

April 15, 2006

PROPHETIC TOPIC

**THE GLORIOUS FUTURE GOD HOLDS OUT  
BEFORE US**

FORMAT

**OPENING REMARKS AND INTRODUCE GUEST**

**LOVE AND LIGHT, I'M REV. PHIL AND I'M YOUR HOST FOR "WORDS OF THE PROPHETS." THIS AFTERNOON MY GUEST IS REV. DR. RICHARD MURPHY WHO IS THE RECTOR OF SAINT BEDE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH. TODAY'S PROPHETIC TOPIC IS "THE GLORIOUS FUTURE GOD HOLDS OUT BEFORE US". THIS LINE IS FROM THE CLOSING PARAGRAPH OF A SPEECH GIVEN BY ARCHBISHOP DESMOND TUTU, CHAIRMAN OF THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION, AT THE HANDING OVER OF THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION REPORT, IN PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA ON OCTOBER 29, 1998. THE LAST PARAGRAPH READS AS FOLLOWS: "WE WILL HAVE LOOKED THE BEAST IN THE EYE. WE WILL HAVE COME TO TERMS WITH OUR HORRENDOUS PAST AND IT WILL NO LONGER KEEP US HOSTAGE. WE WILL CAST OFF ITS SHACKLES AND, HOLDING HANDS TOGETHER, BLACK AND WHITE WILL STRIDE INTO THE FUTURE, THE GLORIOUS FUTURE GOD HOLDS OUT BEFORE US – WE WHO ARE THE RAINBOW PEOPLE OF GOD – AND LOOKING AT OUR PAST WE WILL COMMIT OURSELVES".**

- 1. RECONCILIATION IS CHANGING FOR THE BETTER  
A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TWO OR MORE**

**PERSONS. TO RE-ESTABLISH A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP AFTER AN UNFAIR TRANSGRESSION OCCURRED. THEOLOGICALLY IT REFERS TO THE CHANGE OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GOD AND MAN.**

- **SHARE TOGETHER IN A COMMON WITNESS AND MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION**
- **TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEETING, DIALOGUE AND LEARNING IN COMMUNITIES TO DISPEL IGNORANCE, PREJUDICE AND FEAR AND TO PROMOTE MUTUAL RESPECT, TRUST AND CO-OPERATION**
- **TO ENABLE THE HEALING OF PERSONAL AND SOCIAL WOUNDS AND TO PROMOTE NEW INITIATIVES FOR SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CHANGE**
- **TO ADDRESS CONTEMPORARY ISSUES OF FAITH AND ETHICS AND DEVELOP NEW EXPRESSIONS OF COMMUNITY, LIFE AND WORSHIP**

**2. RECONCILIATION AS MEANS TO ACHIEVE PEACE**

- a. **MOHANDAS GANDHI**
- b. **MARTIN LUTHER KING**
- c. **ARCHBISHOP DESMOND TUTU**
- d. **LIBERATION THEOLOGY**
- e. **NORTHERN IRELAND**

**3. THE INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION, WHICH WAS FOUNDED IN 1919 BY CHRISTIAN PACIFISTS FROM 10 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES, FORMULATED A VISION OF THE HUMAN COMMUNITY BASED UPON THE BELIEF THAT LOVE IN ACTION HAS THE POWER**

**TO TRANSFORM UNJUST POLITICAL, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC STRUCTURES.**

**4. QUOTATIONS**

- a. MICAH, THE KING JAMES VERSION, CHAPTER 4, VERSES 3 - 5: "AND HE SHALL JUDGE AMONG MANY PEOPLE, AND REBUKE STRONG NATIONS AFAR OFF; AND THEY SHALL BEAT THEIR SWORDS INTO PLOWSHARES, AND THEIR SPEARS INTO PRUNING HOOKS: NATION SHALL NOT LIFT UP A SWORD AGAINST NATION, NEITHER SHALL THEY LEARN WAR ANY MORE. BUT THEY SHALL SIT EVERY MAN UNDER HIS VINE AND UNDER HIS FIG TREE; AND NONE SHALL MAKE THEM AFRAID: FOR THE MOUTH OF THE LORD OF HOSTS HATH SPOKEN IT. FOR ALL PEOPLE WILL WALK EVERY ONE IN THE NAME OF HIS GOD, AND WE WILL WALK IN THE NAME OF THE LORD OUR GOD FOR EVER AND EVER."**
- b. MICAH, THE KING JAMES VERSION, CHAPTER 6, VERSES 8: "HE HATH SHEWED THEE, O MAN, WHAT IS GOOD; AND WHAT DOTHTHE LORD REQUIRE OF THEE, BUT TO DO JUSTLY, AND TO LOVE MERCY, AND TO WALK HUMBLY WITH THY GOD?"**
- c. THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT MATTHEW, THE KING JAMES VERSION, CHAPTER 5, VERSES 44 - 46: "BUT I SAY UNTO YOU, LOVE YOUR ENEMIES, BLESS THEM THAT CURSE YOU, DO GOOD TO THEM THAT HATE YOU, AND PRAY FOR THEM WHICH DESPITEFULLY USE YOU, AND PERSECUTE YOU. THAT YE MAY BE THE**

**CHILDREN OF YOUR FATHER WHICH IS IN HEAVEN: FOR HE MAKETH HIS SUN TO RISE ON THE EVIL AND ON THE GOOD, AND SENDETH RAIN ON THE JUST AND ON THE UNJUST. FOR IF YE LOVE THEM WHICH LOVE YOU, WHAT REWARD HAVE YE? DO NOT EVEN THE PUBLICANS THE SAME?"**

- d. SRI CHINMOY: "PEACE DOES NOT MEAN THE ABSENCE OF WAR. PEACE MEANS THE PRESENCE OF HARMONY, LOVE, SATISFACTION AND ONENESS."**
  - e. THICH NHAT HANH: "TO RECONCILE CONFLICTING PARTIES, WE MUST HAVE THE ABILITY TO UNDERSTAND THE SUFFERING OF BOTH SIDES. BUT HOW MANY OF US ARE ABLE TO DO THAT?"**
  - f. THE BHAGAVAD-GITA: "IF YOU WANT TO SEE THE BRAVE, LOOK AT THOSE WHO CAN FORGIVE. IF YOU WANT TO SEE THE HEROIC, LOOK AT THOSE WHO CAN LOVE IN RETURN FOR HATRED."**
  - g. THE PROPHET MOHAMMAD: "GOD HAS MERCY UPON THOSE WHO ARE MERCIFUL TO OTHERS."**
- 5. SIX PRINCIPLES OF NONVIOLENCE (DERIVED FROM "PILGRIMAGE TO NONVIOLENCE" IN DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING'S BOOK "STRIDE TOWARD FREEDOM", HARPER & ROW, 1958.). THESE PRINCIPLES ARE BASED ON MARTIN LUTHER KING'S INTERPRETATION OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE, AS WELL AS THE TEACHINGS OF MOHANDAS GANDHI.**

- **PRINCIPLE 1: NONVIOLENCE IS A WAY OF LIFE FOR COURAGEOUS PEOPLE.**
  - **PRINCIPLE 2: NONVIOLENCE SEEKS TO WIN FRIENDSHIP AND UNDERSTANDING.**
  - **PRINCIPLE 3: NONVIOLENCE SEEKS TO DEFEAT INJUSTICE NOT PEOPLE.**
  - **PRINCIPLE 4: NONVIOLENCE HOLDS THAT SUFFERING CAN EDUCATE AND TRANSFORM.**
  - **PRINCIPLE 5: NONVIOLENCE CHOOSES LOVE INSTEAD OF HATE.**
  - **PRINCIPLE 6: NONVIOLENCE BELIEVES THAT THE UNIVERSE IS ON THE SIDE OF JUSTICE.**
- 6. THE SIX STEPS FOR NONVIOLENT SOCIAL CHANGE (DERIVED FROM THE ESSAY "LETTER FROM BIRMINGHAM JAIL" IN DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING'S BOOK "WHY WE CAN'T WAIT", PENGUIN BOOKS, 1963.)**
- **STEP 1: INFORMATION GATHERING**
    - **LEARN ALL YOU CAN ABOUT THE PROBLEMS YOU SEE IN YOUR COMMUNITY THROUGH THE MEDIA, SOCIAL AND CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS, AND BY TALKING TO THE PEOPLE INVOLVED.**
  - **STEP 2: EDUCATION**
    - **ARMED WITH YOUR NEW KNOWLEDGE, IT IS YOUR DUTY TO HELP THOSE AROUND YOU, SUCH AS YOUR NEIGHBORS, RELATIVES, FRIENDS AND CO-WORKERS, BETTER UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEMS FACING SOCIETY. BUILD A TEAM OF PEOPLE DEVOTED TO FINDING SOLUTIONS. BE SURE**

**TO INCLUDE THOSE WHO WILL BE DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY YOUR WORK.**

➤ **STEP 3: PERSONAL COMMITMENT**

- **ACCEPT THAT YOU WILL FACE MANY OBSTACLES AND CHALLENGES AS YOU AND YOUR TEAM TRY TO CHANGE SOCIETY. AGREE TO ENCOURAGE AND INSPIRE ONE ANOTHER ALONG THE JOURNEY.**

➤ **STEP 4: NEGOTIATION**

- **TALK WITH BOTH SIDES. GO TO THE PEOPLE IN YOUR COMMUNITY WHO ARE IN TROUBLE AND WHO ARE DEEPLY HURT BY SOCIETY'S ILLS. ALSO GO TO THOSE PEOPLE WHO ARE CONTRIBUTING TO THE BREAKDOWN OF A PEACEFUL SOCIETY. USE HUMOR, INTELLIGENCE AND GRACE TO LEAD TO SOLUTIONS THAT BENEFIT THE GREATER GOOD.**

➤ **STEP 5: DIRECT ACTION**

- **THIS STEP IS OFTEN USED WHEN NEGOTIATION FAILS TO PRODUCE RESULTS, OR WHEN PEOPLE NEED TO DRAW BROADER ATTENTION TO A PROBLEM. IT CAN INCLUDE TACTICS SUCH AS PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATIONS, LETTER-WRITING AND PETITION CAMPAIGN.**

➤ **STEP 6: RECONCILIATION**

- **KEEP ALL ACTIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS PEACEFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE. AGREE TO DISAGREE WITH SOME PEOPLE AND WITH SOME GROUPS AS YOU WORK TO IMPROVE SOCIETY. SHOW ALL INVOLVED THE**

**BENEFITS OF CHANGING, NOT WHAT THEY  
WILL GIVE UP BY CHANGING.**