



THE UNITING
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
IN SOUTHERN
AFRICA

26 September 2024

Moderator's 25th Anniversary Message to the UPCSA

Dear friends,

Today we celebrate that God used us, notwithstanding our diversity, to produce the UPCSA and we submitted to the will of God and obeyed. For the last 25 years, God has led us, corrected us, fed us, given us a hunger for righteousness, and preserved us as a church. We have emerged stronger together at 25! Yet this side of heaven there's always room for improvement.

It has been said, "The perfect place in the whole wide world is in the will of God." So, at 25 let us together as a church pray to re-align to the will of God so that we can fulfil God's prophetic and missional purposes in our time. We are ready for a revival as the same church that God has loved and preserved. Let us pray that this is the season of God's revival of our hearts and minds so that we may fulfil God's purposes and will for us.

So how do we position ourselves for a spiritual revival? We can be tempted to see 25 years as our own achievement, yet it is the Lord that has brought us this far. So in humility, we acknowledge God's leading. Humility is the only container that can hold a revival. Internalize that... All our other containers have holes in them and therefore cannot hold God's revival. Humility is the only container that is mature enough and strong enough to re-open our eyes to the spiritual truth that we are first and foremost citizens of the kingdom of God and as children of God, we must re-seek the will of God for our complex times.

This humility container is made up of three intertwined prerequisites for a revival to happen among us, in our time – intercession, confession, and submission.

- a) **Intercession** is the first requirement for a revival. We deliberately pray for a revival in recognition that we need a higher power than ourselves and our own ideas, opinions to run our churches and to grow our churches.

- b) **Confession** is the second requirement for a revival. It says that we recognize our inadequacies and our unworthiness before God. It says we recognize that we have neglected God's basic requirement of us which is to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength," the vertical axis of the cross, and to "Love your neighbour as yourself," the horizontal axis of the cross.

PBO 18/11/13/1612

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