



**Opening and Welcome by the Sedibeng District Municipality
Executive Mayor, Cllr. Mahole Simon Mofokeng on the occasion of
the official opening of the Rivers of Living Waters Ministries
Building, Evaton on the 12 December 2009, in Sedibeng**

The Honorable State President of the Republic of South Africa: President
Jacob Zuma;

The National Parliamentary Chief Whip: Dr Mathole Motshega;

Bishop S.B Zondo of the Rivers of Living Water Ministries;

Bishop Molefe;

Bishop M Kolisang;

Professor Mosoma;

Elder Mmutle;

Mr Siphon Nyawo;

The first lady of Sedibeng – Mrs Mmatsie Mofokeng;

The blessed congregation;

Children, Sons and Daughters of God

In the words of John 3 verse 16-17: For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have an everlasting life. For God did not send his son, Jesus Christ, into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him shall be saved

The Grace of God surpasses all understanding. It is the celebration of the opening of this building, and the trying and challenging years of tendering to the flock of Christ, that your duty is magnified. All the years of ministry under the tent and the trees, in the eyes of God is but a moment in time, for our Lord Jesus Christ says: "It took your fathers hundreds of years to build this temple, yet it will take me only three days to destroy and build this temple"

Bishop Zondo, among the many immeasurable activities of this church in our society, under your stewardship are the following that cannot go unnoticed:

- When our then Deputy President was under attack from prophets of doom, this church prayed for him and our Lord God intervened;

- When our glorious Movement headed for Polokwane for its 52nd National Conference, this church prayed for its success. The conference that the so called analysts reported that will mark the end of the ANC. Your prayers helped and our conference emerged successful and stronger than before, in the history of ANC;
- This church has been instrumental in mobilising church communities in our Region to pray for a successful April, 2009 national elections;
- This church has been extra instrumental in mobilising other churches to adopt the ANC Elections Manifesto; and
- Lastly but not least, led by example when you adopted the Freedom Charter and later this important guiding policy document, the ANC Elections Manifesto

Programme Director, just last year at around this time, the newspapers in this country were trying to outstrip each other, spreading doom and gloom about how this country is going to be destroyed if and when the then Deputy President of the ANC, Mr Jacob Zuma were to become the State President of the country. Most of these doomsayers even went further to say that he will not be State President, they said that the economy will be destroyed.

The world was then gripped by a recession of historical proportion, the Deputy President of the ANC became the State President Jacob Zuma, our country is now officially out of a recession, the 2010 FIFA World Cup is definitely coming to South Africa, we are saved. The wisdom, leadership, guidance and astute stewardship of State President Jacob Zuma have pulled us through.

Figuratively and literally, in spite and despite Jesus Christ ministrations, teachings and guidance, none could believe that indeed he was the Son of God, brought to salvage us from the grasp of sin, yet it is only His death on the cross and his rising in three days, that the world only believed that the kingdom of God is upon us.

The opening of this magnificent building should and must remind us of Moses. Having had been chosen by God to lead the Children of Israel out of Egypt, having been shown the Vision of God's Grace, he was left to toil in the desert for forty years. The question we Christians is, "Why did he have to toil and endure the desert if he was so anointed?"

Programme Director, allow me in my Christian naivety attempt to answer. Moses saw the vision of things to come while still a youth. We all

know that the bubbling energy of the young is lost on the youth, their concentration levels are indecisive.

At that age, Moses would probably have gone astray, gone on personal glory and crusade with the mandate given. What a disaster it could have been. The bible could not have been written. It would still have been on stone tablets. Ntate Moruti, remember that at the time, the Egyptians already had papyrus and ink. Papyrus is what is today referred to as paper. Can we imagine the Bible written in stone?

The years in the ministry, under the tent, through turbulent times in the region, through the grace of God, is indicative of the test and character building that God wanted the church to pass, for the story of Moses illustrates that God will only use the tried and tested to lead his chosen flock.

As if the doubting Thomases have not had enough, a frenzy of bad publicity was generated about whether this country will be able to finish the 2010 Stadia in time, some even started the rumour of a plan B, the stadia are complete, thanks to the inspired leadership of our State President, Gauteng Province, which will serve as the hub of the 2010 FIFA World Cup, is ready, thanks to the stewardship of our Premier Nomvula Mokonyane.

Your steadfast ministry serves as an inspiration to all of us in general, and the Sedibeng District Municipality in particular. This is more pronounced when we look at the disintegration of societal luster. Where it is mostly convenient to do what makes one feel good, at the expense of what is right, for it is when good is gone and forgotten, that right remains.

Your ministry is a constant reminder that we have to strive to do right. You serve as our conscience in a world God created in love but is increasingly becoming secular, to the disservice of the children of God who need Him, more now than ever before.

The breakdown family units in our communities, enjoins all of us and your Ministry in particular to work harder and invest a good more generations in the tendering of the flock. For it is in the disintegration of the family units that the Kingdom of God is faced with a challenge of great magnitude.

Where shall we run to, when mother is pitted against daughter, mothers denying daughters fine words of advice, fathers against sons, the whole world will indeed have gone out of hand. Your ministry, will remain our only solace and salvation, may the breeze be gentle in your sails, the ground solid and gentle under your feet, as God through his Grace grants you the strength to grow and tendering his flock, to build many more churches on the rock of faith.

Bishop Zondo, I trust that your continued advisory role and participation in the Gospel Radio Station project that the Sedibeng District Municipality has started together with our churches in the Region will succeed. Understanding its purpose to be the integration and bringing of all church formations within our Region together.

The Sedibeng District Municipality wishes you all the best as you open this magnificent and superb church. We wish you all the best in your endeavours in enhancing your purpose and addressing the challenges in our communities

Bishop Zondo, the good work that you do in our communities is immeasurable indeed. I take this opportunity to thank you for your sterling job well done in our communities and ensuring that your church is today officially opened.

I convey my sincere gratitude to all of you, the beautiful and committed congregation of the Rivers of the Living Waters Ministries for ensuring that the building and completion of your church became a reality that we celebrate today. I am informed that you built it yourself and that is good example to spread as gospel. Well done and keep it up on your job.

I take this opportunity to join the South Africans in congratulating President Jacob Zuma on being conferred with the Order of the Eagle of Zambia. That country's highest distinction awarded by Zambia to freedom fighters. Congratulations Msholozil!

Mr. President, I welcome you all to the church that started with only three congregants, the father, the mother and the son on the 24th September 1988. God has indeed shown His greatness and power. This church grew very fast until a bigger accommodation is today officially opened.

Indeed, every believer must belong to, attached to, firmly fixed in, committed and submitted to a local Church. *I trust that the Freedom Charter adopted by this church together with our red mouthed books, the Bibles, will see us through our struggles of poverty*

You are all welcomed to the Rivers of the Living Waters Ministries... Le amohelehile!

I thank you