Fund "Umnike".*

*Most of the Circuits are just on books and we assume they have members, Ministers stationed there and others visited but you find that there are no contributions reported. Some Circuits want Ministers but they are not contributing so what guarantee have we got if we send a Minister to a Circuit that is not contributing to the Central Fund.*

*For the past two years I have been pleading with this house to put right the constitution. So far there hasn't been much movement. Let us do something before we get into trouble.*

*The clause that says the District Secretaries must post copies of their Synod minutes to the President / Presiding Bishop is not adhered to. Only three Districts are doing it, others never bothered since I came into this Office.*

*There is a Circuit that did not accept a Minister that was sent by the Conference to it and they want the one that they like. They even called a Minister who does not belong to our Church to come and service them with different services like Umnqophiso, burying the dead. What has gone wrong with our members? Protocol of the Church is not observed at all. Some members are having unbecoming attitude.*

*It is important to respect the meetings which we are members of and a letter of apology is important if a member will not be able to attend a meeting. We need to be disciplined. We need to respect our leaders at all levels. There was an agreement that there must be a Conference preparation Meeting where we agree on the items for the forthcoming Conference but now it was the second time where some of the members did not attend and there were no apologies. People need to inform the Office if there is no need for that meeting anymore.*

*Before I conclude, I have to thank the people who contributed towards the Head Office project here at Crimin in Ladysmith. I would like to mention some of the names of the people who took it amongst themselves to contribute towards this project through Operation book a space. We have Mr C.M. Tetyana, Mrs MaHlatshwayo Vilakazi (Ndlovu), B/w N.C, Zwane, Ms Lindiwe Khumalo and Mrs J. Mvelase. I have to encourage the other members of the Church to contribute towards this Project. I would also like to thank those who have been loyal volunteers who contribute monthly. Your contributions are really appreciated.*

*Lastly, let us clarify under which conditions a Minister should cease to be recognized. We have had incidents where we ceased to recognize a Minister and something happened to him and our tone changed and we*

*started blaming each other for non-recognition of that Minister. Let us be honest and realistic when doing things.*

*I do thank you B.M.C. SA with all my heart and I thank your God, my God, our God although it was not easy. I say to the coming man be strong, don't be like a reed. I had a good time to learn and study a "man" What is a man? Especially a Minister. I can write a book and I am going to tackle it on my spare time.*

*May the Lord bless you all. I wish this Conference success on all her deliberations.*

*Your servant  
Rev. W.M. Giqwa*

***Presiding Bishop***



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