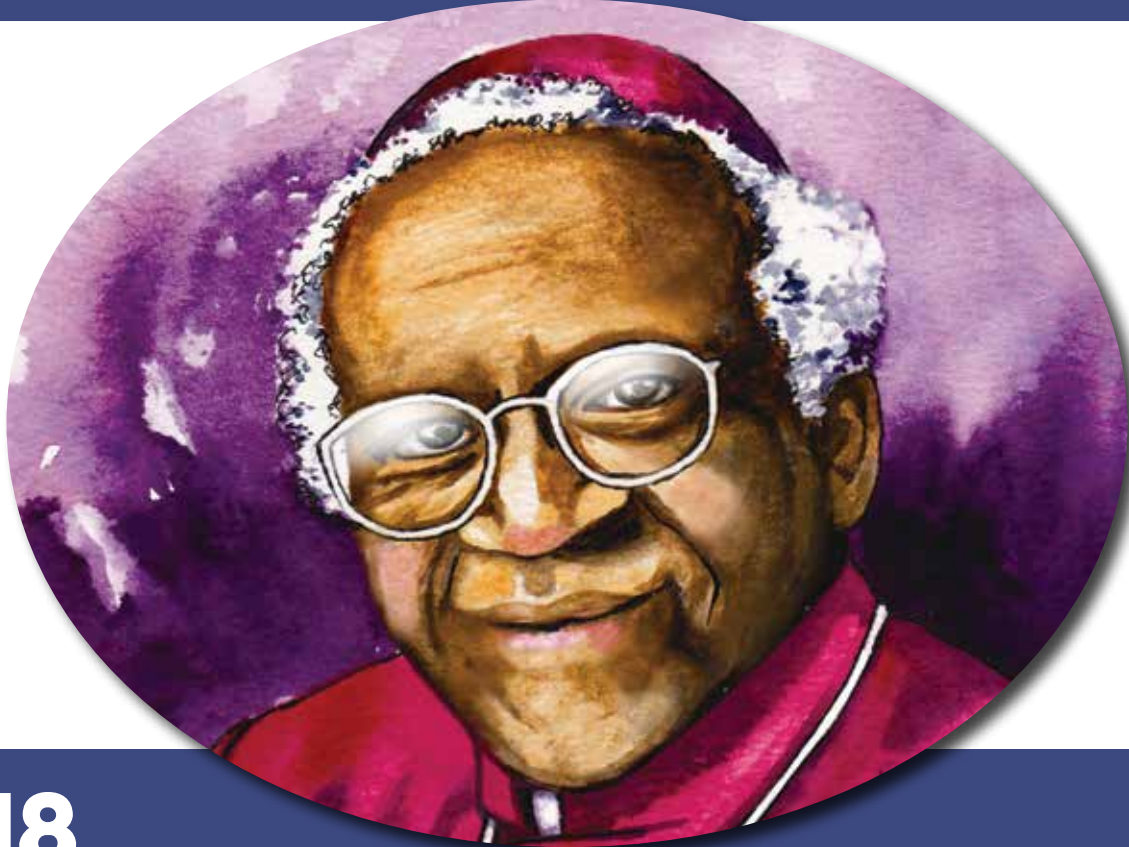


SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER – *THE SEQUEL*



2018

Not far from the headwaters of three world religions stands an African leader, brought up in the royal family of Egypt, who went on to lead a liberation movement for his people, because they were oppressed...he is the most mentioned name in the Quran.

Moses himself never got to see the Promised Land, but he was a man of huge courage who stood up to an African tyrant and demanded: "Let my people go..."

He led those people out of the Hell of Slavery. But they had to traverse a Desert Purgatory before they reached Paradise. They had to struggle and learn to depend on God, day by day.

South Africa has left the Hell of Apartheid, but it is passing through a desert purgatory called an "accountability deficit". We will not cross the river into the promised Land until Inequality and Unemployment are defeated, and the Rule of Law is secure - in a context of Non-racialism. One NGO even calls itself "Freedom Under Law".

To make this safe passage, we need spokesmen like Aaron and artists like Miriame. Those who can put the prophetic message onto media platforms and into the arts such as music, drama and dance.

From Desmond Tutu's collection of poems called AN AFRICAN PRAYER BOOK, comes this one from Bread for Tomorrow in Kenya - called DELIVER ME:

***From the cowardice that dares not face new truths
From the laziness that is contented with half truths
From the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth
Good Lord deliver me***

African Heroes of Faith – Tertullian

Trained as both a lawyer and a priest, he broke the force of false charges such as that Christians sacrificed infants at the celebration of the Lord's Supper and committed incest. He pointed to the commission of such crimes in the pagan world and then proved by the testimony of Pliny that Christians pledged themselves not to commit murder, adultery, or other crimes. He was the first recorded writer to refer to the Trinity.



He challenged the inhumanity of pagan customs such as feeding the flesh of gladiators to beasts. He argued that because there are no "gods" thus there is no pagan religion against which Christians

may offend. Christians do not engage in the foolish worship of the emperors, they do better - they pray for them. Christians can afford to be put to torture and to death, and the more they are cast down the more they grow...

"The blood of the martyrs is seed" (Apologeticum, 50)

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January – Mogoeng Mogoeng

Mogoeng was born on 14 January 1961 in Goo-Mokgatha village near Zeerust in the North West Province. His father was a miner and his mother a domestic worker. Mogoeng became politically active at high school, from which he was briefly suspended for organising a memorial to the victims of the Soweto uprising.

Top Judge in the Top Court

He has now been appointed to preside over the Constitutional Court. In his public addresses he has been “outspoken” and “forthright”. He has regularly championed judicial independence and deplored interference by the Executive Branch.

Mogoeng is a lay preacher in the Pentecostal Winners’ Chapel. He attributed the criticism over his nomination and appointment to his Christian faith. But in Mogoeng’s view, stated at his JSC interview, God wanted him to be Chief Justice.

Like Nathan of old, the prophet who critiqued King David, albeit in a different context and structure, Mogoeng Mogoeng has proven that he has the courage *to speak truth to power*.

African Heroes of Faith – Perpetua & Felicitas

Rarely have women been venerated by so many, for so long! A 22-year old noble woman and a pregnant slave girl were martyred together under the persecution of Septimus. In Carthage a magnificent basilica was afterwards erected over the tomb of these two women martyrs, the Basilica Maiorum, where an ancient inscription bearing their names has been found.

Saints Felicitas and Perpetua are two of seven women commemorated by name in the second part of the Canon of the Mass.

The once-flowering rambling rose “Félicité et Perpétue” (R. sempervirens x ‘Old Blush’) with palest pink buds opening nearly white, was introduced by Robert Jacques in 1828.

In the past ten years, two historical fiction novels have been written from the point of view of Perpetua. Amy Peterson’s *Perpetua: A Bride, A Martyr, A Passion* and Malcolm Lyon’s *The Bronze Ladder* are evidence that her legacy is enduring. Not enough can be said about the sacrifices and struggles of African women as change agents.



“See that pot lying there?” she asked her father. “Can you call it by any other name than what it is?” “Of course not,” he answered. Perpetua responded, “Neither can I call myself by any other name than what I am -- a Christian.”

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February – Public Protectors

The writers of the Constitution deemed it necessary not only to constitute a Judiciary, but also these ombudswomen-and-men. Busisiwe Mkhwebane and her predecessor Thuli Madonsela have very different styles. But their role in the “mother of all Section 9 institutions” is critical to Democracy.

The PR system (i.e. proportional representation) has left Members of Parliaments (MPs) in a quandary about how exactly to exercise their constitutional Oversight role. Thus this extra slate of Section 9 institutions has helped to maintain the balance of powers.

The Legislative branch can create conditions for the Section 9 institutions to be heard. The office of the Public Protector is required to appear before the National Assembly at least once every year. During Thuli Madonsela’s budget and strategic presentation, the advocate was requested to present progress reports before Parliament on a quarterly basis.

The Executive branch has at times challenged reports prepared by the Public Protector. The best known case is President Zuma’s attempt to interdict the State of Capture report from being made public. Soon after that, Thuli completed her term of office. But Busi says she will block any attempt to sideline her predecessor’s recommendation that the matter warrants a judicial review.

Other state institutions have challenged the Public Protector as well, like the Reserve Bank - which won a case in court to have Busi’s recommendations set aside. (The RB is another section 9 institution.) In some minds this raises questions about her fitness for service.

African Heroes of Faith – Cyprian

A new persecution of the Christians began in under Emperor Valerian I, and both Pope Stephen I and his successor, Sixtus II suffered martyrdom at Rome.

In Africa Cyprian courageously prepared his people for the expected edict of persecution by pastoral letter, and himself set an example when he was brought before the Roman proconsul of Carthage, Aspasius Paternus. He refused to sacrifice to the pagan deities.

The consul banished him to Curubis, modern Korba. From there he comforted to the best of his ability his flock and his banished clergy. In a vision he saw his approaching fate. When a year had passed he was recalled and kept under house arrest, in expectation of severer measures after a new and more stringent imperial edict arrived, demanding the execution of all Christian clerics.



He was imprisoned at the behest of the new proconsul Galerius Maximus. The day following he was examined for the last time and sentenced to die by the sword. His only answer was *"Thanks be to God!"*

"He can no longer have God for his Father who has not the Church for his mother"
(De unitate ecclesiae)

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March – South African Human Rights Commission

The SAHRC is tasked with monitoring, both pro-actively and by way of complaints brought before it, violations of human rights - and seeking redress for such violations. It also has an educational role.

But as there are other Section 9 institutions with specific remits (e.g. the Commission for Gender Equality or CGE), the SAHRC is at the forefront of the on-going struggle against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance.

Oddly enough then, trade union Solidarity criticized the commission for what it claims is racial bias and prejudice. A comparative study revealed that the SAHRC is much more likely to self-initiate investigation where the perpetrator is white, and that it is more lenient in its punishment of black perpetrators.

It has been noted by best-selling author, historian and former Oxford don RW Johnson that even the media has such a bias - as it did under apartheid. But of course it has been reversed. As Johnson put it in a keynote address at the #StopRacism conference in March 2017: *“Now, it’s happening against whites and I would say that public racism has always been one-sided. I don’t think it’s ever been an equal thing and I don’t think it ever can be. When I was a kid; if a black man raped my white woman, he was hanged. If it was the other way around and a white man raped a black woman, he’d get a fine or a short sentence. It was, quite obviously, not an equal law and that was just commonplace.”*



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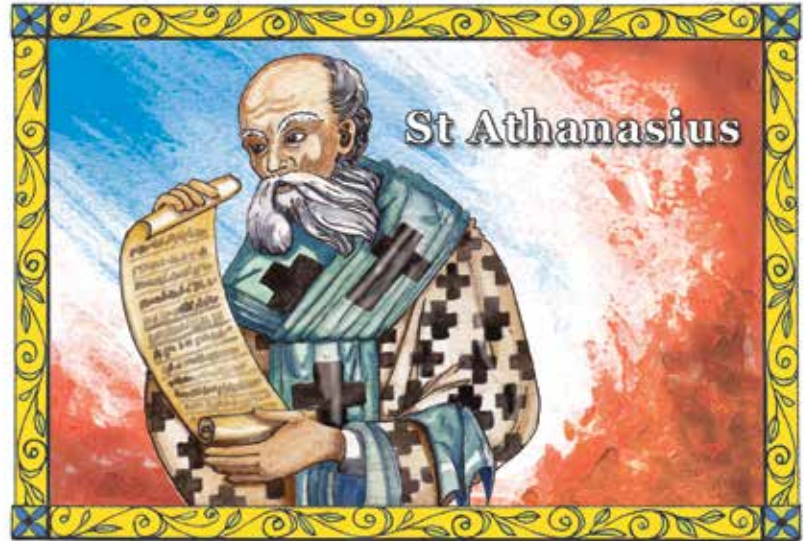
2018

African Heroes of Faith – St. Athanasius

At the age of 27, he assisted Bishop Alexander at the Council of Nicaea, where his influence began to be felt. Five months later, on his death bed, the bishop recommended Athanasius as his successor. He was elected unanimously 5 months later, and at age 30 he became archbishop of Alexandria. He was the chief defender of Trinitarianism against Arianism.

His refusal to tolerate the Arian heresy led to many trials and persecutions. He spent seventeen of the forty-six years of his episcopate in exile. During his lifetime he was engaged in theological and political struggles against the Emperors

Constantine the Great and Constantius II and powerful and influential Arian churchmen, led by Eusebius of Nicomedia. Thus he came to be known as *“Athanasius Contra Mundum”*.



“Jesus that I know as my Redeemer cannot be less than God”

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April – CRL Rights Commission

CRL stands for Cultural, Religious and Linguistic. These rights were deemed to be so important by the writers of the Constitution that a special ombudsman was constituted to protect them.

Cultural practices like paying Lobola (i.e. a bride price) and Virginity Testing have been at the forefront of cultural rights issues.

In terms of **religious** rights church leaders who exploit their congregations – for example, pastors who demand sexual favours from women in their congregations – have tested this Section 9 institution.

In 2017, the CRL Commission held a number of hearings and then published a Report “on commercialization of religion and abuse of people’s belief systems”. Remember and beware - of the Simon Magus syndrome!

Linguistic rights are tested when speaking any of South Africa’s 11 national languages is discouraged in any setting. For example, in the halls of a school.

One example of language rights pertains to schooling. Studies have shown that foundation education – at least up to Grade 2 – is best internalized by children if it can be learned in their native tongue. Of course this may not always be possible, but it is the optimal scenario – even up to Grade 4.



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2018

African Heroes of Faith – St. Augustine

He came from cosmopolitan Hippo, in North Africa. As a foodbasket for the capital city of the Empire, it had a thriving Roman presence. There was also a long established Hebrew community there, from which some Biblical figures had emerged – like Barnabas, his sister Mary and her son Mark. Then there was “the Third Way” – the Christian community - which Augustine refused to join for decades, in spite of his mother’s prodding and prayers.

Augustine’s influence is almost without comparison in church history. At its root is a personal conversion. An about face. A change of heart and mind. Another great African theologian, David Bosch, wrote: “Christianity that doesn’t begin with the individual, doesn’t begin.

But Christianity that ends with the individual, ends.” The basis of social renewal is personal renewal. As a changed person, Augustine set about to change the church and society.



“God loves each of us as if there were only one of us.”

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May – Corruption Watch

Corruption Watch is a non-profit organisation launched in January 2012. It relies on the public to report corruption to its investigators. It uses these citizen-reports as an important source of information to fight corruption and hold leaders accountable for their actions.

Corruption is rooted in South Africa at all levels of public administration. The president pays for his villa with taxpayer money, police look the other way for a small fee and teachers give good grades in exchange for sex. “The result is that the public has completely lost confidence in the government,” says Bongi Mlangeni, head of communications at Corruption Watch. “Those in power have zero credibility - which is even worse than the financial toll corruption takes.”

Whistle-blowing

The background of apartheid looms large, when it was anathema to “snitch” on anyone because everyone had a common enemy. A communal social fabric enforces this point of view. But this ethos is slowly changing to the democratic ideal of an “open society”. For example...

Whistle Blowers (Pty) Ltd offers subscribing clients a cost effective 24/7/365 highly trained, multi-lingual, manned state-of-the-art call centre which enables client staff to report any irregular activities within an organisation. These irregular activities could include, but are not restricted to, theft, fraud, bribery, unethical practices and any other unlawful or dishonest activity.



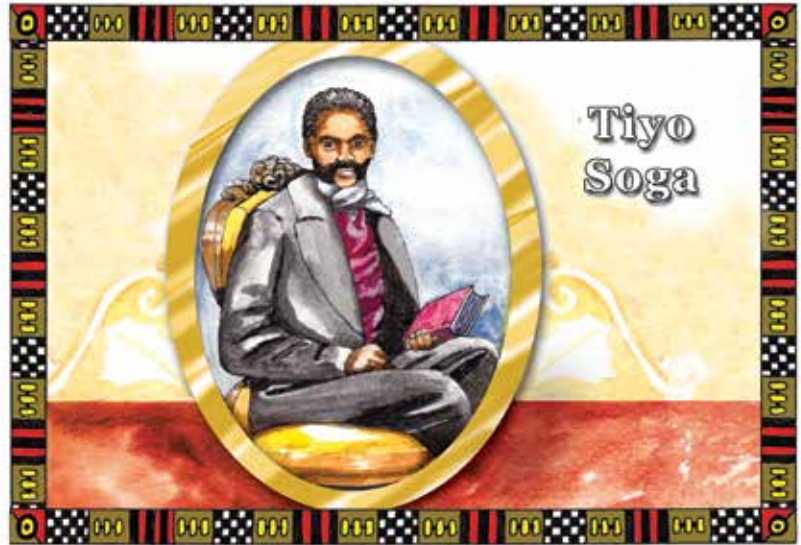
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2018

African Heroes of Faith – Tiyo Soga

He was the first black South African to be ordained as a minister. This occurred in Scotland in 1856, in the Presbyterian church. He married a Scottish lass, Janet Burnside, before returning to the Eastern Cape where he served as a missionary at Mgwali for 11 years and Tutura for 3 more years until his untimely death in 1871.

The most important feature of his life and work was his contribution to the emergence of African nationalism. A mixed marriage in the midst of a society divided along racial lines made him a pioneer in terms of racial reconciliation. His education in Scotland meant that he was one of the first blacks to belong to the middle class, which at that time was an elite. A century later the Black Consciousness movement popularized views that had their origins along the trail that he blazed.



Soga was probably the only minister of his time who preached in congregations of all the Protestant denominations that there were.

**“His encompassing Africa-consciousness therefore carried in itself the seeds of the unity of the African church.”
(W Saayman)**

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June – South Africa Council of Churches

The SACC is an inter-denominational forum that unites 36 member churches and organisations. The SACC is an instrument and servant of its members and is committed to expressing, through proclamation and programmes, the united witness of the church in South Africa, especially in matters of national debate.

Historically, Desmond Tutu is probably the best-known of the SACC's leaders. Under apartheid, he spoke out with singular courage and wisdom.

Unburdening Panel

SACC launched this report in mid-2017. It contains damning allegations of corruption in various multi-billion rand tenders, including the Transnet locomotives, the nuclear deal, Eskom's coal contracts and the partnership between VR Laser and Denel. It was launched at the historic Regina Mundi church in Soweto.

The SACC warned that the country risks collapsing if the ANC does not act on the "systematic syphoning of state assets pivoted around President Jacob Zuma".

"The country is going to collapse. It is difficult to rebuild once you go into lawlessness," SACC secretary general Malusi Mpumlwana said. Perhaps this explains why it was Father S Maybebe of the Dominican Fathers who was first to file a complaint about "State Capture" with the Public Protector? When prudent church leaders speak out like this, it is a prophetic voice. It is reminiscent of John the Baptist who not only preached repentance and called for less inequality – but who *spoke truth to power*.



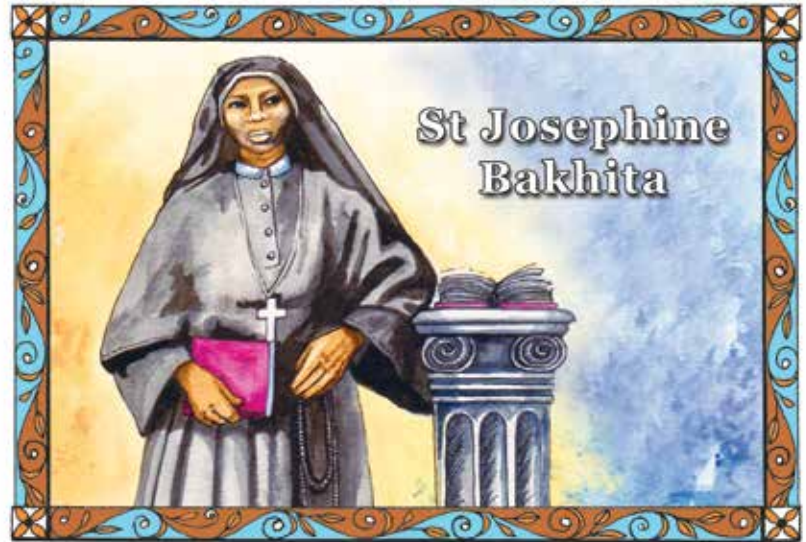
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2018

African Heroes of Faith – St. Josephine Bakhita

She was kidnapped by Arab slave traders in Sudan, in the late nineteenth century. Forcibly converted to Islam, she was treated so badly that she forgot her own name. Bought and sold by multiple cruel owners, she later adopted the nickname Bakhita (“Lucky”) when she was bought by a relatively kind master, an Italian diplomat who took her home with his family to be their nanny. When he bought a hotel on the Red Sea, he went to live there with his wife while he sent his daughter and her servant Bakhita to stay with Canossian nuns in Venice.

Bakhita officially converted at Easter that year and was baptized “Josephine”. When the parents came back, she did not want to leave (especially since she’d be just another slave back in Africa), and the diplomat’s wife tried to force her. The mother superior was shocked at this treatment, since Italian law didn’t believe in slavery, and called in the authorities to ensure Bakhita’s continuing freedom. So she became a Canossian nun herself, and as doorkeeper to the convent in Schio, became beloved by the townspeople for her gentleness, calm voice, and smile.



Her mother superior ordered her to dictate her life story, and it was published in 1930 to great acclaim in Italy. As soon as she died in 1947, people began to call for her canonization. She has been officially named the patron saint of Sudan.

“If I were to meet those slave raiders who abducted me, and the ones who’d tortured me, I’d kneel down to kiss their hands — because without them, I’d never have become a Christian and a woman of faith.”

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July – Helen Suzman Foundation

This independent, non-partisan think-tank was established in honour of Helen Suzman, a long-time liberal opposition MP who opposed apartheid in the whites-only Parliament of that era. She is the foundation's patron. This NGO is dedicated to promoting liberal democratic values and human rights in post-apartheid South Africa through its research and publications. When its offices were broken into in May 2017, it reported that this was not just a "normal" crime. Here are some reasons why:

- When head of the Hawks Anwa Dramat was suspended, the Helen Suzman Foundation fought for his reinstatement in the high court.
- In conjunction with Freedom Under Law, the Helen Suzman Foundation made an unsuccessful bid to have the head of the National Prosecuting Authority suspended and his fitness to hold office investigated. This was after the NPA laid charges against the Finance Minister for approving a subordinate's early retirement with pension some years earlier. After the infamous Cabinet shuffle in March 2017, in conjunction with lobby group My Vote Counts, the Helen Suzman Foundation challenged both the President and Parliament – at the Constitutional Court.
- The Helen Suzman Foundation also approached the Constitutional Court about the lack of transparency in the way the Judicial Services Commission appoints of judges.

One can easily see that the courts have become a theatre for political intrigue. Non-government organizations are needed as "watchdogs". This approach has been described as "open lawfare".



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2018

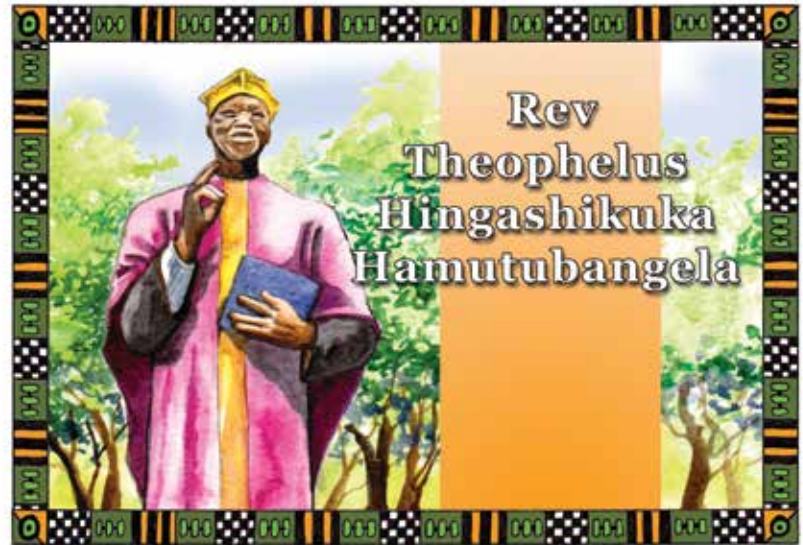
African Heroes of Faith

Rev. Theophelus Hingashikuka Hamutubangela

He was born on the same day that the Kwanyama king Mandume ya Ndemufayo was killed, in the battle against Portuguese and South African colonial forces at Oihole. His life spans a transition period. After graduating from seminary he became a deacon and later a priest. He also served as a school teacher. He became an activist, petitioning the UN to intervene against unscrupulous labour practices.

His missionary work included political support for the Ovamboland People's Organization, the forerunner of SWAPO. It was set up as a labour organization to fight exploitation.

Although he was harassed by the authorities, repeatedly arrested, imprisoned and even poisoned to the point of paralysis, he lived to see Namibia on its way to a free and democratic future.



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August – Nelson Mandela Foundation

The Nelson Mandela Foundation was established in 1999 when its Founder, Mr Nelson Mandela, stepped down as the President. He was the first democratically elected president of South Africa.

As Mr Mandela's post-presidential office, it provided the base for his charitable work, covering a wide range of endeavours: from building schools to HIV/AIDS work, from research into education in rural areas to peace and reconciliation interventions.

Five years later, the Foundation began its transition into an organisation focused on memory, dialogue and legacy work. A comprehensive refurbishment of the Foundation's building provided it with an appropriate physical home, the Nelson Mandela Centre of Memory.

Perhaps the most memorable of all quotes are the words Mandela uttered at the Treason Trials, in a court (his natural habitat) that went on to give him/them a life sentence instead of execution...

"During my lifetime I have dedicated myself to this struggle of the African people. I have fought against white domination, and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons will live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for. But, my lord, if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die."

Surely this commitment to non-racialism is Madiba's greatest legacy?



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2018

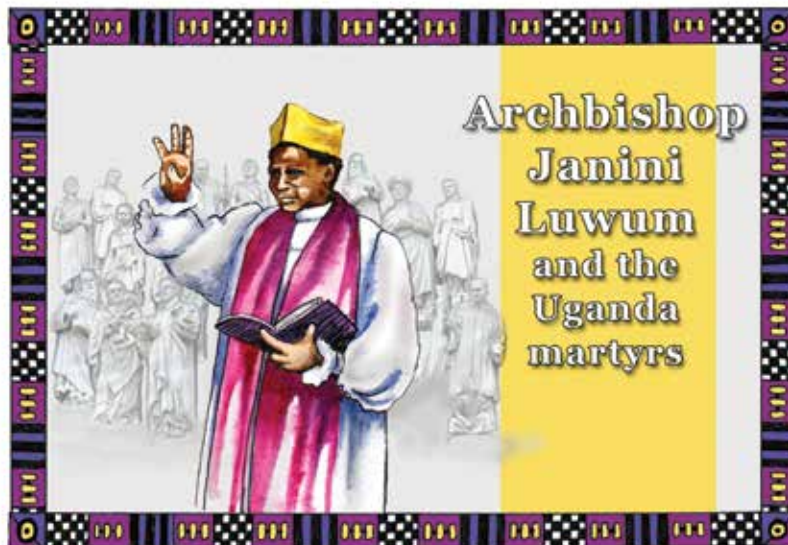
African Heroes of Faith

Archbishop Luwum & the Uganda martyrs

Janani Luwum was a leading voice in criticising the excesses of the Idi Amin regime that assumed power in 1971. In 1977, Archbishop Luwum delivered a note of protest to dictator Idi Amin against the policies of arbitrary killings and unexplained disappearances. Shortly afterwards the archbishop and other leading churchmen were accused of treason and brutally executed.

He is recognized as a martyr by the Anglican Church and his death is commemorated on the 17th of February. His statue is among the Twentieth Century Martyrs on the front of Westminster Abbey in London.

He followed in the footsteps of the 19th century Uganda martyrs under King Mwangi II. First he killed an Anglican missionary and his companions. When this 25-year old Joseph Mkasa confronted him about this atrocity, he was beheaded. He was the chief steward of his court and also leader of the small community of 200 Christians. The king appointed Karoli (Charles) Lwanga to take over the instruction and leadership of the Christian community at court, but a third wave of rage later erupted, in which Lwanga and 2 dozen other young Christians were burned to death.



“A Christian who gives his life for God is not afraid to die.” (Joseph Mkasa)

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September – Southern Africa Litigation Centre

SALC promotes human rights and the Rule of Law across southern Africa. It uses the law as a positive instrument for change and to deepen the democratisation of these African societies.

SALC's coup de grace was its attempt in June 2015 to force government's hand to arrest and detain President Al Bashir of Sudan. He is wanted for genocide by the International Criminal Court, which South Africa is a member of...

While Al Bashir was in South Africa attending an African Union summit, SALC obtained a court order blocking his departure, pending a further hearing of whether South Africa must meet its obligations under the international court and take Mr. Bashir into custody. Instead, government evaded the warrant and helped Al Bashir to get away before the court re-opened after the week-end.

The ICC has since noted that South Africa and Sudan have both signed the United Nations genocide convention as well, which took effect in 1951. Some 147 countries have ratified that treaty, nearly two dozen more than have joined the International Criminal Court. So on two counts, he should have been nabbed.

This highlights the international solidarity of NGOs who "think globally and act locally".



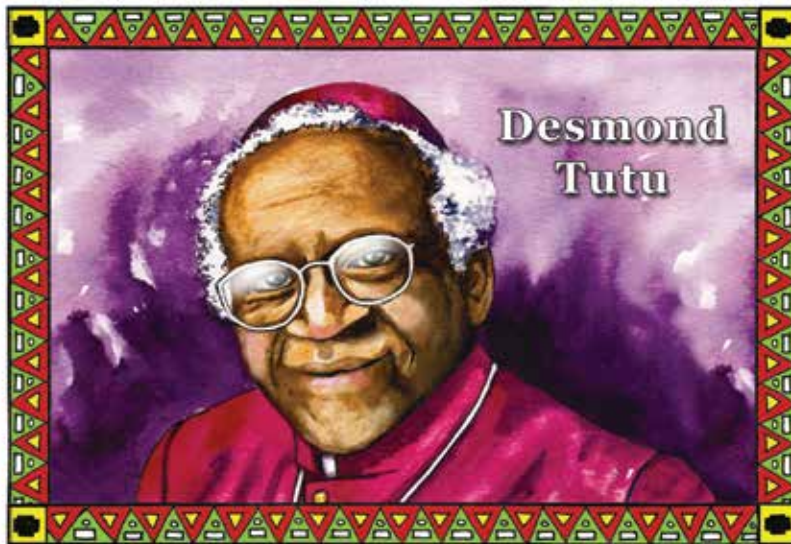
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2018

African Heroes of Faith – Desmond Tutu

He resigned as a teacher when the government stopped allowing children of all races to attend the same school. His personal protest made little difference at the time, but has been magnified over the decades. He decided to enter the ministry instead. That took him out of the public sector and into civil society. It was this kind of strengthening of civil society that embodied hope for South Africa's future. Indeed, many people who might have made great politicians or civil servants were forced to remain in the ranks of civil society. This made it strong and vibrant, to the extent that it could rise to the social challenge.

From priest to bishop, then to become the first black Archbishop. This seemed to signal the day when the state president could be non-white. Inter-denominational ties – among the networks that characterize civil society - led in due course to the Kyros document, and on to Apartheid being declared as a heresy by the World Council of Churches in 1987. That was really the knock-out punch. Once the Afrikaners could no longer claim that the Bible endorsed their hegemony, it was downhill from then on. Soon Nelson Mandela was free and democratic elections were held. Just as Hebrew prophets could challenge their leaders – as Nathan did King David – the leaders of groups in civil society including “faith-based organizations” have a huge role to play in the democratic scheme of things.



***“Despite all of the ghastliness in the world, human beings are made for goodness,” he once said.
“The ones that are held in high regard are not militarily powerful, nor even economically prosperous.
They have a commitment to try and make the world a better place.”***

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October

Desmond Tutu Centre for Leadership

Mpumalanga province is notoriously severe on whistle-blowers. The January murders started in 1998 and continued till 2011. Seventeen young leaders were shot by an apparent death squad. Fourteen of them died.

In mid-2011 C4L launched a poster campaign: *17 reasons to demand transparency* on a background screen with a photo of Jimmy Mohlala, who was shot dead in front of his family at his home. The names of the fallen were listed on the poster, by year.

It has never happened again since 2012, a witness to what a little courage and exposure can do.

C4L occasionally speaks into the national forum as well from different media platforms – about Leadership, good Citizenship, and issues that affect youth, including Health.

Unashamedly Ethical

By the end of March 2016, Unashamedly Ethical had more than 30 000 signatories in 112 countries, the top being South Africa, Malaysia, USA, Kenya and Jamaica. Its appeal to prospective members is:

- We are Christian inspired
- We build relationships
- We are committed to challenge corruption
- We are a non-profit enterprise
- We promote partnerships

Joining involves signing a Code of Practice. There is both a personal one for individuals and a corporate one for businesses. In other words, Unashamedly Ethical is more an ounce of Prevention, than a pound of Cure.



Join the cloud of witnesses

2018

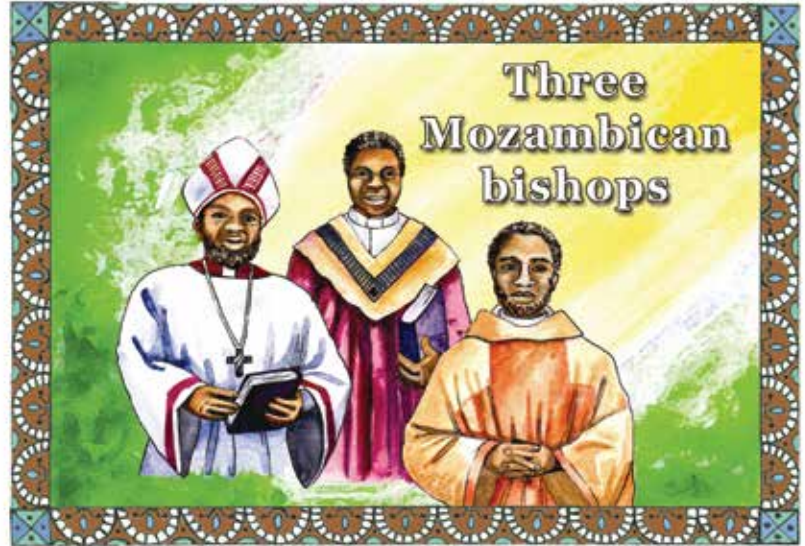
African Heroes of Faith – Three Mozambican bishops

Since the first shots of the armed struggle were fired in Mozambique in the early 1960s, it experienced three consecutive wars. By the early 1990s, Mozambique had been devastated and most people in the world's poorest country had known nothing but war, all their lives.

The Catholic, Anglican and Methodist bishops decided they had to try to put an end to this perpetual fighting. The personal risks involved were considerable. To contact the opposition party as peace-makers, they travelled to Nairobi. Being entirely on their own, the trip was not well resourced. So they ended up sharing one room – all three of them – in a hotel! In this, ecumenical cooperation took on a whole new meaning!

This church-initiated process led to the peace accords being signed - in Rome - in 1992. The changes in Mozambique since then have been amazing.

For several centuries - since the Protestant Reformation - the church has been fragmenting. The time has come to end this divergence, and for leaders to think a converging new way. They don't have to think the same, but they do have to think together.



Dom Jaime Gonçalves, Dom Dinis Sengulane, Rev. Filipe Sique Banze

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November – Organization Undoing Tax Abuse

Jesus was unequivocal about this: “Render unto Caesar *what belongs to Caesar.*” In other words – pay your taxes!

In the run-up to the first-ever non-confidence motion to be tested by secret ballot, OUTA released a report answering the President’s rhetorical questions: why should he resign? What had he done wrong? This extensive report was shared with all party whips before the voting began, and it was made public.

Earlier in 2017, OUTA had laid charges against the Minister of Mineral Resources for “high treason, extortion, corruption, fraud and theft”. It exposed his alleged role in helping the embattled Gupta family, to acquire the Optimum Coal Mine and allegedly steal money from the Free State Vrede Dairy Farm to fund their niece’s Sun City wedding.

OUTA also laid treason charges against former Minister of Communications. *“In 2015, the Western Cape High Court found that Muthambi acted irrationally and unlawfully in her appointment of Hlaudi Motsoeneng as Chief Operating Officer of the SABC because of the Public Protector’s findings against him of abuses of power, fraud and maladministration. Muthambi’s abuse of power led to the SABC’s current financial crisis, plunging it into billions of rand in debt,”* OUTA said.

OUTA says that former South Africa Social Security Agency (Sassa) CEO, Thokozani Magwaza was pushed out of his job. He didn’t really resign.

OUTA claims to have evidence that Eskom may have engineered the two rounds of load shedding, which was really the result of executives directing money towards certain people and businesses.



Join the cloud of witnesses

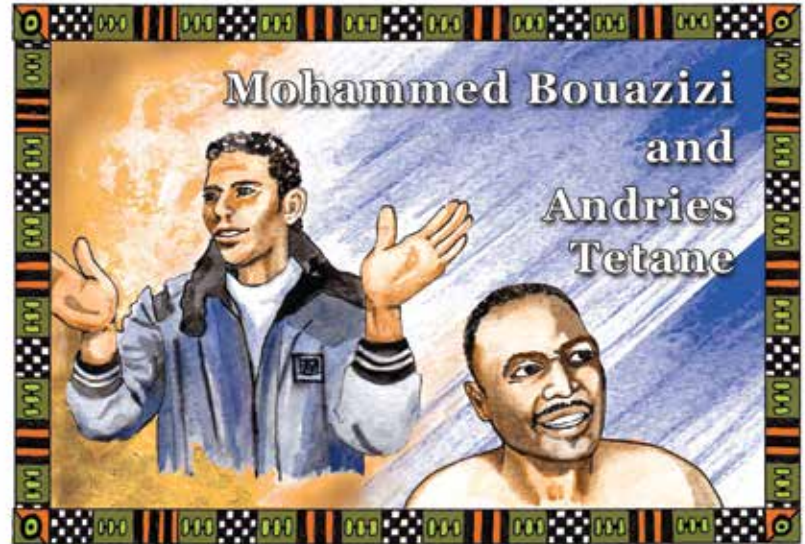
2018

African Heroes of Faith – Mohamed Bouazizi & Andries Tetane

In the 2013 Nelson Mandela public lecture, Mo Ibrahim warned of a coming “tsunami of youth”. This brought two young Africans to mind...

“The Arab Spring” was started by an unemployed university graduate when he was harassed, assaulted, humiliated and forcibly prevented from earning a meager income by selling fruits and vegetables. In desperation and in an action of defiance he set himself on fire. This act of self-immolation triggered demonstrations by his family in Sidi Bouzid. They were joined by hundreds of people, mainly young, in their protests. Very rapidly this demonstration spread like wild-fire throughout the country and eventually brought down the President.

Within a year, members of the South African Police Service (SAPS) beat and killed an unarmed protestor, Andries Tetane, at close range during a service delivery protest in Ficksburg. Tetane’s death was brutal, unnecessary and took the country backwards in terms of its promotion and protection of human rights. The killing was reminiscent of the events of 1986.



There is nothing wrong in protesting against non-performing local governments. However, there is something very wrong when the police’s actions amount to the violation of the protestors’ rights. The South African Institute of Race Relations warned that the beating and shooting of Tetane, who by many accounts sought to come to the defense of others being assaulted by the police, on national television, could provoke a political reaction that government will not be able to contain. Tetane’s death will not deter people from embarking on similar service delivery protests in future.

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December – Ahmed Kathrada Foundation

“AK” was the youngest of the Treason Trialists. So he out-lived most of them, and thus it was left to him to write a letter to the State President asking him to resign. This he did only a year or so from his own passing.

“AK” was also one of the ANC Stalwarts, but as Party structures, the Veterans and Stalwarts are really part of governance. So they could not be included among the esteemed groups in this 2018 calendar. They are rather a case of the party talking to itself.

In fact, one MP from that party is Chairperson of the Ahmed Kathrada Foundation - Derek Hanekom. He says that he will not be deterred by letters threatening to discipline him, from speaking out. Hanekom says government has lost an estimated R100 billion through Gupta projects.

The Ahmed Kathrada Foundation core focus is “deepening non-racialism”. Finding this racial rapprochement is mission-critical to finding solutions to inequality and unemployment – without losing the rule of law.

In Ahmed Kathrada’s *Memoirs*, Edwin Markham is quoted:

*He drew a circle to shut me out
heretic, rebel, a thing to flout
But Love and I had the wit to win
we drew a circle that took him in*



Join the cloud of witnesses

2018

The 13th Month – Afriforum

Afriforum is a civil-rights group linked to the Solidarity trade union. It was established in 2006 with the objective of encouraging the participation of statistical minority groups such as Afrikaners in public debate and civil actions. According to its CEO, Afriforum would like to achieve balance in South Africa: “True democracy needs alternative voices in order to succeed. While we aren’t a political party, we give alternative ideas and suggestions, where applicable, to the government stance.”

Afriforum’s principal focus is on civil rights, safety and security, community affairs, local government, environmental affairs, education as well as preserving the diversity of language, culture and heritage.

In 2009, the group contested the presence of Robert Mugabe at the new president’s inauguration. It was also involved in a bid to prevent the delivery of Allouette III Air Force helicopters to the Zimbabwean army.

Afriforum has opposed issuing shale gas exploration licences in the Karoo, and has been a devoted supporter of anti-poaching efforts, and raising awareness about rhino poaching.

The group has been involved in a free speech case involving the singing of “Shoot the boer” song, which made many Afrikaners feel degraded. It argued that the song incited harm against whites. The song was later banned as hate speech by the high court. Afriforum adopted a similar stance towards the word “kaffir”, arguing that it should never be used at all.

Afriforum has often criticized government for its lack of willingness to address the problem of farm murders. It believes that farm murders should be declared a priority crime. It has also been active in fighting corruption, especially targeting municipal employees guilty of fraud.

The 13th Month - Civicus

South Africa is one of a number of countries where civil society is not fully able to enjoy its freedoms and rights. The 2017 CIVICUS State of Civil Society report shows that across the globe, civil society space is under unprecedented levels of threat. "Around the world, it is becoming increasingly dangerous to challenge power, and to do so risks reprisals," the report notes.

CIVICUS is a global alliance of civil society organisations (CSOs) and activists dedicated to strengthening citizen action and civil society around the world.

The report found that civil rights are most severely oppressed in Africa and Asia, but the fact is that every global region has areas where civil society is under threat. The report notes that civil society operations in 106 countries – more than half of all UN members – have been severely constrained. This situation means that such restriction is now the norm rather than the exception and it should be viewed as a global emergency, says CIVICUS.

In South Africa, despite its long history of civic activism and its progressive Constitution, there is a gradually declining respect for civic space, particularly the rights to assemble peacefully and freely express opinions, the CIVICUS report notes. The South African government does not lightly tolerate criticism from civil society. It periodically makes statements alleging that local civil society organisations are colluding with external powers to undermine or overthrow the government, the report notes. This unfounded allegation is typically phrased as "regime change".

Save South Africa

Save South Africa is a campaign made up of organisations, civil society groups, business leaders, prominent individuals, South African citizens and supporters of the founding principles of our democracy. The campaign has formed under the banner of holding government leaders accountable to the Constitution and the values they have pledged to uphold as representatives of the people. (e.g. Batho Pele)

Save South Africa has a high-level profile, because it brings entities and individuals together – for example, to march...

Save South Africa's leadership has publicly called on the State President in 2017 to resign.

It has endorsements from many of the organizations featured in this calendar – and more. For example:

- Section 27 - a public interest law centre that seeks to achieve substantive equality and social justice in South Africa
- The Active Citizens' Movement
- The South African NGO Coalition
- The Evangelical Alliance of South Africa
- The South African Christian Leaders' Initiative

Citizens of South Africa! Get involved! Pray! Contribute! Volunteer! Engage (e.g. march)!

Participate (e.g. register to vote)! Remember the wit of Mogens Jallberg:

In democracy it's your vote that counts; in feudalism it's your count that votes!



Join the cloud of witnesses

2018

The Artist

Carol Strydom was born in Durban and studied Art & Design, majoring in Graphic Design.

She has been in the design and advertising industry for 40 years.

Her passion has always been for painting and illustration and she has illustrated books, posters and brochures.

fine art • graphic design

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About C4L

Vision

Empowerment of God's people to be responsible leaders in the human services for sustainable development

Mission

Enabling the potential of God's people through: training, mentoring, coaching, and providing appropriate tools



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