



# Namibia

Worship

National Namibia Concerns • 915 East 9th Avenue • Denver, Colorado 80218 • (303) 830-2774 • FAX (303) 830-2414

*The Council of Churches in Namibia (including Lutheran, Roman Catholic, Methodist, Anglican and African Methodist Episcopal) calls to sisters and brothers around the world to join with them in prayer, solidarity and action as they continue on the road to freedom and justice.*

*Today the promise of freedom for the people of Namibia "shines like a torch in the night." After one hundred years of suffering under colonial and apartheid rule, freedom is in sight! But Namibia's road to a just and peaceful independence remains long and difficult. We are invited to remain in prayer and solidarity with our Namibian sisters and brothers during the long journey of nation building to come. We are also invited to join with them in thanks and praise to God for freedom already won, reconciliation begun.*

*Following are prayers, songs, scriptures, words and images which have been a source of hope and courage midst the Namibian struggle. May they enrich and challenge your prayer, worship and faith lives as you seek to remember Namibia; and also as you seek to be shaped by the faith of Namibians.*

**"When one member of the family suffers, all suffer."**

1 Cor. 12

## The Lord Is My Shepherd

### Psalm 23 in Pietermaritzburg and Howick

March 13 - June 4, 1977  
(First Imprisonment)

The Lord is my shepherd,  
I shall not buckle.  
He rests me in the land of freedom,  
I drink from his cup of liberty.  
Even when I wander in the valley of torture,  
I shall fear no human beasts,  
He shall fight my fight.  
His angels and his visions,  
Guide me through brutal interrogations.  
He gives me life in the hands of murderers,  
Giving me a crown for a victory his own.  
I shall live among saints in my fathers' house,  
Forever beyond the reach of human beasts!

Rev. Tshenuwani Farisani  
**Justice in My Tears**

## Psalm 127

If the Lord does not build the nation,  
the labour of those who build without him is fruitless.  
If the Lord does not lead us  
on the way to nationhood,  
the nation will be without a future.  
It will be of no avail to work for justice and freedom without God,  
for then justice will turn into injustice  
and liberation will become oppression.  
But for those who trust in God and whom God loves,  
for them God will provide plentifully,  
even in their sleep.

Justice, freedom and peace will be the gifts from God's  
loving hands  
and they will never be corrupted or destroyed by the  
powers of evil.

## Psalm 126

When the day comes on which our victory  
will shine like a torch in the night,  
it will be like a dream.  
We will laugh and sing for joy.  
Then the other nations will say about us,  
"The Lord did great things for us;  
Indeed, God is doing great things for us;  
that is why we are happy in our suffering.

Lord, break the chains of humiliation and death,  
just as on that glorious morning  
when you were raised.  
Let those who weep as they sow the seeds of justice and freedom,  
gather the harvest of peace and reconciliation.

Those who weep as they go out as instruments of your love  
will come back singing with joy,  
as they will witness the disappearance of hate  
and the manifestation of your love in your world.

*Psalms 126, and 127 paraphrased by Rev. Zephania Kameeta, Deputy Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of SWA/Namibia, appear in Why, O Lord? Kameeta has been imprisoned and tortured for his courageous faith stands and leadership during the long struggle for freedom in Namibia.*

## PRAYER

*Let intercessory prayer make a difference. A worshipping community which prays earnestly and specifically for people in need comes to view itself as a vital means by which God addresses the needs of these people.*

### Prayer Petition Possibilities:

God of Freedom, we give you thanks for leading the people of Namibia thus far toward the land of freedom. We pray for your guidance as they struggle through reconciliation, nation building and the economic and political road blocks which remain on the journey to a just and peaceful independence.

We pray for God's children in Namibia, the saints who have died in the struggle for freedom, and those who today seek to be faithful to God's liberating word. May true justice and peace come soon.

Gracious God, you promise that dry bones will live, that exiles will be restored. And so we give you thanks for the return of over 40,000 exiles to Namibia. Sustain them with hope through the difficulties of beginning a new life. Comfort those who remain in separation, studying abroad in order to help build a new nation.

Compassionate God, you continue to hear the suffering of your people. We pray for repentance and reconciliation among all Namibians and their neighbors. We remember especially those who collude with evil, those who lead the struggle for freedom, those who speak your Word, and those in our own government with the power to force change.

We pray for the young people, the students—who with courage and determination have fought for freedom and sacrificed their childhoods and lives as victims of South African bullets, tear gas, whips, detention and torture. We give thanks for the leadership of the National Namibian Student Organization, NANSO.

We pray for the congregations of the Church in Namibia, for the people who have continued to worship and hope through years of suffering, even when services were disrupted and churches were surrounded by tanks and soldiers. We remember before you, Lord, the church leaders: Dumeni, Shejavali, Kameeta, Frederik, Kauluma, Witbool and Haushiku. May they continue to hope in you.

God of Justice, may your name be honored in the coming of freedom in Namibia and to all your children imprisoned by poverty, racism, hatred and violence the world around. Start your reformation with us, O Christ. Cleanse our lives from greed. Raise us up from apathy. By your Spirit, move us toward actions which will assist our government, churches and businesses to stand with and aid the struggle for freedom and justice in Namibia.

God of the Poor, in the cross of Jesus you gave up privilege and became our advocate – not only in word, but also in deed – by taking up the ministry of servanthood, even unto death. By your spirit, empower each of us to present our bodies as a living sacrifice as advocates for our sisters and brothers in Namibia and all of southern Africa.

GOD BLESS AFRICA!  
GUIDE HER RULERS,  
GUARD HER CHILDREN  
AND GIVE HER PEACE  
FOR JESUS' SAKE.  
AMEN.



## WORSHIP ACTIONS

*Include an opportunity for people to commit themselves to an action that reflects their belief that God is on the side of justice and freedom for the oppressed. For example, people may want to commit themselves to daily prayer and verbal witness, to becoming better informed, to writing letters of solidarity to Namibia, to writing letters of advocacy to the U.S. government, to working for sanctions or divestment. Some action possibilities follow:*

- ★ a reaffirmation of our baptismal covenant to strive for peace and justice in all the world.
- ★ an offering of letters of solidarity and advocacy
- ★ an offering of commitments to action
- ★ a money offering to support a development aid project
- ★ share the eucharist as a participation in God's kingdom where all participate equally, where all are equally fed, where justice and peace reign. . . .acknowledging the pain that in Namibia and South Africa justice does not yet reign, people are separated at the table by economics, exile, prison, the legacy of apartheid.
- ★ light a candle for each prayer petition that is prayed . . . as if to say: Lord, make us children of the light. Expose the evil and darkness around us to the light of Christ. Lighted candles in a darkened room or outside at night speak eloquently of Namibia's hope for freedom that will not be extinguished. The candles cry out with our prayers for the dark and evil oppression in Namibia and southern Africa to be ended, and to be replaced by the bright light of God's justice.
- ★ give everyone small candles that all may participate by taking light and committing themselves to walk as children of the light, working for justice and peace in Namibia.
- ★ anoint hands with oil, commissioning people to become ministers of advocacy.
- ★ share a confession of faith for the ways in which we profit from and perpetuate racial oppression in southern Africa, in the United States and elsewhere.

## SONGS OF FREEDOM

### An African Magnificat

Sing out, my tongue, God's greatness sing.  
None great as God, his deeds confess.  
Hope of the poor, the martyr's king,  
God's name is Truth and Righteousness.

God loves the poor and helpless ones.  
The grasping rich God sends away.  
Workers for peace God calls his sons  
And daughters, to this very day.

The mourners' mouths with laughter swell.  
The burdens with the poor he'll share.  
God, rescue prisoners from the hell  
Of torture chambers and despair.

The exiles wait for God in trust.  
God brings them home, their country freed  
From tyrants' weapons now all dust  
And ashes, useless as their greed.

Come, freedom's children, sing God's praise,  
God of the poor, the captives' friend.  
God never fails us in our days,  
We'll praise God still till ages end.

Colin O'Brien Winter  
to be sung to the tune "Old Hundredth"

*Colin Winter (1928-1981) was Anglican bishop of Namibia from 1968 -1981. A persistent and passionate critic of apartheid and advocate of justice for the people of Namibia.*

### Hymn to Freedom

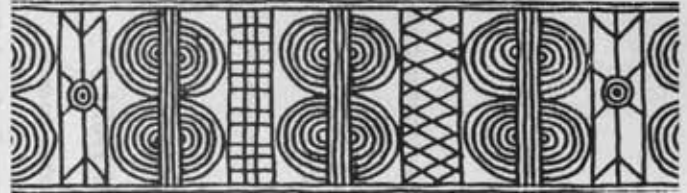
Namibia, enchained in tyrant's bondage,  
Your people plead for freedom to be free  
From rod and lash, from terror's sway a hostage.  
To you, Lord God, they cry in misery.  
How long, O Lord, how long shall evil triumph?  
How long, O Lord, shall prisoners captive be?

Help of the helpless, comfort of the mourning,  
Hope of the poor, the orphan's sanctuary,  
They call for justice, shall that call be heeded?  
They cry for mercy, shall they mercy see?  
Arise, Lord God of Hosts, their one defender,  
Smite tyrant's chains to set your people free.

Arise, Namibia, now your dawn is breaking,  
United march to claim your destiny,  
A people freed from racist domination,  
Reborn in hope, destined for liberty.  
Let freedom ring from every hill and valley;  
Let justice stream for all the world to see.

To you, Lord God of Hosts, be glory given,  
You gave us martyrs, give us victory,  
The fire of freedom you alone implanted:  
Children of freedom may we always be.  
Namibia then one nation under heaven,  
Upholding justice, truth and equity.

Colin Winter  
to be sung to "Finlandia"



### Kumba Ya Litany

*(Used in conjunction with the singing of Kumba Ya)*

All sing: Kumba ya my Lord, Kumba ya (one verse)

*(Begin: Someone's crying Lord, Kumba ya. . .)*

*Leader breaks in (while singing continues):*

1. Someone's crying Lord.  
Your children are crying in Namibia, in Angola, and all the world.  
They are crying in Katutura, Oshakati and Harlem.  
There are tears of mothers and fathers whose children are lost.  
There are tears of suffering and separation;  
tears of weakness and disappointment;  
tears of strength and resistance.  
Someone's crying Lord: Bring your Kingdom soon.

*All Sing: Someone's dying Lord, Kumba ya. . .*

2. Someone's dying Lord.  
Some are dying of hunger and thirst in the so-called homelands.  
Some have died from election related violence.  
Some have died from bomb blasts and army bases at schools.  
Many have died in the mines, in exile and in the war.  
Someone is dying because people go on exploiting one another  
... because we prefer uranium, diamonds and profit to  
human rights and your justice.  
Someone is dying Lord,  
because we are still not prepared to take sides,  
to make a choice, to be a witness.  
Someone's dying Lord: Bring your Kingdom soon.

*All Sing: Someone's praying Lord, Kumba ya. . .*

3. Someone's praying Lord.  
We are praying in tears and anger,  
in frustration and weakness,  
in strength and endurance.  
We are praying and wrestling as Jacob wrestled with the angel,  
and was touched, marked, changed,  
and became a blessing.  
We are praying for reconciliation and peace in Namibia.  
We are praying for repentance for ourselves.  
Someone's praying Lord: Bring your Kingdom soon.

*All Sing: Someone's shouting Lord, Kumba ya. . .*

4. Someone's shouting Lord.  
We are shouting and dancing for joy with Namibians that  
freedom is coming.  
Someone's shouting loudly and clearly,  
Someone is ready to stand for justice. . .  
ready to stand with Dumeni, Kameeta, Shejavali and Frederik  
with Kauluma, Witbooi and Haushiku.  
Some are shouting their choice to walk as children of the light,  
to expose the evil and the darkness that surrounds us.  
We will shout out our stand for justice to our government.  
Someone's shouting Lord: Bring your Kingdom soon!

*All Sing: Bring the Kingdom Lord, Kumba ya. . .*

# Call to Prayer and Solidarity



"Crucifixion" by Namibian Artist John Muafangejo

## With the People of Namibia

### Psalm 133 in Litany

- 1: How wonderful it is, how pleasant,
- 2: To be healed of the corrosive disease of racism and separation;
- 1: And to live as God's people together in harmony.
- 2: The Spirit of the Lord will then fill the hearts  
and the minds of all the people.
- 1: Nobody will be judged any more on the basis of race or colour;
- 2: But all will be ruled with justice and integrity.
- 1: The war will end and the people together will rebuild the country.
- 2: There will be no reference to the colour of the skin.
- 1: For all will be regarded as the people of God,
- 2: The people created in God's image.
- 1: And this will be the beginning of what the Lord has promised—
- 2: The life that never ends.

*(Paraphrased by Rev. Zephania Kameeta of Namibia)*

### A RESPONSIVE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

- ★ It is not true that this world and its people are doomed to die and be lost —  
This is true: For God so loved the world that God gave God's only begotten son, that whosoever believes in him, shall not perish but have everlasting life.
- ★ It is not true that we must accept inhumanity and discrimination, hunger and poverty, death and destruction —  
This is true: I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly.
- ★ It is not true that violence and hatred should have the last word, and that war and destruction have come to stay forever —  
This is true: For unto us a child is born, and unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called wonderful counsellor, mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.
- ★ It is not true that we are simply victims of the powers of evil who seek to rule the world —  
This is true: To me is given all authority in heaven and on earth, and lo I am with you, even unto the end of the world.
- ★ It is not true that we have to wait for those who are specially gifted, who are the prophets of the Church, before we can do anything —  
This is true: I will pour out my spirit on all flesh, and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. . .
- ★ It is not true that our dreams for liberation of humankind, of justice, of human dignity, of peace, are not meant for this earth and for this history —  
This is true: The hour comes, and it is now, that the true worshippers shall worship God in spirit and in truth. . .

*(By Dr. Allan Boesak of South Africa.)*

### We Shall Not Be Moved

1. We shall, we shall, we shall not be moved (2X)  
Just like a tree that's planted by the water,  
We shall not be moved.
2. Detention won't deter us, we shall not be moved (2X)  
Just like a tree . . . .
3. God's justice is coming, we shall not be moved.
4. On our way to Namibia, we shall not be moved.
5. On our way to freedom, we shall not be moved.
6. One Namibia, one nation, we shall not be moved.

### Kumba Ya

Kumba ya my Lord, Kumba ya. (3X)  
O Lord, Kumba ya.

Come by here, my Lord, Kumba ya. (3X)  
O Lord, Kumba ya.

Someone's crying Lord, Kumba ya.  
Someone's dying Lord  
Someone's praying Lord  
Someone's shouting Lord  
Someone's voting Lord  
Someone's dancing Lord  
Bring the Kingdom Lord  
Bring us justice Lord  
Give us peace O Lord.

### Oh, Freedom!

Oh, Freedom!  
Oh, Freedom!  
Oh, Freedom over me!  
And before I'd be a slave  
I'll be buried in my grave,  
And go home to my Lord and be free.

No more weepin' . . . .  
No more detainees  
No more "homelands"  
No more killin'  
No more apartheid  
No more casspirs  
No more Koevoet  
There'll be singin'  
There'll be shoutin'  
There'll be dancin'



### Freedom Is Coming

Oh Freedom, Oh Freedom  
Oh Freedom, Freedom is coming  
Oh yes I know

Oh Jesus, Oh Jesus  
Oh Jesus, Jesus is coming  
Oh yes I know

Oh Justice, Oh Justice  
Oh Justice, Justice is coming  
Oh yes I know

### We Are Marching

We are marching in the light of God.

We are praying in the light of God.

We are singing in the light of God.

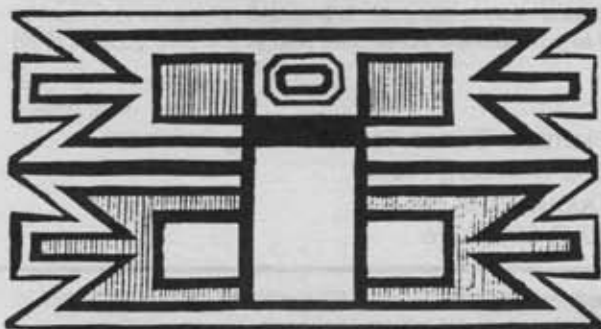
We are voting in the light of God.

### Thuma Mina

Send me Jesus, send me Jesus  
Send me Jesus, send me Lord.

Lead me Jesus . . .  
Heal me Jesus . . .  
Free me Jesus . . .  
Fill me Jesus . . .

(Freedom Is Coming, We Are Marching and Thuma Mina published in Freedom Is Coming, Songs of Protest and Praise from South Africa)



## BIBLICAL READINGS

Isaiah 26:1-6 *God's children will be given victory*  
 Luke 4:16-20 *Jesus' ministry to free the oppressed*  
 Exodus 3:7-12 *I will be with you when you bring the people out of Egypt*  
 Psalm 30 *God turns our mourning into dancing and joy*  
 Psalm 34 *God rescues the poor and the oppressed*  
 Psalm 76 *God's victory to save the oppressed*  
 Psalm 10 *Why do you abandon me to oppression Oh God?*  
 Psalm 72 *God's kingdom of justice and peace*  
 Ezekiel 37 *Dry bones will be brought to life. Exiles and nations will be restored.*  
 Amos 5:18-24 *Let justice roll down like waters*  
 Daniel 6:10-16 *Prayer as civil disobedience*  
 Romans 8:18-39 *Suffering and hope. . . if God is for us*  
 Isaiah 40:1-5 *Comfort my people - her warfare is ended*  
 Ephesians 2:11-22 *Jesus has broken down the walls of separation*  
 Galatians 5:1-6, 13-14 *For freedom Christ has set us free*  
 Acts 5:25-32 *Obey God rather than humans*  
 Micah 4:2-5 *Swords into plowshares*  
 Isaiah 58:3-9 *The fast God chooses: to break every yoke and share what you have*  
 Lament. 5:1-22 *Lament and petition for restoration*  
 Micah 6:6-8 *Do justice, love kindness. . .*  
 Colossians 1:15-20 *Peace by the blood of the cross*  
 Psalm 34 *Thanksgiving for deliverance*  
 Psalm 46 *God is our refuge and strength*  
 Psalm 91 *God will bear us up on eagle's wings*  
 Luke 1:46-55 *Mary's Song of Justice*  
 Luke 10:25-37 *Who is my neighbor?*  
 Luke 16:19-31 *The rich man and Lazarus*  
 Matthew 25:31-46 *The judgement of the nations*  
 1 Corinthians 12:21, 26-27 *When one member of the body suffers, all suffer*  
 2 Corinthians 4:7-12 *We are afflicted but not crushed*  
 Jeremiah 8:19-22 *The wound of the daughter of my people is my heart wounded*  
 Lamentations 3:1-41 *The cries of the oppressed*  
 Galatians 3:26-29 *In baptism we are all one in Christ*  
 Acts 9 *The Road to Damascus, the conversion of Paul*  
 Luke 19:42-41 *If you had known the path to peace*  
 John 8:12 *I am the light of the world*



## FURTHER WORSHIP AND SERMON RESOURCES

**Torch in the Night, Worship Resources from South Africa** by Anne Hope. Friendship Press.

**Why, O Lord: Psalms and Sermons from Namibia** by Rev. Zephania Kameeta. Fortress Press.

**Freedom is Coming, Songs of Protest and Praise from South Africa** Song book and cassette tape - Walton Music Corp./Fortress Press.

**Justice in My Tears** Poems by Rev. Tshenuwani Farisani. Africa World Press, Inc.

**Walking on Thorns, If This Be Treason, The Finger of God** Three books of sermons and addresses by Allen Boesak. Eerdmans.

**Cry Justice: Prayers, meditations and readings from South Africa** by John de Gruchy. Orbis.

**Crying in the Wilderness, Hope and Suffering** Two books of sermons, speeches, articles and press statements by Bishop Desmond Tutu. Eerdmans.

**Hope for Faith: A Conversation with Beyers Naude and Dorothee Soelle.** Eerdmans.

**Black and Reformed: Apartheid, Liberation and the Calvinist Tradition** by Rev. Allan Boesak. Orbis.

**Comfort and Protest: the Apocalypse of John from a South African Perspective** Allan Boesak. Westminster Press.

**Between Christ and Caesar: Classic and Contemporary Texts on Church and State,** by Charles Villa-Vincencia. Eerdmans.

**Unexpected News: Reading the Bible with Third World Eyes** by Robert McAfee Brown. The Westminster Press.

**Apartheid is A Heresy.** Edited by John DeGruchy and Charles Villa-Vincencia. Eerdmans.

**When Prayer Makes News: Churches and Apartheid- A Call to Prayer.** Edited by Allan Boesak and Charles Villa-Vincencia. Westminster Press.

**The Kairos Document: Challenge to the Church.** A theological comment on the political crisis in South Africa. Eerdmans.

**The Road to Damascus: Kairos and Conversion.** A document signed by third world Christians from El Salvador, Guatemala, Korea, Namibia, Nicaragua, Philippines, South Africa. London: Catholic Institute for International Relations (CIIR), 1989.

**No Life of My Own** by Rev. Frank Chikane, General Secretary of the South African Council of Churches. Orbis.

**National Namibia Concerns (NNC)** is an education/advocacy network working with the Namibian churches for a just independence for the people of Namibia. **NNC** serves as a media/people resource center, providing information packets, films/videos, action alerts, speakers, assistance in planning events and action, financial support to various projects in Namibia. Our quarterly publication, the **Namibia Newsletter**, is sent to 10,000 individuals, organizations and congregations.

While the main strength of our network lies among members of the Lutheran church, **NNC** works cooperatively with national anti-apartheid organizations and ecumenical groups throughout the country.

We believe that, as Christians, we are called to continue in Christ's ministry *to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.* (Luke 4:18-19) We invite you to join us in this ministry of advocacy.

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