

Africa Bless Israel:

The prophet Isaiah (Chapter 19) speaks of a future where there will be a highway and unity between Israel, Assyria and Egypt. This seems like a far cry from present realities! However, Israel, the central component in this threesome, exists today and Rev Albert Mbenga, born in Congo DR but resident in Cape Town for 10 years, a devout Christian and passionate about Africa has recognized this as a sign of the times and a call to action. This has led to the establishment of Africa Bless Israel with a mandate to change the heart of Africa towards Israel.

Although in its past Egypt provided a refuge to Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Moses and later to Joseph, Mary and Jesus, both Egypt and the many African countries in modern times have turned their backs on Israel.

Following the Yom Kippur War (1973), many African countries severed ties with Israel and chose to side with Egypt, and the Arab world, against Israel this was in spite of the extensive work Israel was doing in those countries in agriculture and health. Many commentators see this as a turning point in these countries in particular, but in Africa in general and leading to all sorts of problems that today plague African countries. Reverend Mbenga, understanding that in the context of Genesis 12:3 “And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee:

This “curse” or downturn in Africa’s fortunes has to be addressed through both repentance and an act of welcoming Israel back into Africa. Africa needs to become a continent that blesses Israel for Israel’s sake but also in the light of Genesis 12:3, for Africa’s sake!

Reverend Mbenga’s vision is to add momentum and to harness the growing perception of Christians of Israel’s significance and from across the continent to gather together in unity to honor God through a stand of solidarity with Israel and in repentance for past actions against Israel’. This vision gained further momentum in 2012 at a Night to Honor Israel event in Cape Town when Cantor Barry Braun introduced Rev Mbenga to Reeva Forman a Vice Chairman of the SA Zionist Federation. Reeva immediately recognized the significance of such an event and pledged support, and establishes Africa Bless Israel as a project under the auspices of SA Friends of Israel.. an organization affiliated to the SAZF.

The Rand Stadium in Johannesburg with a capacity of 20,000 has been chosen as the venue to host Africa Bless Israel, which will take place on Sunday 21st September 2014. The event will have a joyous and serious note. African choirs will set the tone singing biblical psalms both in Hebrew and African dialects with simultaneous translations into English and various African dialects. There will also be prayers for the peace of Israel, Jerusalem, the Middle East and the world. African speakers will be joined by well-known speaker Rev John Hagee as keynote speaker. Rev Hagee is a powerful pro-Israel voice on the international stage and president of the powerful US-based Christians United for Israel, will also be a part of the program. An offering from the event will be presented to Israel on behalf of Christians in Africa.

Africa Bless Israel is being embraced with enthusiasm by local church leaders and many with strong ties to other African countries. This joining of hands will ensure that the event is a resounding success. Indications are that large delegations will travel to South Africa to be a part of this wonderful statement of love and support for Israel. Africa Bless Israel will become the largest gathering of Christians in Africa, coming together in support of Israel on the continent and will set a precedent for similar events to be held elsewhere on the continent.

Rev Albert Mbenga-Ukulangai

