

**Remarks by Mayor ZRT Gumede at Faith Life Ministries
International, Gala Dinner held at Sherwood, 30 November
2018**

Programme Director,

The man of God, Apostle Adams Maji,

Bishop,

Apostles,

Senior leadership,

Board members,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Abazalwane bonke ngezigaba zabo,

Siyabingelela egameni elihle likaJesu umfeli wethu,

“A child is born and a son is given, and he shall be called Emmanuel. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace,” according to book Isaiah 9 verse 6.

As we are approaching the festive season which includes Christmas celebration – which pays respect to the birth of Christ. I thought it was important that I read from the book, yomProfethi u-Isaya ngoba saphiwa indodana. Umbuso usemahlombe akhe.

Thina njengoHulumeni ngeke sakwazi ukubusa izwe umangabe singenaye uThixo okunguyena olawula izwe nohulumeni.

I would like to appreciate this opportunity to speak to you this evening. I was not expecting to speak, so therefore, I will not waste your time with long speeches. Kuyangithokozisa futhi kuyangithobisa ukuma phambi kwebandla likaThixo ngikhulume.

Ngithanda ukubonga isimemo bese ngibonga kuMdali ngokungigcina kuze kubemanje, ukube yena ebengekho ngabe ngaphelela endleleni. Ngaba kade ngawa, umangabe ngibheka emumva izimpi, izilingo nezikhubekiso engibhekene nazo; ngizizwa ngifikelwa injabulo yokubonga uMninimandla-Onke ngangenzele kona.

Thank you to everyone who continues to pray for me, your prayers are important.

Programme Director,

Let me use this opportunity to pay tribute to the late Man of Faith, Paddy Kearney.

We are saddened by the loss of a leader who dedicated his life to fighting injustices of apartheid, and a champion for the poor. Paddy through his life, he epitomises grace, integrity, humility and compassion; an astute and visionary campaigner working for peace and justice.

Cde Paddy was kind, quiet and soft spoken person with a warm and generous spirit. Even though, he was soft spoken but he spoke truth at all times. He never shouted like the rest of us but chose to lower his loving voice. His words were sharper than a double-edged sword. He confronted the brutality of the system and protected many comrades from the dark forces of the apartheid.

He was a dedicated servant of God who demonstrated his love for his people and his country through his selfless service to humanity.

In addition to his work at the helm of Diakonia, as well as serving on a myriad of NGOs, boards, organisations and civil society bodies. Working with eminent leaders such as Archbishop Hurley and other leaders of faith the contributed in keeping the flame of freedom alight thus encouraging those who were powerless to fight on while it counseled and supported those who were brutalized and tortured. Diakonia has become a centre for education and a home for campaigns against social ills, the fight against HIV and AIDS, the abuse of women and children as well as against domestic violence.

As the city we will continue with our fight against HIV and Aids as we approach the world aids day this Saturday. In line with 2018 campaign, we encourage the public to go test. We want people to check if they have TB or HIV status, also to check their CD4 count, sugar level, BP and all sickness. It is important that we know our status and also take your medications.

In memory of Cde Paddy, let us heighten the fight against women and children abuse. Sekwanele. We strongly condemn the incident that took place at Durban Magistrate court. No one should die or be killed. What is shocking is a policeman that kills a woman in a magistrate court. We welcome the announcement made by Minister of Justice (Mike Masutha) and Minister of Police (Bheki Cele) to look into the matter. The abuse of women must stop now!

In closing, as we remember the life of Cde Paddy and others who dedicated their lives in the fight against apartheid. Let us all get registered and vote in 2019 elections. we are voting for a party of our choice and not individuals. I encourage youth to get ID, and register to vote for their today, tomorrow and future. They have a role to play in sustaining the future.

I invite the church to join our January 8 – celebrations at the Moses Mabhida stadium next year. Our President – His Excellence Cyril Ramaphosa will be addressing us and it will be exciting.

We are a praying nation and a praying city, with those few words I thank you.

God bless you, happy Christmas, happy new year. Have a fantastic festive season.

Siyabonga – AMEN