



SA Council of Churches

Promoting moral reconstruction in South Africa

Dating back to 1904, the SACC emerged 3rd in line through a process of inter-church organisations. The General Missionary Conference was formed first, replaced by the Christian Council of South Africa in 1936, and eventually following a change in name and structure, the SACC was born in May 1968.

Its mandate is to challenge the status quo through teaching, prophesying, rebuking and correcting the wrongs in society. It worked hard to challenge and expose the wrongs of the apartheid form of government and managed to mobilise global communities against the old regime. The objective was to unite Christian churches around a common cause of identifying and addressing major challenges being faced in our country. Churches continue to pursue their individual doctrines but engage in common action to exercise their Christian faith. It is important to emphasise that the beneficiaries of such efforts were not limited to church communities. Previously disadvantaged, marginalised and poverty stricken people are targeted for support.

Encouraging ecumenical relations and creating an environment that promotes peaceful democracies is paramount. Through their affiliations with international organisations such as the World Council of Churches and the All African Conference of Churches this is achievable. A forum to develop ecumenical youth in South Africa has also been established. It has been recognised that many prominent leaders in the country including in the business sector, have advanced due to the provision of scholarships and bursaries by the SACC. Many of the afore-mentioned provided a strong conscience for society in the apartheid years and contributed towards achieving transformation in the country.

The work is not over and the SACC continues in its efforts to improve living standards for all whether they are in rural, urban or farming areas. Their network of 25 member churches and 15 associate members spread around the country benefit 150 000 people nationally. They have a wide range of interventions addressing various issues namely poverty eradication, welfare, unemployment, health and in particular HIV/AIDS, voter education, economic initiatives, providing monitors to neighbouring countries and anti-corruption and good governance initiatives.



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