



The Most Reverend Desmond M Tutu, O.M.S.G. D.D. F.K.C.
Anglican Archbishop Emeritus of Cape Town

PO Box 1092, Milnerton, Cape Town 7435
Suite 43, Frazzitta Business Park, cnr Freedom Way & Koeberg Road, Milnerton 7441
Tel: (+27) 021 552 7524
Fax: (+27) 021 552 7529
E-mail: mpilo@iafrica.com

June 2007

Dear Friends

I am a Friend of Modern African because I see the great power of magnanimity that lives within African people – irrespective of their ethnic origins. In South Africa, after the end of apartheid, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission opened wounds - to cleanse them, to pour balm upon them and finally to heal them.

We had a vision of a country without racism, a free South Africa. A country that allows all of us – black and white – to walk tall and to hold hands as we move on the path of freedom towards a new South Africa where human beings matter, where every person is valued as being created in the image of God. Our vision is becoming a reality. We are building a new and democratic South Africa, a crucially important country in Modern Africa.

In our African language, we say that a person becomes a person through other people. I wouldn't know how to be human if I didn't experience this through other human beings. We are created to live within a network of relationships, of interdependence, we complement each other and in doing so we acknowledge the challenges that we must face and overcome – together - such as poverty and AIDS.

Most Africans are committed to building a new, free and democratic continent. There is a growing network that is bringing justice, freedom and democracy to a continent that has been deprived of these for far too long. Too often it is the negative stories that make the headlines. The stories of peace, reconciliation, love, justice, care and sympathy – do not make world news but I am constantly humbled to hear such stories, such as those we heard at our Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

It is true that,

*Goodness is stronger than evil
Love is stronger than hate
Light is stronger than darkness
Life is stronger than death,
Victory is ours through Him who loves us.*

Modern Africa has much to teach the world. None of us has clean hands. Europe has been wracked by two great wars, the Holocaust, Hiroshima - there are few countries that do not have a history soaked in blood. All of us need to be a great deal more humble as we seek to build a world in which there is enough for all and where, for all, there is enough.

God bless you

+Desmond M Tutu Archbishop Emeritus