

08<sup>th</sup> December, 2009

Dear Colleagues,

### ***IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME 2009***

Greetings in the wonderful name of our Lord and King Jesus the Christ. Hope the pronouncement of the words Christmas brings joy to your eyes and gladness to your hearts.

The word Christmas or the season itself says different things for different people. I remember as I was growing up Christmas meant new clothes and a big feast and that was all. Different cultures relate to this time differently. Others they have grasped the true meaning whilst the majority celebrates this season for other reasons which has nothing to do with the word becoming flesh (incarnation). Some people this season is worrying because of the cost of living that is always going high.

For **many of** our brothers and sisters in disturbed political unstable places like Zimbabwe the very realization of this season carries mixed feelings, depression that they can't celebrate this season as they used to but on the other hand words of gratitude are echoed 'Ebenezer' this far has the Lord brought us.

How about UPCSA, what kind of thoughts is this season supposed to provoke in our minds, our worship and witness? I suppose words of the angles must be echoed again. "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests". These words are the reversal of Rev 12:12b "But woe to the earth and sea, because the devil has gone down to you".

As we celebrate Christmas let us have in our mind that this is a celebration of Gods' intervention in the human history. We celebrate the new possibilities that are put in place. We can be reconciled to God and one another. As we celebrate we need to remember that the God we serve does not easily give up on his creation, which is why he gets involved in the business of the world, politics, social and health of his people and world at large.

2009 has been a busy year. In my duties I can testify that the Church is active and alive. The celebration marking 10 years of our Union has been handled positively by a good number of our members.

It has been a joy to be part of the Executive Commission, the UPWF Genex, MCG Conference, the Manuel Imbizo and the Association Imbizo. Dedication of Church halls has been a clear indication that there is life and growth in the church. Being part of the Crusade in Kalomo Zambia was another indicator that we stand for Evangelism, Stewardship and HIV/AIDS as our mission priority areas.

As we celebrate Christmas this year let us continue to pray for the church to be "ONE" according to our Vision so that we have a church which is one. As we look forward to next year let us be expectant of good things not only the world cup but also in the things of God that there may be growth in all aspects of our witness and testimony to our communities.

With these words I believe that god wants us to celebrate this Christmas by being the hands and the feet of Jesus. The voice of Christ and the presence of Christ in the world.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

RT. REV. CN. MKANDAWIRE