

# Miktab Samek (Letter 15)

Dear Reader,

Some see it as an anticlimax, others going out with a bang! Of course I'm talking of the World Cup and more so the performance of our team. Some have immediately moved on other linger with the thought: What could have happened if...? Are we bad losers or consoling ourselves that this is just a game-the beautiful game yes, but it is just a game!

This newsletter is reflecting on the developments of the FIFA World Cup and analysis, but then swiftly is moving off to a more particular conference with the possibility of much fruit in general.

Thanks for the inspiration for this newsletter from my email friends who keep me informed of the latest.

**Blessed is the one who takes the time to read this newsletter.**

## 1. Walking in the light

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight.*

*In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.*

*Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. (Prov.3:5-7)*

What role does God play in our lives? This question has been raised in various ways in the various newsletters. The question: What role does God play in the World Cup is however more pertinent and not so straight forward. Is the deity being trusted whole heartedly, or is He just a charm that must augment my skill and talent? Must the deity assist in all my goals, so as to secure and promote my lavish lifestyle? How God spans the 24 hours of a player and the officials' life only they will know.

Still, we cannot help but see the acknowledgment of a Higher being or Deity depending on the various nationalities. Various symbolic actions can be observed at the beginning of a match, more so when a goal is scored, and sometimes from hindsight during the jubilations of a win, when God was nearly forgotten, but then the conscience remembered. Whatever the situation, I think the participants knowingly or from habit, are witnessing to/of God and His mercy and the millions of viewers are exposed to this. This impact must not be underestimated as millions of hopefuls and supports have their

eye on these role models. A different perspective, and many will disagree with me, is the utilization of what I will call imuthi to throw or influence the game. From a Christian perspective the effectiveness of this is challenged or even looked upon as abhorrent and evil. The extent of the use of muthi is unknown and yet it is a reality. Again the question as to the effects of these on the players and supporters can be problematic when they put their trust therein.

I pray the Holy Spirit for guidance and insight into how we need to interact with Him. May God provide the way how to live and act in, through and with Him. Hereto may we live more conscious of the omnipresence of God. May we acknowledge and honour Him in public arena without fear or shame, but more so in our private endeavors where no-one can probe.

## 2. What shall we say about all these?

{Reflections on the current national and international news events will be mirrored by/in the Word of God to console, direct and challenge (where needed).}

*SA-It does not matter* is an email that is currently circulating to lift up our spirits after our national team failed to go through to the next round. In this email, the reader is called upon to shift his/her emotions from the soccer *per se* to the bigger picture of the advantages and benefits that had come and will come our way with the hosting of this event. Readers are called upon to still stay positive and to be involved with the remaining matches and more so hospitality towards our visitors.

The emphasis was indeed fitting and the message a much needed one to lift our spirits, however one of my questions was whether we must let the team and more particularly the related preparatory structures, coaching team, etc. off the hook just like that. Is it just a game and we can now move on? Considering what was at stake and what we could have achieved, should we not insist on more analysis and subsequent answers. Given all the resources, opportunities, input, sacrifices, was the dividends worthwhile?

This is indeed a problematic situation particularly in South Africa. Accountability vis-a-vis forgiveness is something we cannot juggle well.

We insist on forgiveness and tolerance, without making sure that the prodigal son has learned from his experiences. The prodigal son had to analyze his situation, express

repentance and was prepared to surrender his privilege position. ARE the role players prepared to do the same? Sincere analysis on the impact of our performance for 46 million people citizens is thus in order, so that we can improve and show them next time. The country will be needed again, at some stage, to rally around our team and then it must be with a sincere pride instead of mere lip service because of the disappointment of the past performances. Trust can sometimes only be restored with honesty and patient corrective steps to proof sincerity.

Concerning all of the above, I however always try to put myself in the position of the other party and then apply the golden rule. What if I was in this mess? Fortunately, at one stage Jesus Christ paid for my mess and failures and allows me constantly to try again without keeping score. Let us do the same

### **3. Joy with the sorrow**

Congratulations are in order for Bafana Bafana who showed some courage in their matches; most important the fact that they sent the mighty France team packing. Thanks to the SAPS and various other departments and groups behind the scenes for their role in making this spectacle on the world stage a success by the long hours that they put in.

**)(00000000000000)(**

**To those whose heart mourn today**

**God says: As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.(Isaiah 66:13).**

### **4. Chess (nee CHURCH) moves: Bishop**

{All the movements of the Bishop (and deans), where they sow, plant, water will be made known so you can pray to God for these ventures at your Prayer groups and during Worship services}

Whilst everyone was glued to their TVs, a historic first conference of the Young Adult League, Free State Circuit took place 26-27 June 2010 at Mooigenoegd resort, Bloemfontein. This League started out as a mission venture from the Northern Diocese in 2008, resulting in 8 members in the Bloemfontein region. Subsequent these few have

set themselves the initial target to recruit 200 members and have succeeded to reach this goal via vibrant outreaches and launches in the various parishes and circuits plausibly with very little assistance, save their own contributions. Their sacrifice paid off with the Conference meeting under the theme: Diversity unified in Christianity. The Conference participants have set themselves the task to be more active in the circuits and address the various challenges that the church and community face. This Conference will be followed by the Diocesan and ELCSA conferences later in the year. Br.M.S. Mokotedi and his team are wished God's richest blessings for their future endeavors.

### 5. What about.... Joining the Young Adults League

The YAL has identified a gap in the Church's witness by not catering for young adults and their needs. This has resulted that they emigrate to other denominations or simply becoming dormant and inactive. If this describes you and you over the age of 25, missing a spiritual niche, well then you can just be the catalyst for the emergence of a group in your congregation. The editor can be contacted for contact persons in your region, but firstly stand by for the aims and objectives of this league.

### 6. Spotlight on.....The YAL (Young Adult

The aims and objectives:

- To maintain a developing faith in God that is reinterpreted, strengthened and expanded as a result of increasing contact with the realities of life.
- To become a witness of Jesus Christ, as a servant by words and deeds, in faith with love and hope.
- To bring in innovative partnerships with organization outside ELCSA
- To deepen our understanding of the significance of the sacraments and liturgy.
- To utilize the intellectual and professional skills contained in the league towards the growth and the development of the church.
- To create cadre-ship to challenge practices and tendencies that hinder progress in the church.
- To realize the worth of each individual despite his/her frailties and limitations
- To participate creatively in the various worship opportunities provided in the church

- To accept responsibility for adult leadership and service in the church as well as supporting Christian stewardship.

## 7. What's in it for me?

One dilemma of the Young Adults League is dual or multi-membership, meaning some member want to join, but without relinquishing their membership at other leagues and organization. Should they be allowed? How many memberships can you have? Can one person serve two or more groups faithfully without neglect of some sort? What about the financial implications? Share your stories and suggestions. The **Message Board** is waiting to capture your views and discussions (and on anything else!) Handy spiritual books are up for grabs for the ones posting the most creative views! Your efforts here can just stimulate others (even internationally to embark on your suggestions and enhance the lives of many!)

## Wishful thinking ....

*The number of people that fail is directly proportionate to the numbers of people who give up.* Please encourage others to subscribe to our newsletter which aims to inform, stimulate, to involve and to grow the visitors to our site. It is still my wish to hear from you. Please volunteer to contribute to any of these regular features. You also need to tell us your needs and whether these regulars are sufficient and cater for your expectations. Any other brilliant ideas will be gladly accommodated. Eagerly waiting to hear from you!

The editor can be contacted at [newtonbrandt@gmail.com](mailto:newtonbrandt@gmail.com)