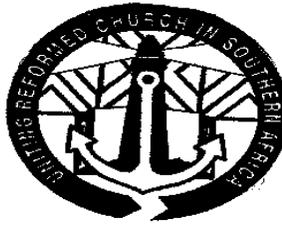


***Verenigende  
Gereformeerde Kerk  
in Suider Afrika  
Noordelike Sinode***



***Uniting Reformed  
Church in Southern  
Africa  
Northern Synod***

(Voormalige/Formerly NGK in Afrika – NG Sendingkerk)

Sinodale Kantoor/Synodical Office  
Mamelodi Dienssentrum  
Posbus/P O Box 33  
SILVERTON 0127

Sel/Cel. 082 770 8661  
Faks/Fax 086 530 6006  
e-pos/e-mail:urcsa1@iburst.co.za

**Newsletter for 1st Quarter 2011 – Theme: “A season of praise – God is absolutely good!” Text: Luke 4: 16 - 22**

Dear Friends, brothers and sisters, It's unbelievable that the year is going so fast that the 2011 activities and expectations are gaining momentum. One is overwhelmed with enthusiasm; we all have just returned from the Christmas recess period that has allowed one to reflect on the challenges of the past year's work and make one to look ahead of the times that shall inspire others to do good for God is absolutely good.

I really feel compelled to commission God to exercise his wisdom in helping one to cope with the expectations ahead; let alone to acknowledge one of the most basic principles of the Bible, my co workers and associates and I are deeply grateful to all who are holding us up in prayer for our work.

Throughout my years of getting to know God, I have learned that he is absolutely good. He has nothing in Him that even resembles selfishness. Since the first day of creation, He has always been giving of Himself. Every aspect of his nature flows from His love for his creation and it is all good.

Every day of my life is filled with his goodness and I am eternally grateful.

When God sent his Son into the earth, Jesus was anointed to preach good news and only good news and demonstrate the goodness of his father. He made this very clear the day he stood up among the religious leaders of his home town, opened the book to the place of the prophet Isaiah, and described his purpose.

We read in Luke 4: 18-19:”The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor, he has sent me to heal the broken hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord.” After reading from that book, Jesus closed the book, sat down and proclaimed, “This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears” (verse 21).

True to his Father's Words, right up through the day, He made His way to Cavalry. Jesus did nothing but good. He never did an evil work His whole life. He did not know how to do evil. Evil was not part of his makeup. It was not his character. He was anointed to be and do only good just like his father. Yes, He is absolutely good that you and me as readers have to thank God for the privilege to witness His greatness and goodness throughout our existence.

## **News from the Church Officers**

### **1. Moderamen**

As a result of the Integrated Ministries approach to church organization, Moderamen reports that on the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2011, they coordinated the first meeting of ministries and commissions with intent of constituting the ministries and handing out of planning and reviewing mandates emanating from the Synod as tabled in the Decisions Register.

1.1. *Synod Sitting*-The Moderamen envisage to have a special synod sitting on the 17<sup>th</sup> June 2011 at Mamelodi Dienssentrum with the purpose of ratifying the new Church Order that incorporates all decisions of the past and present Regional Synods.

1.2. *Integrated Ministries Committees, 2010 - 2014*: the following executive committee members have constituted from members present at the commissions meeting of 15 January 2011 to enhance the synods leadership and management strength:

#### **1.2.1 Support Ministry for Finance and Administration**

Chairperson: Mrs MA Mowayo  
Dep. Chair.: Rev LT Motaung  
Secretary: Dr SD Maluleke-CEA  
Members: Mr T Phatudi  
Prof ST Kgatla  
Rev HM Mathebula  
Rev TJ Robinson  
Mrs NH Mthimunye

#### **1.2.2 Support Ministry for Judicial Matters**

Chairperson: Rev JR Diale  
Dep. Chair.: Rev C Goeman  
Secretary: Prof C Landman  
Members: Rev MT Xaba, Rev P Moatshe, Rev JR Rakoma, Rev MS Makudubele, ,

#### **1.2.3 Ministry for Communication, Publication, Archives and Translation**

Chairperson: Rev ES Mokoka  
Dep. Chair.: Eld SRM Mashao  
Secretary: Rev LJ Raboshakga  
Members: Dr TPP Maboea, Rev A Pretorius,  
Co-opted: Dr MJ Maake and Prof Makgopa

#### **1.2.4 Congregational Ministry**

Chairperson: Mr AD Sibanda  
Dep. Chair.: Rev MJ Molawa  
Secretary: Mrs MP Radipabe  
Members: Rev R Simons, Rev T Banda, Rev Nengovhela, Ms M Setlhare.

#### **1.2.5 Ministry for Proclamation and Worship**

Chairperson: Rev TJ Nthakhe  
Dep. Chair.: Rev PM Mfati  
Secretary: Rev Moshe Maponya  
Members: Rev P Maruping,  
**Worship Task Team** –RA Matebedi, TJ Nthakhe, JB Maluleke, SS Kgwefane,  
**Current Affairs Team** – PM Mfati, MJ Moroaswi, KR Tsetsewa, CR Mathabatha  
**Ministerial Formation Team** – P Maruping, PP Mosima, MRC Mokhele, I Serame, M Makgoloane RJ Mabusela, Moshe Maponya.

#### **1.2.6 Ministry for Service and Witness**

Chairperson: Rev SS Mokoena  
Dep. Chair.: Rev ND Legodi  
Secretary: Mrs ME Dibetso  
Members: TT Hlalele, JM Malefane, WT Malebye, KS Sekgogoba

1.3. *Ministries Budgets* - ministries are requested to submit their budgets to the Church Office before the 28 February 2011

- 1.4. **Meetings:** - Congregational Ministry is to have its first planning meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2011 at Mamelodi Dienssentrum. All ministries are hard at work and watch this space in the next coming issue.
- 1.5. **Prayers:** - Continuous prayer sessions are requested from the Community of Believers and other participating structures to ensure that we have a blessed synod leadership that shall glorify God such that we may witness God's goodness.

**1.6. Retirement of the Chief Executive Administrator:** Everyone leaves a legacy, what will yours be?



Dr SD Maluleke retiring? Really! This reminds me of the retirement of my mentor at his retirement in 1982; Looking back from where he came from, he said: "everyone has a legacy, what will yours be? I fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.."

Yes, indeed; Dr SD Maluleke will be retiring on **31 May 2011** and the Support Ministry for Finance and Administration (SMFA) and the Moderamen are planning his retirement function to be held on **28 May 2011** at Mamelodi Dienssentrum

To make his departure a memorable event, the SMFA and Moderamen are humbly inviting members, ministers, colleagues, friends who had direct or indirect

relationship with Dr Maluleke, to take this time to reflect on the years past, your working, growing and achievements acquired when in association with him to write a paragraph/story, a photo to share with .The intent is to compile those into a book that shall serve as a memento for life of Dr Maluleke and his ministry in the family of reformed believers.

Comments and writings can be forwarded to the Editorial committee of DR SD Maluleke retirement at the following address:

**THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE  
DR SD MALULEKE RETIREMENT  
P O BOX 33  
SILVERTON  
0127**

**Email: drsdretirement@gmail.com  
Fax: 086 502 7020**

**EXAMPLE**

"Die kerkkantoor personeel, huldig hom as 'n getroue, hardwerkende en loyale lid teen oor die werksaamhede van die kerkkantoor. Hy was 'n voorbeeld van die jonge geslag dominees. Hy sal onthou word as 'n loyale stigterslid van KAN."tp.

These tributes and comments should be in before **6 May 2011** for incorporation into the Story/memory book.

**1.7 OFF THE PRESS**

1.7.1 The minutes and Decisions Register / ACTS OF THE SYNOD, held at Mokopane is available at Mamelodi Dienssentrum Church Office at a cost of R40.00; (R50.00 postage inclusive)

1.7.2 The 2011 YEARBOOK is available at a cost of R20.00 per booklet (R30.00 postage inclusive).

such was 31 December 2010. Further enquiries can be forwarded to The General Synod Actuary – 082 741 5843.

## **2. OFFICE OF BELIEVERS MATTERS / OFFICIAL NOTICES**

### **2.1. CONGREGATIONS/ PRESBYTERIES**

#### **2.2. MINISTERS:**

It's a pleasure to welcome and congratulate the following ministers into their roles in the ministry.

- 2.2.1. Rev ST Motsoare of Kranspoort received his demission letter on 29 January 2011 in response to a call to serve Polokwane congregation. He will be inducted on 5 February 2011.
- 2.2.2. Minister candidates are invited to apply for a vacancy at Kranspoort congregation.
- 2.2.3. Proponent Aaron Mhango was legitimised on 09 January 2011 in Pretoria. He is awaiting a call from any congregation that desires his services.
- 2.2.4. Rev JM Molawa, who is a minister in his class, is awarded a scholarship to Virginia University USA for a short while to study the nitty-gritty of a PURPOSE DRIVEN CHURCH. A best wish to him for much is expected from him on this exercise.
- 2.2.5. This is a friendly reminder to Presbyteries to ensure that all URCSA ministers of the Word, currently serving and not yet serving, candidate for ministry, those studying further with retention of status, those censured, emeriti, missionaries with retention of status and persons who lost their status as ministers of the word, are to file their registrations as soon as possible since the closing date for

### **3. IN MEMORIUM**

The following beloved members passed on:

- 3.1. The father to Rev MH Moima of Mamelodi congregation was laid to rest during the December holidays.
- 3.2. We include also unannounced members and loved ones associated with the community of believers in the reformed family.

**May their Souls Rest In Peace**

### **4. News of note from Ministries:**

#### **4.1. Christian Youth Movement**

- ❖ Of note are the following activities: 12 – 14 November 2010 was a National CYM General Congress held at Barkley West – Northern Cape where Mr JK Moyo from our synod was elected the National Chairperson.
- ❖ There will be the first council meeting on the first week in February 2011 at Mamelodi Dienssentrum, starting at 09h00. – *Mr JK Moyo*

#### **4.2. Christian Women Ministry**

Presidents of the Presbyteries are reminded of their roles of enthusing congregations of their yearly contributions and updating presbytery forms to reach the Hoofbestuur as per ministry arrangements.

*Dr Teu*

#### **4.3. CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S LEAGUE (CWL)**

By God's grace, we note membership is at 2026. We are told to watch this space.

. – *Ms MP Radipabe.*

#### 4.4. CHRISTIAN MEN MINISTRY (CMM)

The Christian Men Ministry is challenged by the affirmation of the Northern Synod of being committed in the creation of the environment where the role of the Community of Believers is emphasised. Hence, in reclaiming its position as men in the ministry, CMM Northern Synod shares with us the following information:

Of note are the following events:

- On **25 February 2011**, members of the executive Meeting will hold its first meeting in the year to discuss the despatch of Annual Returns to congregations by **11 March 2011** and Submission of Year Plans to the President by the **25<sup>th</sup> March 2011**.
- **6<sup>th</sup> May 2011**, is the closing date for submission of Annual Reports (Finances and Activities).
- **10 – 11 September 2011** is the Prayer Day where men reclaim their authority in all spheres of life. – *Mr TQ Chokwe*

4.5. Choirs The Synodical Regional Executive Committee conveys this information to all choristers and managers that the prescribed songs are available at Mamelodi Dienssentrum. Please purchase your copy at R120.00 a booklet.

#### 5. Dates To Note And Diarize:

- Workshops
- 04<sup>th</sup> - 05<sup>th</sup> March 2011 - Treasurers of congregations & Financial committee members
- 11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> March 2011 - Ministers who are in Church Pension Fund
- 15<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> April - Ministries Executive Committees - Financial reports at Dienssentrum
- FROM THE SECRETARIAT TEAM

**"THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS,  
AND THE DARKNESS HAS NOT  
OVERCOME IT."**

This week I was reminded of the creation story from Genesis chapter 1; God's creation of the sun and the moon. The sun is called "the greater light to rule the day." I always enjoy watching a sunrise or a sunset. Long before the sun appears and after it is gone, you see its glow in the sky. No matter how bright the light, it scatters the darkness everywhere. Even on an overcast day, the sun is always there shining above the clouds.

The moon is called "the lesser light to rule the night." The moon actually has no real light of its own. It only reflects the sun's light from the other side of the earth. Some nights the reflection is a full moon, and other nights it is a quarter or a tiny sliver of light in the sky. On occasion, the earth's shadow eclipses the moon and the moon's reflection is darkened.

Jesus can be likened to the sun. He is the light, pure and true. There is no darkness in him and he is always there shining bright. We are similar to the moon. We have no real light of our own, just what can be reflected of Jesus. Some days we are bright and shiny. Other days we have less of a glow. Sometimes we experience the world blocking the light altogether.

What ever your reflection is today, know that Jesus can make the light in your life shine.

*John 8:12 Jesus spoke to them saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."*

Dear Reader We Thank You for your valuable support and feedback throughout the past; especially after the 4<sup>th</sup> Qrt 2010 Newsletter distribution. We hope to strengthen our relationship with you so that we can understand your hopes and dreams for enhancing ours and your being as member of the Believers Community and environment..

Remember,

