

# SOUTH AFRICAN CHRISTIAN LEADERS' INITIATIVE



PO Box 413342, Craighall, 2024

10 June 2022

## SEPTEMBER 2022 "PILGRIMAGE OF GRACE": SACLI MEDIA STATEMENT FOR CHURCH MEDIA

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From 23 – 25 September 2022, a group of South African Christian pilgrims will embark on a "Pilgrimage of Grace". The pilgrimage is named after the place called "Genadendal" in the Overberg region, which translates to "Valley of Grace".

Genadendal is the place where the first Moravian Missionary, Georg Schmidt, started his mission to the Khoi people in South Africa, believing that they too were children of God and co-recipients of the salvation of Christ. With this inclusive idea of God and human beings, Schmidt started his work but met with opposition from members of the Dutch Reformed Church. He had to abandon his work but it continued for the next 50 years under the leadership of a Khoi Woman, Vehettge, who was baptized Magdalena. When the next group of Moravian missionaries arrived after 50 years, they were welcomed by Magdalena and others who had continued the mission work amongst the Khoi and enslaved people who were released and who moved to Genadendal.

The pilgrimage takes place under the banner of the South African Christian Leaders' Initiative (SACLI), that was formed in 2013 to mobilise for unity in Christian witness in South Africa. According to the chairperson of SACLI, the Rev Moss Ntlha, the Pilgrimage of Grace "offers not only a moment for the Dutch Reformed Church and the Moravian Church to become united in God's mission to all people, but also offers the broader church to not only look back but also to look forward".

Bishop Joemath, Bishop of the Moravian Church, believes that "this pilgrimage is an answer to our many hours of prayer and is an opportunity not only for the Moravian Church to be strengthened in its mission, but for all Christians to re-affirm that all people are God's people and that God wants healing and reconciliation amongst all people".

The Moderator of the Dutch Reformed church, Dr Nelis Janse van Rensburg, has also welcomed the Pilgrimage of Grace “as a moment for the Dutch Reformed Church to turn its back on past hurtful actions by the Dutch Reformed Church towards our Moravian sisters and brothers. We will use the opportunity for repentance and reconciliation with the hope that Christ will unify us and lead us to journey and witness together, so that the world may believe”.

Ms Judith Balie, director of the Genadendal Museum expressed her and the Genadendal Museum Board's excitement for this initiative “as it acknowledges the rich and unique heritage of Genadendal in South Africa's history and especially some of the key women role-players, whose contributions are often left unacknowledged”

Liesel Naude, daughter of Ilse and Beyers Naude, says she and members of her family are excited about this Pilgrimage as it “recognises the significant but mostly unacknowledged role that our mother played in the struggle against the immoral Apartheid system and in the transition towards a democratic South Africa”.

Peter Tarantal, the Associate International Director of Operation Mobilisation, said that “Some years ago Prof. Willem Saayman from Unisa commented that ‘one of the reasons the church in SA struggle with its mission vision is because the fault lines of our mission run deep’. One such fault line, I believe, is what happened at Genadendal back in the 18th century and the Genadendal Pilgrimage will go a long way in helping the church deal with this fault line and also rediscover what the mission is that the Lord has for us in this next season.”

Because President Nelson Mandela re-named the Presidential house in Cape Town from “Westbrook” to “Genadendal” in 1995, SACL I has written to President Cyril Ramaphosa to inform him of the Pilgrimage of Grace.

SACL I has also written to churches in the Global North whose missionary practices on the continent often led to death rather than to life. It is hoped that some representatives of the churches in the North will join the pilgrimage and join in the prayers for Africa. Every country on the continent will be prayed for in alphabetical order from 26 September until 18 November 2022 (see dates of the prayers for each country below).

The Pilgrimage will start at the Moravian Church in District Six, Cape Town at 10h00 on 23 September 2022, and will end at Cape Agulhas at a service starting there at 1pm on Sunday, 25 September 2022. On 24 September, it will culminate in a public service at Genadendal,

starting at 10h30, where the contributions of Vehettge as well as Ilse Naude (wife of Beyers Naude) will be acknowledged and affirmed. ENDS

For more information about this pilgrimage, please contact

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Prayer days for all the countries in Africa:

Dates and all the African countries we will be praying for from the 26th of September to the 20th of November 2022

Our focus will be the healing of Africa from the wounds caused by slavery, colonialism, and racism.

DAY 1 - Monday, 26 September 2022 - ALGERIA

DAY 2 - Tuesday, 27 September 2022 - ANGOLA

DAY 3 - Wednesday, 28 September 2022 - BENIN

DAY 4 - Thursday, 29 September 2022 - BOTSWANA

DAY 5 - Friday, 30 September 2022 - BURKINA FASO

DAY 6 - Saturday, 1 October 2022 - BURUNDI

DAY 7 - Sunday, 2 October 2022 - CAMEROON

DAY 8 - Monday, 3 October 2022 - CAPE VERDE

DAY 9 - Tuesday, 4 October 2022 - CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

DAY 10 - Wednesday, 5 October 2022 - CHAD

DAY 11 - Thursday, 6 October 2022 - COMOROS

DAY 12 - Friday, 7 October 2022 - CONGO

DAY 13 - Saturday, 8 October 2022 - CONGO (DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC)

DAY 14 - Sunday, 9 October 2022 - COTE D'IVOIRE

DAY 15 - Monday, 10 October 2022 - DJIBOUTI

DAY 16 - Tuesday, 11 October 2022 - EGYPT

DAY 17 - Wednesday, 12 October 2022 - EQUATORIAL GUINEA

DAY 18 - Thursday, 13 October 2022 - ERITREA

DAY 19 - Friday, 14 October 2022 - ETHIOPIA

DAY 20 - Saturday, 15 October 2022 - ESWATINI

DAY 21 - Sunday, 16 October 2022 - GABON

DAY 22 - Monday, 17 October 2022 - GAMBIA

DAY 23 - Tuesday, 18 October 2022 - GHANA

DAY 24 - Wednesday, 19 October 2022 - GUINEA

DAY 25 - Thursday, 20 October 2022 - GUINEA BISSAU

DAY 26 - Friday, 21 October 2022 - KENYA

DAY 27 - Saturday, 22 October 2022 - LESOTHO

DAY 28 - Sunday, 23 October 2022 - LIBERIA

DAY 29 - Monday, 24 October 2022 - LIBYA

DAY 30 - Tuesday, 25 October 2022 - MADAGASCAR

DAY 31 - Wednesday, 26 October 2022 - MALAWI

DAY 32 - Thursday, 27 October 2022 - MALI

DAY 33 - Friday, 28 October 2022 - MAURITANIA

DAY 34 - Saturday, 29 October 2022 - MAURITIUS

DAY 35 - Sunday, 30 October 2022 – MOROCCO -INCLUDING WESTERN SAHARA

DAY 36 - Monday, 31 October 2022 - MOZAMBIQUE

DAY 37 - Tuesday, 1 November 2022 - NAMIBIA

DAY 38 - Wednesday, 2 November 2022 - NIGER

DAY 39 - Thursday, 3 November 2022 - NIGERIA

DAY 40 - Friday, 4 November 2022 - RWANDA

DAY 41 - Saturday, 5 November 2022 – SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

DAY 42 - Sunday, 6 November 2022 - SENEGAL

DAY 43 - Monday, 7 November 2022 - SEYCHELLES

DAY 44 - Tuesday, 8 November 2022 - SIERRA LEONE

DAY 45 - Wednesday, 9 November 2022 - SOMALIA

DAY 46 – Thursday, 10 November 2022 - SOUTH AFRICA

DAY 47 - Friday, 11 November 2022 - SOUTH SUDAN

DAY 48 - Saturday, 12 November 2022 - SUDAN

DAY 49 - Sunday, 13 November 2022 - TANZANIA

DAY 50 - Monday, 14 November 2022 - TOGO

DAY 51 - Tuesday, 15 November 2022 - TUNISIA

DAY 52 - Wednesday, 16 November 2022 - UGANDA

DAY 53 - Thursday, 17 November 2022 - ZAMBIA

DAY 54 – Friday, 18 November 2022 - ZIMBABWE