

We must work together so we can restore our metro

Neville Goldman

Our mission as the Church is to ensure quality of life to the poor.

Jesus answered and said to them: "Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: *The blind see; and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them.*" (*Matthew 11:4,5*)

Our gospel does not only address spiritual issues, which may be the perception of many. The perception is that the main purpose of the church is to provide moral guidance to the community.

I believe it is time to address this narrative as it is misleading and undermining the true role of the church.

Jesus, the head of the church addressed different sectors of civil life in his message and its application.

Firstly, the poor have the gospel preached to them. What is the good news in that to the poor?

Can it be that the only good news for the poor is it that they will go to heaven when they die?

To the poor it is good news to have better living conditions and that the church is directly a key stakeholder in ensuring that this does happen. The Church must take this role seriously as most of our constituents come from impoverished environments.

To the poor it is good news when employment opportunities open up for them.

As the Church, our role is to ensure that government succeeds in securing better educational and skills development in our educational sector.

The scriptures declare that my people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. What value is there in an industrial revolution when the skills required are not being taught in our educational institutions?

The unemployed will continue to be unemployable unless we as the church take up our rightful place in the chambers of government as part of civil society.

To the poor it is good news when your health challenges are addressed. Is this good news when our hospitals are understaffed?

People are scared of going to public hospitals due to the fact that they are seen as places where the death sentence awaits you.

The 2010 Soccer World Cup left us with a legacy of the best casualty departments throughout the country. Fast forward to 2022 and you would be shocked at the deterioration of the facilities.

Today as the church we have to resort to supernatural health for our people through praying for them.

To the poor the rise in crime is not an option but we must differentiate between survival and crime.

The present state of affairs is forcing decent law-abiding people to resort to crime, drug trafficking and many other illegal business activities.

We, as the church do not encourage violence, crime, or any illegal activity no matter how justifiable the reasons.

The role of the church is to keep different levels of authority accountable to their task as defined by the electorate. It is good news to the poor to have a safe and secure neighbourhood.

To the poor and the youth of this generation, it is not good news when corruption in government is on the increase, infrastructure is deteriorating, the city is plunged into darkness due to load shedding and lack of maintenance of street lighting and the vandalization of our substations.

It is not good news that we face a water crisis due to the absence of proactive measures to reduce the impact of drought in our metro, such as the repair of leaking water pipes.

The failure of government to keep its officials accountable and its failure to implement justice, is not good news.

We, as the church, must do more to encourage dialogue, partnership between government, civil society, and business to address the plight of the citizens in sixty wards.

We, as the church must continue dialogues from the boardrooms to communicate with the men and women in the street.

The crisis demands immediate attention. Together we can restore our Metro.

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