



Moravian Church In South Africa
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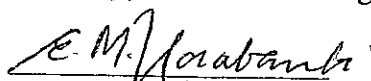
Sisters and Brothers allow me to greet you with the Weekly Watchword of Sunday the 11th a day when the successful Fifa World Cup in South Africa was officially closed in the Soccer City stadium which was full to the brim. *"Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name you are mine" Isaiah 43: 1.*

The year 2010 will continue to be a year of special significance for most people in Africa. In general and for South Africa in particular because of the Soccer World Cup which we saw thousands of visitors coming into our shores to witness a historic event Soccer World Cup in Africa for the first time in its history. According to most commentators in electronic and print media event was an astonishing success which tremendously contributed to the unity of South Africans of many colours. What a wonderful sight for those who watched the games alive in their homes and those who were in the fan parks in the various fields in the country. However hardly two days after this event we were suddenly confronted by the reality of exnophobic attacks on foreigners especially in the formal settlement of our country.

Despite the denial by some politicians the fact of the matter is that this is one of our biggest challenges we face in our country. As members of the Moravian Church and Christians in our country we simply cannot condone such acts as they betray the Gospel of Jesus Christ who came so that all may have abundant life, thereby establishing a new communion. As we remember and celebrate this month the gift of renewal of our ancestors in faith let us have the courage to face xenophobia and other challenges with faith and love. Why not open discussions on such matters in our congregations to raise awareness and equip our members because these people are part of us live in our midst. With concern it is noted these attacks are mainly directed against people from our own continent Africa. Why this afrophobia?

In conclusion we would like to thank you sister and brother for the work you do in the congregations/districts or even in wider community for the sacrifices you make because you love the Lord who according to the watchword quoted has 'ransomed' you and called you to be his co-workers in his plan of salvation. Do not give up but fight the good fight of faith strengthening one another and praying for each other being fully aware that we need another as we all belong together.

Wishing you God's blessings and guidance in your important ministry.


On behalf of the Bishops

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