

**WELCOME TO SOUTH AFRICA**  
**from TEASA—The Evangelical Alliance of South Africa**  
*Moss Ntlha*

As the Evangelical Alliance of South Africa we are delighted to welcome you as a participant to the WEA consultation. It is not often that the continent gets to play host to the WEA Missions Commission consultation. So as the people of the continent we would like to wish you a pleasant and memorable stay.

Every now and then the Lord enables the gathering of WEA people in one conference or another, in order to give attention to one or other strategic issue in the life and witness of this great global movement. It is always a privilege on such occasions to enjoy the richness of fellowship and the tremendous gifts that the Lord has laid in each of his people. We trust that you will find this to be true of this consultation as well.

As you spend the few days together on the occasion of this consultation, you will be pleased to know that the Church in Africa in general and South Africa in particular, is not unaware of the unfinished task of world missions. It is also a Church that the Lord has called to much prayer in the last few years—as has been demonstrated by millions of African people gathering in stadia of different cities throughout the continent. Our prayers are a cry to the God of heaven to deliver us from the condition that has become synonymous with Africa: exclusion, poverty, disease, and all manner of spiritual malaise.

Naturally we have reason to believe that the WEA mission consultation will be part of the answer to our prayers. We trust that the output of your deliberations will help the Church in Africa to get some handle on the immensities of our missiological task.

You have also come to a country that still has fresh memories of its recent Apartheid past. It is a country in reconstruction, wrestling with what it means to be free from oppression, while at the same time seeking to find its place in the community of nations. It is a country that has all but thrown out the baby of the Christian gospel with the bath water of apartheid, and has not yet decided what it wants to believe. It is a country that harbors some suspicions about Christianity, this on account of its complicity and collaboration with apartheid in the past. So it is part of our mission to proclaim Christ to a nation that is rather cynical about the Christian message.

So the Church in South Africa is thankful that WEA chose to convene a gathering of mission theologians and practitioners here. We pray for a truly blessed and fruitful conference.

Yours in Him  
Moss Ntlha TEASA General Secretary