



**Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa**  
**Verenigende Gereformeerde Kerk in Suider Afrika**  
**Northern Synod / Noordelike Sinode**

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June 2011

**Third Quarter 2011 - Newsletter Series**

Dear friends, brothers and sisters, Greetings!!! It's exciting to be able to write to you at this time of the year, knowing that we only have one more edition left to the end of 2011. Thank you for taking a journey with us and that I trust has enriched you as much as it has us.

Dear friends, allow me to mention that at this period of the year when we celebrate Pentecost, one is tempted to review the blessings that are bestowed upon us at our daily activities. Hence this question: "have you recently experienced the wonder of the unity in the body of Christ across the human made borders and divide? God commands His blessings on this unity (John 17: 21 – 26; Psalm 133:3). Let us join in prayer to actualize this unity among the community of believers. Especially now that our Synod functionary is at its transition period where we have just bid farewell to the CEA, Emeritus Dr Rev SD Maluleke on the 28<sup>th</sup> May 2011 and the induction of the CEA Elect, Elder Tebogo Phatudi.

In unison we can only lament and pray to God our Father to give thanks and praise for all that the Lord has made for the stars in their splendor and the world in its wonder for the glorious gift of human life. With the saints and the angels in

heaven we praise Your Holy name as you are an:

*"adorable Lord of Mercy and Love. Salutations and prostrations unto thee. Thou art Omnipresent, Omnipotent and Omniscient. Thou art existence consciousness-bliss absolute. Thou art the In-dweller of all beings. Grant us an understanding heart, equal vision, balanced mind, faith, devotion and wisdom. Grant us inner spiritual strength to resist temptations and to control the mind. Free us from egoism, lust, greed, hatred, anger, and jealousy. Fill our hearts with divine virtues"*

Allow me to say, our Church needs members who are fully committed to the programme of the Lord Jesus Christ and His Kingdom of life and light and who will give it the full support that each one is able.

**News from the Church Officers**



The CEA Elect and the Moderator deep in thought conversation.

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## 1. Moderamen

Of note is that the Moderamen are hard at work to ensure that there is harmony within the Church circles.

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.; A document that has been scrutinized by the Special Synodical Commission that was held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2011 at Mamelodi Dienssentrum.

1.2. This Special Synod sitting is to be attended by all the delegates that constituted the URCSA –NS held at Mokopane.

1.3. **Integrated Ministries Committees, 2010 - 2014:**

The enhanced synods leadership is hard at work:

### 1.3.1 Support Ministry for Finance and Administration

This ministry is hard at work with its meticulous approach of advising the direction the church finances are to take.

The ministry is hard at work to responsibly manage the transition of the synodical office and its functionary.

Watch this space in the coming Newsletter, where the Synod budget shall be explicated for your perusal and information sharing.

The office of the CEA in partnership with the SMFA intends to hold a follow up workshop of Church Financial Committee members sometime in August 2011 to address challenges that have been identified at the previous workshop held in March.

### 1.3.2 Support Ministry for Judicial Matters

The team is hard at work and has a completed draft Church Order that incorporated all decision of the past and recent synod sessions.

This ministry is proud to present their piece of art work on 17 June 2011 at the Special Synod sitting.

### 1.3.3 Ministry for Communication,

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### **Publication, Archives and Translation**

The ministry requests Church Councils to present credible reports that has detail and relevance for archive and future research purposes. The Church Office requests Quaestor and Presbytery Scribes to submit the returns and reports within six weeks after the Presbytery sessions that our planned in the June/July and August months.

#### **1.3.4 Congregational Ministry**

##### *Music committee*

The music committee under guidance of Congregational Ministries held its meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> May 2011 at Dienssentrum, Mamelodi; Where far reaching decisions and arrangements towards choir competitions were made .

Dates of note are:

1. Circuit competitions :  
Between the 24<sup>th</sup> July 2011 and the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2011.
2. Regional competitions:  
Between the 6<sup>th</sup> August 2011 and the 20<sup>th</sup> August 2011.
3. Synodical competitions:  
On the 5<sup>th</sup> September 2011 – Region 5 will host and organize the  
Venue: Lebowakgomo

4. Inter-Synodical competitions: 1<sup>st</sup> October 2011  
Venue: Welkom, Oppenheimer Theatre  
Entrance fees: R50.00 for patrons  
R50.00 for choristers

#### **1.3.5 Ministry for Proclamation and Worship**

**Worship Task Team** – no information received.

**Current Affairs Team** – no information received.

**Ministerial Formation Team** – no information received.

*Rev Moshe Maponya reports that the following workshops are in process:*

- Corruption on 08 October 2011 at Region 5
- Liturgy and Children Communion on 20 August 2011 at Region 1.

Watch this space in future!!! A lot is coming.

#### **1.3.6 Ministry for Service and Witness**

The ministry held a meeting on the 2 June 2011 where a report of the Emeritation of the Forum Functionary,

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Ds ANE Louw is announced.

**1.4. 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 being Alive!!!

1.4.1 Crime has reached high statistical proportions in South Africa and the challenge is now to participate in the fight against it by joining forces with existing community structures already established; it's sad to announce and request prayers for speedy recovery of:

- \* Rev RDD Tshenye who was involved in car hijacking incident and sustained injuries.
- \* Rev JM Malefane was assaulted and sustained injuries from sharp metal stab wounds.

**1.5. Retirement of the Chief Executive Administrator:**  
28 May 2011.

One notes this paraphrased letter From the office of the Chief Executive Administrator and the Dr Maluleke Farewell Function Committee, that reads: we do not have enough words to express our sincere gratitude for your generous contribution of availing the

selfless self to the success of hosting the farewell function of Emeritus Dr Rev SD Maluleke on the 28<sup>th</sup> May 2011.

The event could not have been a success had it not been the generous member participation and the LOVE members and ministries shown for their Church activities.

A word of appreciation is extended to the members who graced the occasion.

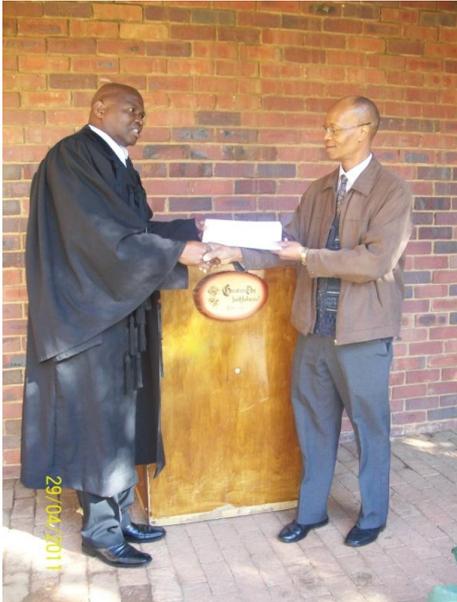


**1.6 OFF THE PRESS**

1. *Draft Discussion Church Order, presented at the Special Synod Sitting on the 17<sup>th</sup> June 2011 @ a cost of R60.00.*
2. *Foot Steps of Dr SD Maluleke – DVD available at a cost of R100.00.*
3. *Our Church News – a booklet on tributes on the encounters with Dr SD Maluleke in the garden of the daily living at a cost of R50.00 per booklet.*

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4. *Ubuntu – Living our faith and reviving the spirit of Ubuntu Booklet by Rev MW Sefara at a cost of R60.00.*

## 1.6. BATON HAND OVER



The CEA's office took queue from the procedure followed at the calling of Elisha into the high office. 1 Kings 19: 19 – 21. Good News Bible: "Elijah left and found Elisha ploughing with a team of oxen; there were eleven teams ahead of him, and he was ploughing with the last one. Elijah took off his cloak and put it on Elisha. Elisha then left his oxen, ran after Elijah, and said, "Let me kiss my father and mother good bye, and then I will go with you."” Elijah answered, "All right, go back, I'm not stopping you.” Then Elijah went to his team of oxen, killed them, and cooked the meat, using the yoke as fuel for the fire. He gave the meat to the

people, and they ate it. Then he went and followed Elijah as his helper.

Elder Tebogo Phatudi is the Chief Executive Administrator Elect, Decision 14.7 of URCSA NS, Mokopane Synod.

A decision that stirred a storm in the tea cup. The good, the bad and outrageous comments and messages flew in the air that made the CEA elect to be weary to undertake the position from the perspective of being a mere laity; however, words of encouragement, amongst others, came from the reverend of Irene congregation, Rev SJ Pejane by quoting Jer.1:6-7; do not say you are laity, you must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you.

Thank you Dr Rev SD Maluleke for your intern guidance as I accept the baton, may the Lord bless you on your retirement.

TPhatudi. May 2011.

## 2. OFFICE OF BELIEVERS MATTERS / OFFICIAL NOTICES

### 2.1 CONGREGATIONS/ PRESBYTERIES

2.1.1 The Church Office wishes all Presbyteries well in their planned meetings in the coming, June, July August months.

### 2.2 MINISTERS:

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### **CALLS RECEIVED:**

2.2.1 Prop P Molehe received a call from Middleburg and his induction took place on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2011.

2.2.1 Rev TM Banda of Burger received a call to URCSA Tubatse and inducted on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2011.

(Information received from Rev LJ Raboshakga – Member of the Burger Presbytery).

Prayers are requested to guide our brothers to grow in their ministry.

### **CALLS ACCEPTED**

1. *Rev HJ Holder of Onverwagt received a call to Rustenburg – Karlien Park and his induction took place on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2011. News received from Rev A Matebedi of Premier mine, Mamelodi Presbytery..*

### **DEMISSION LETTERS**

1. *Rev Banda of Burger congregation received his demission letter from the congregation on Sunday, 24 April 2011.*

2. *Rev MH Moraka of Mabodisa congregation received his demission letter with special status – Emeritation on the 30<sup>th</sup> April*

*2011. The congregation held his farewell function on the 4<sup>th</sup> June 2011.*

3. *Rev Dr SD Maluleke received his demission letter from participating as the CEA on the 28<sup>th</sup> May 2011.*

### **2.3 IN MEMORIUM**

The following beloved members passed on:

2.3.1 The mother to Prof ST Kgatla;

2.3.2 The brother to Dr SD Maluleke;

2.3.3 And others that are unannounced from our community of believers;

### **May their Souls Rest In Peace**

### **3 News of note from Ministries:**

#### **3.1 Christian Youth Movement**

❖ Plans are underway to celebrate June 16 Holiday on 16 - 19 June 2011 at Bosch Park Mpumalanga. For transport and other logistics. Members are to consult with their Regional Executive Committees. Alternatively, check the website and Office of CYM executive.

– *Mr. JK Moyo*

#### **3.2 Christian Women Ministry**

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Dr Teu writes: "On behalf of the CWM Executive, I would like to thank all the Presbyteries that have sent through their 2010/2011 financial and General forms. We are still waiting for the few that are still outstanding so that we are in the position to prepare all necessary reports on time. God richest blessing on the work you are doing to coordinate congregations' submissions and collating the presbytery information.

Please note and diaries the following dates:

- 25 - 26 June 2011 : General executive retreat at Mamelodi Diensentrum
- 12 -14 August 2011: Ministers' wives and leadership workshop

*-Dr Teu*

### **3.3 CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S LEAGUE (CWL)**

Mrs. Radipape, the CWL's secretary explains and explicates one of their objective as follows: "One of Christian Women's League's objectives is: ***'To assist with spiritual and social upliftment...'***

This objective was realised when one of CWL presbyteries, Saulspoor, played a leading role in ensuring that a young man, Potso Mtjali, who lives in Lethabong village near

Rustenburg, regained his sight after he was blinded by a firecracker which resulted in him losing sight in both eyes. This young man's story was widely publicized in several newspapers including 'Sowetan' and 'Daily Sun'. His mother, Elizabeth Mtjali, is a domestic worker who could not afford to pay for the boy's operation. Mrs. M Foko of Rustenburg-Tlhabane congregation and the boy's teacher at the time, informed the congregation about the family's plight. Members of CWL in Rustenburg-Tlhabane realised that they had to be part of the support system for the family but because it was a big project, they decided to involve the entire presbytery. CWL members in Saulspoor presbytery agreed to contribute money towards the boy's cornea transplant operation. The young man was successfully operated. The boy and his family attended CWL Saulspoor presbytery's conference which was held on the 26<sup>th</sup> February 2010 at Tlhabane, to thank them for spiritual support and assistance offered.

#### ***Empowerment of women***

1. CWL held an Annual General Meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup>

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April 2011 at Dienssentrum, to present reports from presbyteries for the year 2010/11. Rev. TJ Mlaba conducted the sermon and read from the book of 1 Peter 5: 5-9.

2. On the 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> May 2011, the annual conference was held at Dienssentrum. Members from all CWL's active presbyteries and congregations attended. All the ministries within the church were invited to be part of the event. The church office was represented by Mr. T Phatudi and Dr SD Maluleke spoke on behalf of the moderamen. Dr SD and Mrs. S Maluleke attended the conference on both days. Dr SD Maluleke conducted the last sermon to members before his retirement, to open the conference on Saturday and Rev. L Kwape conducted the sermon and also served the Holy communion on Sunday. He read from the book of Isaia 53: 1-5. Rev. MT and Mrs. Xaba also attended and Rev MT Xaba was the motivational speaker at this successful conference. A

revival was held on Saturday evening to enrich the women spiritually.

### ***Being of service to the church***

The synodical executive committee of CWL formed part of the members of the sub-committee which organized Dr SD Maluleke's farewell function and also assisted on the day of the event.

We thank God for the unconditional love He has for us and the light He always shines before us to guide us.

Be blessed.”

 – *Ms MP Radipabe.*

### **3.4 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 emphasized. 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:

- **10 – 11 September 2011** is the Prayer Day where men reclaim their authority in all spheres of life.

– *Mr. TJ Chokwe*

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### 3.5 Choirs

#### Dates of note for the 2011 activities are:

- 3.5.1 Synodical Music Competitions 03<sup>rd</sup> September 2011 Host Region 5 @ Lebowakgomo Civic Centre
- 3.5.2 Inter Synod Music Competitions 01<sup>st</sup> October 2011 in Welkom @ Oppenheim Civic Theatre.

3.5.3 For more information please contact the PRO - Mr. **David Siko** - 072 333 1117

### 4. Dates To Note And Diarize:

- **01 June 2011**, Elder Tebogo Phatudi assumed duty at Mamelodi Dienssentrum as the new CEA, URCSA-Northern Synod.
- **02 June 2011, Ascension day**
- **12<sup>th</sup> June 2011, Pentecost Sunday**
- **16<sup>th</sup> June 2011, Youth Day**
- **17<sup>th</sup> June 2011, Special Synod Sitting at Mamelodi Dienssentrum**
- **17<sup>th</sup> June 2011 at 14h00, CEA induction ceremony at Mamelodi Dienssentrum.**
- **19<sup>th</sup> June 2011,**

### 5. Workshops

Watch this space in the coming series.

### **6. FROM THE CEA's TRAIL.....HA KENTSE KE TSAMAYA LE DIPHUTHEHO..... SECRETARIAT TEAM**

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

We are at present enjoying a season that excites the Christian family; a season that it is observed, signifying the suffering and the sacrificial death of Christ on the cross, which with the resurrection, Ascension and Pentecost comprises the heart of the Christian faith. Many Christians mark this season in remembrance of God's unconditional love and acknowledge the price that God paid for the salvation of the world. It is within this context that the CEA Elect visited :

1. The **Belabela Presbytery** holding its pilgrimage at Emmarentia Geldenhuys,. The community of believers' spirit was high in celebrating Good Friday. How encouraging it was to see all congregations and their ministers of the Word cooperating and sharing the mood of the Christian faith festive celebration.

2. The congregation **Lebowakgomo** was visited on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2011 where the CEA Elect witnessed proceedings of congregation conference where financial statements and budget were discussed. I saw the leadership of Rev and Mrs MS Maponya in action enjoying their ministry. I noted various ministries robbing their new members from Sunday School on belts and stars;



3. Mogotladi replied on behalf of the newly inducted members and committed them to be unwavering in belief acts and use their beings as gifts of life to serve those in need in the garden of the daily living; just like the disciples of Jesus did.

5. The congregation enjoyed role play and dramatisation of women at the tomb and the men of Emmaus. That was a woo event!!



What a moment to witness the darkness being overcome by light!!!



4. CYM – 3 members, CWL – 3 members, CWM – 8 members and CMM 12 members.

Dear Reader We Thank You for your valuable support and feedback throughout the past; especially after the 2nd Qrt 2011 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..

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Remember,  
Prayer is effective -- don't give up  
praying for yourself, even if  
answers seem slow in coming.  
Remember that God is firmly in  
control and encourages us to bring  
our needs and the needs of others  
to him.

Regards

*Eld Tebogo Phatudi and Team @*

*Mamelodi Diensentrum – 12 June*

**2011**

May the Almighty Lord bless you.

Yours in His service,



Mr. Tebogo Phatudi

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