



## UE Encouragement for 2016



2016 has probably been the most challenging start of a year that South Africa has experienced in a very long time, the Rand has lost 30% of its value, we have been hit by one of the worst ever droughts, the economy is projected to grow at a measly 0.8%, protests have continued at the institutions of higher learning, confidence in the leadership of the country is at an all-time low and sadly racial relationships are at the lowest point.

The signs are not looking good BUT we find encouragement in *Isaiah 60:2 – 'For behold, darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and His glory will be seen upon you.'*

For the purposes of God to prevail it requires bold Kingdom leaders to stand up and commit themselves to be channels through which God will move and show His power of restoration in this nation. South Africa needs leaders who are willing to intentionally step out of the comfort zone, challenge the status quo and genuinely work towards building a new inclusive society for all races.

To quote the words of one of the greatest leaders ever to have lived Nelson Mandela - "No one is born hating another person because of the colour of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite."

We have been given the greatest commandment – 'to love our neighbour as ourselves'. It is important for us to realize that our neighbour is every person we come into contact with irrespective of skin colour or economic status. One of greatest attributes of ethics that South Africa needs to commit to today is the upholding of the respect and dignity of all people. Let's join hands as the UE community and be the leaders in our families, organisations, communities and cities who will champion reconciliation and restoration