

# Bantu Methodist Church of Southern Africa

## Presiding Bishop's Message for Christmas

Ex Presiding Bishop, the Secretariat, Treasury, all the members of Conference, the BMC Family and the Christian Family at large, I greet you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

The Year of our Lord Jesus Christ 2020 will be recorded in history as a year that took away many of our loved ones, family and friends. As year that traumatized many of our members, family members and the citizens of our mother earth. Covid-19 came as a something that was far away from us and something that will never affect us, but soon we found it knocking at our door steps. For the first time we couldn't have the Passover Services as usual, however we thank the technology as it provided us with the substitute. A big thank you to those who were behind the success of the virtual services.

In 2020, we saw harsh lockdown that affected us all economically. We saw a lot of our people losing their jobs. The methods of teaching and learning had to change.

Our prayers are with the families that lost their loved ones, not only because of the Covid-19 but also because of other causes. Amongst our members we lost two (2) Ministers. May all their souls rest in peace. ***"Ndinga nam ndingema nabo, Aabo bantu abangcwele; Ndidumis' iNkosi yabo, Leyo Mvana ibafele."*** To those who survived we are saying ***"We have escaped like a bird from a hunter's trap; the trap is broken, and we are free! Psalm 124v7"*** and ***"The LORD says to his people in Babylonia: "You have escaped death! Now go! Don't wait! Jeremiah 51v50"***

During this festive season, we have to be very careful, let us stay at home to win this war. It is important to treat yourself as if we are on level 5 of lockdown. Parents should stop financing parties for their children as we cannot have parties whilst we are at war. The reckless social behaviour ends in tears and burials. Let us all be responsible to protect ourselves and our families.

Let us all have a Merry Christmas and a Safe and Prosperous 2021.

May God Bless you all.



**Rev. M.M. Dladla**  
**Presiding Bishop**