
TO THOSE WHO LOVE THE LORD WITH ALL THEIR HEARTS.

BY: PRESTON SELEPE (ANGOLA)

COMRADES, Brethren and fellow-country men, allow me at this point in time to share my little testimony with you as an exhortation in your belief to the Mighty Lord Jesus Christ.

I was born like all other children in racist South Africa, exposed to all oppressive laws. I acted in the same way that a normal child in the townships would react to the demanding conditions there. It was under those conditions that I found myself seeking refuge where my hope can be assured. I made a decision to accept and acknowledge the Lord Jesus as my personal Saviour. I must admit that ever since I made that decision life became very challenging to me. It was an experience that shall forever live in me.

At that early age of my redemption I overlooked one primary thing — I failed to understand that I was still a human being still living in South Africa. I was susceptible to pass laws, to bantustanisation, to bantu education, to detention without trial, to starvation, to poverty and all other things that we all know, just because I am a Blackman in "White South Africa". For a long time I did not regard whites as my compatriots due to all the atrocities they perpetrate on my own people. But because the Bible has the answers for all our problems I one day read Acts 26 v 17-18 and found the following words "I will save you from the people of Israel and from the gentiles to whom I will send you. You are to open their eyes and turn them from the

darkness to the light and from the power of Satan to God so that through their faith in the they may have their sins forgiven and receive their place among the chosen people."

It took me time to digest this in our day to day lives in South Africa. But lately I realised that the Israelites today are persecuting the Palestinians and robbing them of their freedom and land, so it is with the racist South Africans who have usurped our kingdom and later made it theirs. Whether they be the Israelites of old or these Zionist Israelites of today or even the racist South Africans who are all claiming to be God-chosen yet not obeying His will ought to be rebuked in public so that they should be ashamed. I then took it upon myself to let the Will of God be done on earth as it is in Heaven above.

Comrades I must admit that this is not an easy task as many might be made to believe. It is a task that shows one's dedication to the mighty Lord Jesus. There are many temptations from all sides if one has to solve these problems. Yet so, we should not let fear rule us. Our Lord Jesus Christ was not led by fear. Not that he did not have it in Him but He suppressed it. He fought against it. Shouldn't we follow in His footsteps? Paul became subtle when He approached the question of subordination to those in authority. He knew very well that there are those who do not have the will of God in their minds but who are serving their own interests.

After telling us to be obedient to those in authority he continues to explain that:

"And now knowing the time of our salvation is nearer, that is now high time to awake out of sleep for now our salvation is nearer than we believed. The time is far spent, the day is at hand.

"Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness and let us put on the armour of light".

Paul later emphasised that all shall give account before the almighty God for whatever they have done. This includes those who are persecuting us, who are maiming us and killing us in the name of what they call law and order.

Brethren, South Africa belongs to all those who live in it irrespective of colour. It is what it is because of the sweat of men and women of different colours in our place of birth. Today if we can sit down and count the number of Christians who have fallen victim of these brutes in our country, we cannot but just lament. Shall we then say that Christ is remote and is doing nothing for us? God forbid. It is the wish of our Saviour to see to it that there is peace and social justice in South Africa. Paul says in Romans: 14 verse 19.

"Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace and where one may edify another."

The presence of police in our townships is not the solution to peace and stability.

» Apartheid laws are the source of division....»

But on the contrary it is the source of violence and death of souls so innocent. The State of emergency did not solve the apartheid problems which are the stumbling block in the way of progress. The apartheid laws are the source of division and what the Botha — Malan regime claim as black on black violence whereas they are the agitators

ing naked, when we see a stomach hungry, when we see a soul without shelter in a rich country like South Africa we know that there is a sin committed somewhere. This is the truth that never left my mind. I knew as I still know that apartheid is a sin against humanity. It is a venom of mass destruction. And the Botha regime is responsible

leaders but in vain. Were I also supposed to sit down and use Greek to the Afrikaaners? They would not understand me either. Not that I did not try to do this, but what did I gain? Imprisonment, torture and more sufferings. Brethrens it is not the will of God to see us suffering. What good will it bring me to have everything in abundance alone

It is . . . well known that the main national liberation organisations in this country have consistently followed a policy of non-violence. They have conducted themselves peaceably at all times, regardless of Government attacks and persecutions upon them, and despite all Government-inspired attempts to provoke them to violence. They have done so because the people prefer peaceful methods of change to achieve their aspirations without the suffering and bitterness of civil war. But the people's patience is not endless.

The time comes in the life of any nation when there remain only two choices: submit or fight. That time has now come to South Africa. We shall not submit and we have no choice but to hit back by all means within our power in defence of our people, our future and our freedom.

(Umkhonto We Sizwe (Spear of the Nation). Flyer issued by command of Umkhonto We Sizwe and appearing on 16 December 1961).



of all these things. I remember Brother Frank Chikane, now SACC Secretary General, addressing our university Graduation ceremony some-time back talking on peace and social justice. In his message he mentioned that it is the will of God to see peace and harmony prevailing among His people.

To emphasize this he said that when we see a body walk-

for all starvation cases, sufferings and hunger pangs that reign in our rich country.

As a christian I realised that it was my task to correct the situation, but how could one correct it when one does not know the language of roars and claws? For a long time Moses talked to Pharaoh but in vain. For a long time Albert Luthuli spoke to Strydom, Vorster and all the apartheid

whereas millions and millions of my fellow human beings are still under the yoke of apartheid? Nothing.

There was only one solution for the early Israelites to gain their peace, and that was through fighting Pharaoh. Today there is only one way for us to gain our freedom as enshrined in the Freedom Charter, and that is to swell the ranks of the fighting arm of

the peoples army, MK. It is for this reason I am a soldier of my people fighting against the evil system of apartheid and its perpetrators. This is the course I urge to all those who love our country with all their hearts to follow. We shall remember brethren that when Jesus prayed for us He said, that we should not be taken out of this planet but that we should be protected right here. We have the power of God with us. If God is on our side who can stand against us?

To all those who love the Lord not only with their lips but with their entire selves I have this to say — Jesus came here on earth and was persecuted and crucified for our own sins. He died so that we should have an everlasting life that shall not go with man-made sufferings and suppression. That we should not be robbed of our lands, education, treasures, health, shelter, work and security.

He showed us the way to lead a happy life full of trust and peace to one another. Yet we know that there are those like Botha and Malan who claim to be our authorities while they do not want to see us living the way God wanted us to live. Further they claim to be Christians doing exactly what James said there are those like them. They are not the doers of the word but only the preachers of it.

They tell us to lay down our arms and start negotiating for a peaceful solution. Of course as Christians we want that. But then at the same time they are still killing our brothers and sisters in the townships. They are still fighting in Angola where the people of that country had fought to gain their independence. They are still supporting and actually

fighting with the MNR against the sovereign state of Mozambique.

The very same people who want us to lay down our arms are still occupying Namibia illegally against the will of the International Community. James rightly say that they are deceiving themselves. They do not preach the God we know, and thus we ought to fight against their god and let the God of justice be worshipped in our country of birth.

As Christians we know our task. It is to visit and render

help to those in jails and in physical pains inflicted by the apartheid laws. To visit the fatherless and widows who lost their beloved because of apartheid.

The day of salvation is at hand. Let us wake up from our sleep and strive for justice with all those who love the Lord with pure hearts. May the good Lord bless you and open our minds to this mission before us.

Yours in the struggle for peace and Social Justice.

FORCE OR VIOLENCE

by Cedric Mayson

THE seven deadly sins are good gone bad. That is the context for discussing force and violence.

Good gets corrupted into evil, like sweet smelling fruit ripe for eating which will rot and stink if it goes too far. Pride corrupts the healthy enjoyment of satisfaction; lechery is sexual delight gone rotten; envy is the perversion of pleasure in another; anger brutalises righteous wrath; covetousness distorts equality; gluttony prostitutes the natural satisfaction of hunger; and sloth of rest.

So freedom destroys itself if it becomes licence; concern if it becomes fear; self-defence if it becomes aggression; and force if it becomes violence. Force and violence can never be equated.

Force is a necessary and legitimate part of human equipment and violence its corrupted illegitimate excess. A parent may use force to guide a child but never child abuse. If a woman strikes out at

a rapist that is the legitimate use of force by a victim to ward off a violent attack. The enforcement of just laws by a legitimate democratic just government differs totally from the violent imposition of oppression and exploitation by a powerful clique with no legitimate right to rule. Force holds society in place, like gravity; violence disrupts and divides it, like an earthquake.

The South African regime is committed to unjust forms of despotic rule which the rest of the world has repudiated since the times of the tsars and empires and colonies. The constituency of the national franchise is limited by pigmentation to only 15% of the population, of whom a third are too young to vote and a third oppose the ruling party, vesting power in a puny minority. This is the illegitimate regime which rules our land without justice or democracy, in defiance of the will of the people.

It rules by violence alone.