THE UNITING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

26th March 2024

"REVIVE US AGAIN, O LORD" **Easter Time 2024**

Brothers and sisters, the time has come to celebrate and live out our belief in the resurrection. It is time for us to ask God for a revival this Easter season. The Psalmist prayed on behalf of the people saying:

> **Psalm 85:6**
> **"Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?"**

"Revive us again" is our request to God as we focus on the message of salvation that is a cause for us to celebrate in this Easter season, yet we are often burdened and heavy laden. The state of our lives, our churches, relationships, our diverse societies all make it necessary for us to ask for a revival – a renewed move of the Spirit, a spiritual awakening. We are in need of a spiritual refreshing from God. "Revive us again, O Lord."

We are not simply praying for a once-off revival event or service – we are talking of the lasting state of renewal and spiritual awakening that comes when revived and re-spurred by the Spirit of God – a permanent gift of the empowering of the Spirit to re-ignite us to action for God and to holiness. "Revive us again, O Lord."

This Easter, as we reflect on the fact that the dead Body of Jesus was brought back to life, we too, as the Body of Christ, want God to bring us back to life, bring us back to our first love for God, bring us back to an attitude of repentance and to bring us back to obedience to the Word of God.

And why should we ask for a revival?
Because when God revives God's church, then the new life overflows from the church to the conversion of outsiders, and the cleansing of believers, and the renovation of society. So, while revival begins with the church, its effects do not stop there, and the world needs the effects of a revival. There is a genuine revival when the church rises, and shakes herself from the dust, and puts on her garments of spiritual splendour as Isaiah declared (Isaiah 52:1-2). "Revive us again, O Lord."

During this Easter season,

- ✓ Let us be deliberate in our activities to ask God to "revive us again."
- ✓ Let us preach the word with power; let us worship God with gratitude; let us evangelise with intentionality.
- ✓ Let us humbly admit our shortcomings before the Lord, for repentance is an ingredient for a revival.

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