



# BMC

**Black Methodist Consultation**

2017/18 "BMC # HOW TO ..."! SERIES

## ORGANISATIONAL REFLECTIONS, 16 FEB 2018 AT NATAL WEST.

Can't You See God Is Renewing In The Desert {Isaiah 43: 14-28 vs 19}



*A Christ Healed Africa, for the Healing of  
the Nations*

## **Connexional Chairperson and the Executive Members**

### **Natal West District Bishop**

### **Bishops-Elect present, appointed by conference 2017**

### **Superintendent Ministers and Spouses**

### **All Ministers and Spouses**

### **BMC District Executives, forebears, Connexional Task Team and members**

### **Think Tanks and Torch bears of BMC formation and movement**

### **All members of the BMC present**

### **Ladies and gentlemen; Mothers and Fathers in faith**

The current Connexional Executive with the exception of Treasurer General has been in office for a full three (3) year term 1. (one) that started at St Matthews, Kwa-Thema Highveld and Swaziland District in July 2014 and should have ended in July 2017 at Port Elizabeth, Grahamstown District. *Except BMC* that gathered at Natal Coastal in 2016 July gave the current executive a renewed mandate for a second term that starts this year (2018) and ends in the year 2020.

As a leadership collective we accepted the renewed mandate ending 2020 with mixed feelings that many BMC members seemed not to have internalised:-

1. BMC as a constituency appeared unprepared for the elections, in that no one enquired about our availability for elections as a collective and or how we were doing, areas of weakness and or concern moving forward;
2. Passive followership and or constituency in our collective view was not good for the BMC movement, given indifference collapses accountability structures and assumes trust;
3. Indifference stands contrary to the key driving values of the movement like: - Consciousness; Consultative; Inclusivity; Proactive; Prophetic; Responsive and Influential.

Here we are at the beginning of a second term at the Extended Connexional General Executive Committees;

**Rev. Prof Alan Boesak at PE, 2017 BMC July “i) Be the Church that asks the right, life-giving and challenging questions”; “ii) Be the Church that listens to the direct questions”**

- BMC: - Are we staying or are we going to Egypt? *“Egypt might be a land of wealth and plenty but later it will become a land of slavery ...”*

*As if that was not enough, more questions with Prof. Boesak on Sunday the 09<sup>th</sup> July asking more questions – iii) Where are our wounds?; iv) Was there nothing to fight for?*

Now, Connexional Chairperson in the theme asks another question: **“Can’t You See God Is Renewing in the Desert” {Isaiah 43: 14-28 vs 19}**

18. “Forget the former things;  
do not dwell on the past.

**19. See, I am doing a new thing!**

**Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?**

**I am making a way in the wilderness**

and streams in the wasteland.”

- Prophecies relating to the return from Babylon (***not only rescue, but also safe leadership, comfort and protection to their own land***) events that lay in the future
- Returning Israel to their land;
- Righteous king;
- God calls Israel “my servant” ... bringing justice to the nations;
- A new Moses who would give God’s law to the people;
- Description of a Messianic Servant of the Lord, sent to open the eyes of the blind and the deaf;
- Release from captivity;
- ***A time of great blessings and restoration that awaits***

Lord the redeemer, Holy One of Israel, Creator of Israel – the One who made them to be people out of nothing, and he is their King; God who breaks the power of the oppressors; ... whose cries is to the ships, so when their land is taken; God who made a way in the Red Sea Out of Egypt (***same power, to make a way in the wilderness***) would make a way for them to escape through the river. *Forget the former things would be surpassed.*

Same God, who makes dry land in the sea, can also produce water in the driest land ....

What use to be has a potential to undervalue the present; forget the former things ... ***“Behold, the Lord will do something new” Jer 16: 14-15 >***

***“However, the days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when it will no longer be said, ‘As surely as the Lord lives, who brought the Israelites up out of Egypt,’ 15 but it will be said, ‘As surely as the Lord lives, who brought the Israelites up out of the land of the north and out of all the countries where he had banished them.’ For I will restore them to the land I gave their ancestors.***

This report makes reflections on the BMC, Organisationally asking the following direct questions:-

1. What keeps us as a BMC leadership collective awake at night?
2. What do we need to do more of?
3. What do we need to do less of and
4. What needs to stop?

The above questions every district and individual BMC members should reflect on more regularly and with honesty and integrity.

## **A. WAKING UP BMC LEADERSHIP COLLECTIVE**

We believe the 2014 Lekgotla as captured in the attached statement gave the architecture and or the blue print of the change we want to see as a collective. However the gap that exists between where we are and our aspirations is lack of implementation at Circuit and District Level permeating to influence the Synods. By the time Conference meets where the majority of Synods are leaning, conference decisions would go.

Therefore thinking and rethinking the means of bridging the implementation gap keep us awake, given the reality that unless there is capacity on the ground as a force and or wind of change creating an environment where the conceived ‘Implementation Matrix’ (proper, solid and sound) can be delivered then it matters very little who is at the helm of BMC leadership Connexionally.

Leadership that casts compelling vision of the BMC is needed at District and at Circuit Levels; Gods Mission is local.

In order to create a change we need a critical mass to effect that change, not individuals brought together by a February and or July BMC gathering.

The need to refocus on developing the second layer leadership pool ... lest recycling will be unavoidable.

## **So What?**

---

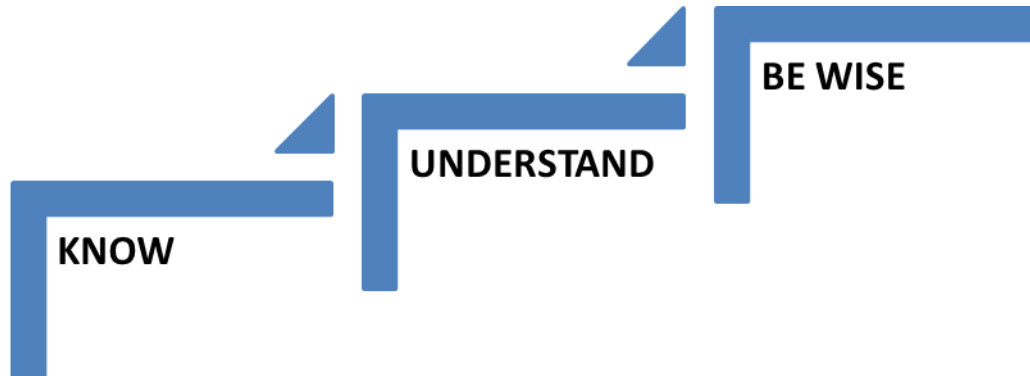
What we do now will determine what happens to the BMC in the next few years, BMC to re-ignite:-

- **‘A Deep belief in our own dignity’** (count, worth, ultimate significance);
- **Determination to achieve excellence**; whatever we set out to do, we must do it and do it well;
- **Be the best of whatever we are** ‘be a bush if you cannot be a tree; if you can’t be a highway be a trail; be a star if you cannot be a sun; .... be the best of whatever we are;
- Commitment to keep moving (doing): -
  - Marti Luther King Junior “...If you cannot Fly; then Run – if you cannot run then Walk – if you cannot walk then Crawl but by all means keep moving”

## B. NEEDING MORE OF ...

Spiritually Matured BMC members; moved beyond the basics of the Christian faith and are grown up in Christ (no longer feeding on milk and formula but solids)

- Not only belonging but growing in the BMC understanding;
- Who make a break with old habits of lacking commitment and motivation, and do not keep falling backwards;
- Committed and motivated members who do not always find excuses for not doing what is required



- Hos 4:6 “ my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge; ...rejected knowledge, ignorance,
- Learning how to apply information towards gaining wisdom and or maturity;
- 2 Tim 3:7 “always learning but never able to come to a knowledge of the truth”
- Grow in knowledge in order to gain understanding ... ready for wisdom;
- Jesus said, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied” (Matt. 5:6);

- **Hunger and thirst are strong motivators!** When you're hungry or thirsty, there is only one thing on your mind, to satisfy the craving for food or water;
- If you are driven by the hunger or thirst for righteousness, you will be satisfied (Matt. 5:6);
- If you think, "Ho hum!" not only will you not grow; you won't even know what you're missing!

### Consciousness Clinics and or Africanisation Clinics "who are we – Ideologically"

#### C. LESS OF ....

- Conflicts at operational implementation level; strife and divisions;
- Stuck on raw data ...let alone information, knowledge and institutional memory;
- Compliance with zero results;
- Excuses;
- Responsibility without accountability.

#### D. WHAT NEEDS TO STOP ...

- Tourism culture (short left);
- Staying in leadership forever, without developing more leaders;
- District Executives and Conveners never available for the Extended Connexional General Executive Committee Meetings (***Not Serious***) – ***Authority to recall and intervene by the Connexional Executive? Highveld and Swaziland; Queenstown; ....***

### MONITORING AND REPORTING FRAMEWORK, ENDING YEAR 2020

What gets measured gets done:-

- Appointed Committees present well researched papers in February Meetings to inform BMC Inputs into various MCSA Structures; April CQM's; District Synods and later Conference.
  - The OUTPUTS from committees are used in SCHOOLS to teach and capacitate per consequences or implications as Key Research Findings to influence and change practice at JULY CONSULTATIONS;
- Number of NEW Members serving in decision making structures per district year on year;

**SEE PRINTED MATRIX MEASUREMENT PER KPA >>> THESE MEASUREMENTS INFORM STANDARD REPORTING YEAR ON YEAR**

#### DISTRICT CLUSTERS

- Cluster A** > Cape of Good Hope; Grahamstown & Queenstown;

- ii. **Cluster B** > KNB & NFSL;
- iii. **Cluster C** > Natal Coastal; Natal West and Clarkebury;
- iv. **Cluster D** > Central; HISWA & Limpopo.

**The Role of Clusters** > could be expanded departure should be - Key Performance Area 3: Capacity Building & Empowerment, e.g. Pre-Synod Joint Workshops; Skills sharing and networking for Circuit Based Capacity Building Workshops; Circuit Stewards Training; Developing Cluster Improvement Plans and or Monitoring Implementation per cluster.

---

## SECRETARIAT PRACTICE NOTES

### 2017/18 “BMC # HOW TO ....”! SERIES

---

#### FOREWORD

The 42<sup>nd</sup> BMC Annual convocation that gathered at Grahamstown District from the 06<sup>th</sup> to the 09<sup>th</sup> July 2017 under the theme *“Love thy neighbour: reimagining a society of love and justice”; ...and who is my neighbour?”* during the Organisational Report for the period July 2016 to the June 2017, a question was posed in that report *“What change can we make that will result in improvement?”*. The following was then proposed as a possible response: -

“BMC must refocus intently on, **‘Capacity Building and Empowerment’**, in order to close skills capacity gap within the BMC cadres towards enabling the BMC as a formation to be a catalyst for the change we wish to see through strategic influence of the MCSA in the decision making platforms like AGM’s; CQM’s; Synods and Conference.

The intentional drive was proposed to be called **“BMC # HOW TO ...”!; as a delivery vehicle for the Key Result Area (KRA) 3, > ‘Capacity Building and Empowerment’**.

The crux of **“BMC # HOW TO ...”!** would be to develop and increase BMC technical and tactical capabilities on **HOW TO MAKE THINGS HAPPEN? thus simply bridging the gap to implementation owing to lack of skills capacity.** How to: - Generate new ideas for change that may lead to improvement; how to test those ideas. *What new ideas could make the BMC to be “The Think Tank, Conscience and Torch-bearer?”*

**BMC # HOW TO ...”!** While focusing on skilling should further enable to **reignite thinking culture and ethos in the BMC, thus creative, lateral and dialectical thinking.**

- **“BMC # HOW TO ...”!** Develop programmes and sustain, **the basics of programmes design**
- **Developing TOOL KITS ...**

