



EFF MOURNS THE PASSING OF BISHOP PV NDHLEBENDE OF CARLETONVILLE

Friday, 04 June 2021

The EFF is deeply saddened by the passing of Bishop PV Ndhlebende of the Faith Gospel Church in Carletonville. According to his family, the Bishop passed away this morning.

Bishop Ndhlebende is one of the men of God who welcomed, affirmed and openly associated with the EFF and its leadership. This was during a time when many well established clergy men and women found it unpopular to openly associate with the EFF.

He belonged to the Christian evangelical movement that found popularity in the late 1970s to the 1990s. His own fame rouse in the townships of the reef from the late 1980s. As a young person, he started preaching in the mines of Carletonville, as a mineworker himself, before going for Bible School at the Full Gospel Bible College in Soweto.

His name goes along side that of Ralekholela, as a tent evangelists of the 1980 and 1990s Christian crusades. They preached the word of God in African townships during those difficult, violent and tumultuous times in our country. They pitched tents right in the Vaal, Pretoria, Eastrand townships when black on black violence was at its thickest.

This signifies their own courage and determination to spread a faith based in absolute trust in God even when danger could face their own lives. Bishop Ndhlebende's own ministry spread across the country and the African continent, with its origins in Thaba Nchu in the Free State.

There is no doubt, he belonged to a generation of self-reliant pioneers whose faith organisations did not report to any imperialist or colonially founded churches. Although initially belonging to Full Gospel, he went independently to establish himself completely outside of its influence and structures.

Bishop Ndhlebende also belonged to an era of black spirituality steeped only in faith, nothing else, but faith. This generation believed completely and absolutely in not depending on

anything, but the unseen God. Accordingly, although they were associated with miracles, they taught the bible methodically and emphasised teachings over miracles.

His social contribution is also monumental within communities he ministered in, like in Carletonville. Bishop Ndhlebende gave his last sermon this past Sunday. Although short, it called on Christians to repent and live their lives steeped in faith and righteousness. We express our heartfelt condolences to the his family and the entire evangelical Christian community he belonged to.

As the EFF, we recognise the historic significance that faith plays in the material confrontation with oppressors. Faith, which can be used to put a people into sleep, accepting illegitimate, exploitative and oppressive authority. It nonetheless has an equally radical history as a powerful tool in waking people from sleep, plugging them into the struggle for freedom, justice and equality.

We salute the self-determination and self-reliance that Bishop Ndhlebende's legacy represents in the African spirituality. He will go down as a legend of faith and courage.

May his soul rest in perfect and eternal peace. May the God he prayed and worshiped comfort all his loved ones, now and forever.

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