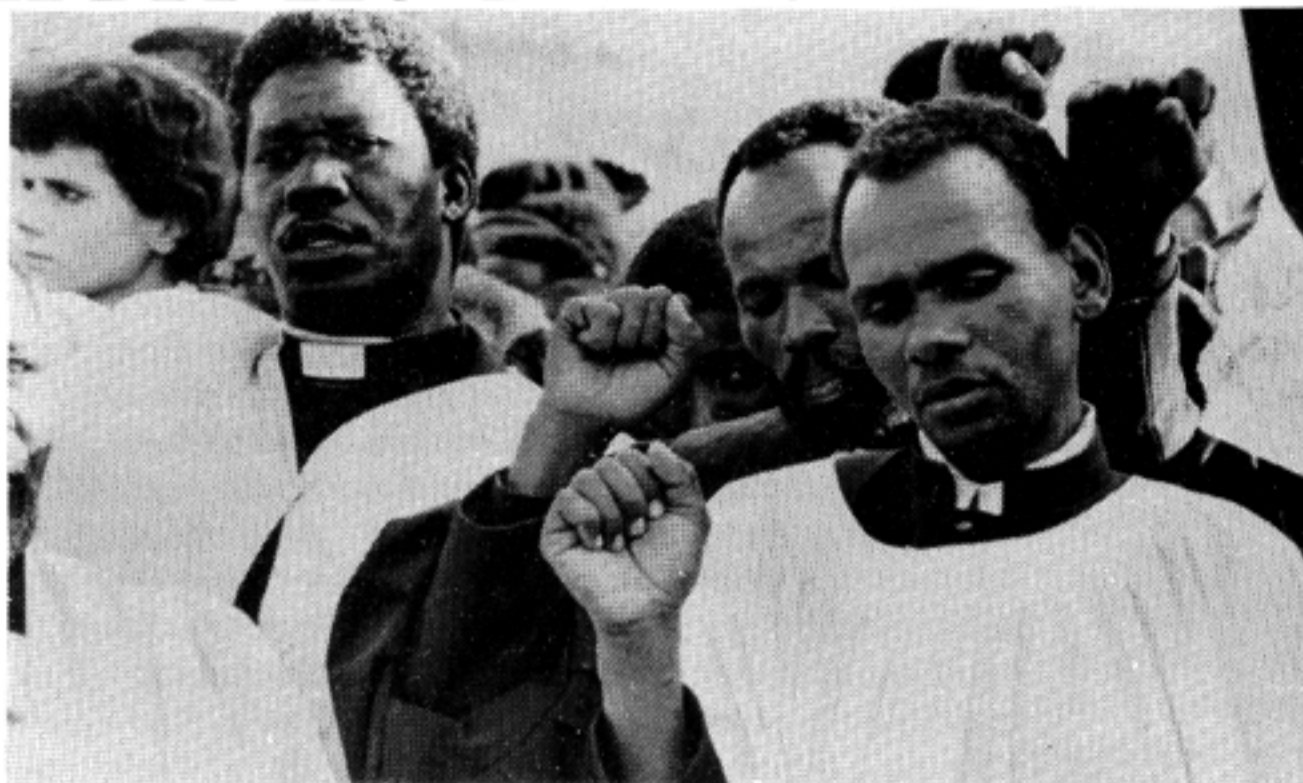


FAITH IN THE STRUGGLE



Faith in the struggle is exciting. The ANC vision for the future, born in our experience of the present, turns the world upside down.

South Africa exhibits all the divisions which run rifts through mankind. We come from many tribal and ethnic backgrounds, and the palette of our pigments displays every shade from palest peach to deepest ebony. We practice religions which approach Reality in many ways, from traditional beliefs, through ancient religions of the East, the children of Abraham, the people of the Prophet, every imaginable version of Christianity, and millions who couch Truth in terms which deny deity.

We are a country of superlatives and contrasts, vast and beautiful, stuffed with riches and devastated by poverty, fertile and barren, and between the Limpopo and Cape Agulhas we experience every major problem known to humans. These are the differences which the regime promotes as instruments of the great oppression to divide and rule and exploit us.

In the heart of the struggle against that oppression the faith of the ANC has arisen that the future lies in a society that is united, non-racist, non-sexist and democratic. Struggling against oppression from many backgrounds we find a common commitment to a new society that unites our diversities. It is an exciting challenge to the world.

All religions include an element of hope, an expectancy of good times to come, a foretaste of the future in the present, a sense of things hoped for and a conviction of things not yet seen. The way may lead through suffering, persecution and death, but people with vision have always had their eyes cleared by tears. The ANC sees a new united South Africa.

We reject all prescriptions which perpetuate divisions in our human family, by justifying groups to preserve the conflicts which dehumanise us. Earnest fundamentalists, desperately clinging to their past, feverishly building right wing sects controlled by money, power and fear, making heresies holy and worshipping gods that are idols, are dismal and dangerous extremists with no recipe but fear and violence.

Revolutionaries in the liberation struggle know the mass democratic movement will win. Theologically, politically, economically, socially, and personally, the Freedom Charter heralds a new era for our country and our continent, which makes our belief in that struggle so exciting. Victory is certain.

This issue of Phakamani spells out some of that faith.