

death itself — that final and ultimate enemy of humanity. We are talking about our God who in and through Jesus Christ demonstrated supremely that He is a God of deliverance, a God who liberates from oppression and bondage.

Now since the God of Deuteronomy is none other than God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and therefore our unique and only God, we too carry today this faith and the message of the one and only God who delivers, who saves, who liberates. We carry this faith and this message today — today, that is in the very midst of the darkness that is enveloping South Africa, our beloved Land and our people.

The more gloomy the future looks to the men and women in the street, the brighter it appears when seen through the eyes of the God of liberation, who alone is God; the more hopeless the future looks to some, the more wonderful the hope for the future for us, for we know that our God acts and liberates at a time which neither 'Pharaoh' nor his oppressed slaves expect — at His own time, which is always the right time.

The hour is dark, and considering the mad obstinacy of the forces of oppression arrayed against our people, it might get darker still. Still more of our people will be maimed, more will die violently. And those who will forget that our faith is in a God of salvation will be tempted to give in. Yes! they will want to abandon our tested liberation wagon. But we who believe in the only, the supreme God, will remember that our God saves, and will save us, that he cannot be defeated by the idols of the militarisation of the apartheid state, its racism and exploitation.

The future of South Africa belongs to the God of our salvation, and not to any man, however, cunning. He is the God who is God because He always sides with the weak and the oppressed, the downtrodden, the marginalised and struggling. He abhors the arrogance of the heartless rich and the strong who like to play god in the lives of others, and he acts against them.

This, Sisters and Brothers, is our message today. We must be seen to live already that freedom that issues from God's act of salvation.

'For Freedom', says Paul to the Galatians, 'Christ has set us free; stand fast therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery' (Gal 5:1). Fortunately, through and within our vanguard political movement the ANC, we can and we do demonstrate that, notwithstanding (indeed, in defiance of) the bondage that prevails, we have already the liberty of those who believe and are in the God who alone is God.

**Stand ye therefore firm!**

**Amandla!**

Poems by: Dean T S Farasani, from his: *Justice In My Tears*, Africa World Press, Trenton, New Jersey, 1988.



### **Farewell to innocence**

Farewell to non-violence;  
Innocence, I'll never meet you again.  
Until the work is done,  
When apartheid is undone.  
Then I'll be innocent again,  
When violence is needed no more.  
Don't push me too far!

Forward Umkhonto we sizwe.  
Peace and I will never walk hand in hand  
Until the boers are crushed,  
When discrimination is history.  
Then I'll love again,  
When hatred is needed no more.  
Don't push me too far!

Crush the SADF and security forces;  
Life is not precious any more.  
Until the boers respect our lives,  
When minority rule is paralysed.  
Then I will forgive again,  
When anger is required no more.  
Don't push me too far!

Slaughter them all wholesale;  
Mow them down child and old  
Until their pride is smashed,  
When their ego is deflated.  
Then I'll preach salvation again,  
When hell has cleansed racist hearts.  
Don't push God too far!