

# *Miktao Kaph (Letter 11)*

## *Miktao Kaph (Letter 11)*

Dear Reader,

Sunday Quasimodogeniti relates how we *like newborn babes* bask in the victory of Jesus Christ. We gallop like freed animals from the pen, as the blessings of the resurrection overwhelm us as we do not deserve this mercy and grace. I sincerely hope that you are filled with new hope and aspirations; that your witness is re-energized and that you proclaim the certainty that as Christ rose from the death, so likewise we will see new life in Christ.

This newsletter deals with relationship—those that are restored in and by Christ; and other that are drifting apart due to various reasons. May the prayer of St Francis of Assisi (on the restorative power that we have) guide us in this period. Blessed is the one who takes the time to read this newsletter.

### *1. Walking In The Light*

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and to an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed (1 Peter 1:3-5)*

I cannot help but see a Peter in my mind's eye that is always smiling, to such an extent that people thought there must be something wrong with him. To get the tremendous second chance after his denial of Jesus, to be forgiven and then given the task to be a witness of the resurrection was taken with such a stride

that the Jewish authorities were astounded! Nothing could stop him this time round and it flows from his soul in this letter.

He extols the great mercy of God for taking the initiative to restore Jesus to life, thus indeed undoing all the plans of the evil one. He is very aware that humans could make no contribution to the resurrection, no amount of good works, no amount of fasting and prayer or whatever efforts would have supported God's actions.

Peter (and us) can only bow in homage before the Father and praise and adore this grace. To top this up even further, an inheritance is open for each and every believer without any possibility to spoil it. A guarantee stamp is placed on this endeavor and the believer is promised and given God's power to secure this destiny if we only surrender to His cause for us.

My dear reader it is my wish that the realization of Peter about the resurrection and the blessings that flow from it will be yours too. The resurrection was not a scam, it was not a futile attempt to keep the name of the dead Jesus alive for a while more, no it was a reality. There is no way that the depressive disciples could have re-energized themselves to the extent that they were fearless. They could have fooled some people, but they could not forever fool themselves and keep up the lie. May the Holy Spirit reveal the extent of the grace and blessings of the resurrection to you, so that you too can bask in the SON!

## *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).}

Are we about to surrender the hopes for a Rainbow Nation? It will be a sad day if that is indeed the trend where we are going. I am still hopeful for the contrary,

however concern and worry grip the heart of many a responsible citizen in our country for the direction we are heading in particular the possible polarization of race groups, with the added worrying possibility of violent clashes ensuing again.

Two trends are disturbing to me. On the one hand, there are groups who rejoice (be it silently in their hearts) in the destabilizing conditions that are emerging. The hope or shall we say the curse, was there that this will come about one day, that their views will be vindicated that we cannot live together in harmony. The hope is even there that this can tarnish the name and authority of South Africa and as a cherry on top that the World Cup can be in jeopardy or seriously compromise and thus end in a failure. Needless to say it is very irresponsible to fuel the fire in an attempt to get back at the government and to undermine their authority and regain some of the power that was relinquished to build a new South Africa.

On the other hand, we cannot turn a blind eye to crime that is playing havoc with the lives of people. People cannot think that crime pays and go unpunished. To condone criminal acts as it is inflicted against the so-called enemy and thus acceptable can be very destructive. To have two sets of rules will play very well in the hands of those who engage in criminal activities as they can shade these as part of the continuous struggle against racial domination and exploitation. Legitimate means are available here where genuine claims can be backed by the necessary proof.

I hope that we will be able to make realistic deductions of the threats that are forthcoming and yet not undermine the warning of our Saviour that a little yeast can unsettle a lot of structures in this country and beyond her borders.

It is time to implore the true Judge that sanity will prevail and that we will play our respective roles to undo any foolish and destructive behaviour that we will regret in the future.

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

We are grateful for the strides that are being taken in the various Circuits. Meetings, conferences that can materialize and that energize our members and the congregants whom they serve. May God use our members in a mighty way!

We praise God for hearing our prayers for the usual carnage on our roads during the Easter weekend. The situation was still unbearable for many families, however compared to the past less tears were spilled. We continue to pray God for a new spirit of neighborliness even as we interact with one another on our roads.

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

{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}

We pray for the Diocesan Council meeting in session when this newsletter appears on the web. We pray for the Bishop, Deans, Chairperson and all the participants for mercy and insight so that decisions can be forthcoming that will benefit each member in the Diocese and beyond. May people favorably embrace the guidance of this council and support her endeavors. May constructive engagement ensue where members disagree and may the honest debates also take us to higher levels.

We implore the readers to entrust the Diocesan Women's League members to God's care as they plan and embark on their conference. May God bestow traveling mercies on them and may much fruit come from the endeavors of the meeting.

### *5. What about....*

Can you think of something? Please share with the editor. Besides seeing your name in lights, you might just inspire someone or thousands for that matter. So start typing.

### *6. Spotlight on.... Utilization of the courts to settle disputes*

This year (and in the past) saw our Diocesan officials spending lots of man hours preparing and defending the Church at the CCMA against pastors and colleagues from the same constituency. Huge amounts of money were drained by both parties in the process, money that is desperately needed.

Going to the CCMA has become such a frequent and easy thing that it seems as there is nothing to it; and thus normal. We however can never hold this view as it is really an insult to the Institution that we serve. There are no winners and loser in this case as we both loose a brother or the mother (Church) in the end. We need to seriously consider whether this road is the one we need to take in the future.

Seeking outside mediation should be in extreme cases as it really indicates that after so many serious and honest attempts we have failed to reach an agreement. To willy-nilly abandon discussions and attempts at reconciliation and take extreme decisions leave us very vulnerable in our witness to the world.

It is my hope that we will revisit this debate whilst we are on neutral grounds and before it was necessary to draw lines in the sand. Hopefully during this debate we will reach a consensus to try our utmost to solve our issues internally before embarking on outside help.

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

Tell us about your views of pastors being dismissed on the one hand, and pastors taking the Church to CCMA. Is this acceptable? What other options do you have? 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 ....*

*True faith and courage are like kites; opposing winds raise them higher.* 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)