

Berlin, 28 december 2021

“And Abraham passed away, and died in a good old age, when he was old and full of life, and was gathered unto his fathers.”
[Genesis 25,8]

Dear sisters and brothers of Desmond and Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation,

Dear Partners of All Africa Conference of Churches,

Dear President Rt. Rev. Bishop Arnold C. Temple, dear General Secretary Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki,

Dear Partners of South African Council of Churches,

Dear President Bishop Ziphozihle Siwa, dear General Secretary Bishop Malusi Mpumlwana,

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

It is with heartfelt sadness that we receive the news of the passing of the former President of AACC and former General Secretary of SACC, the Most Reverend Desmond Mpilo Tutu, Archbishop Emeritus of Cape Town.

What a great man, a noble spirit, a cheerful bridge builder, a convinced ecumenist and foremost a humble servant of God and humankind he was – an example of faith for us and many partners in all of the world.

On behalf of Brot für die Welt, please allow, to express our deepest condolences to this great loss for you, brothers and sisters of Desmond and Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation, of the All African Council of Churches and of the South African Council of Churches, for the people of South Africa and all citizens of the World.

We appreciate not only his strong commitment as President of the All Africa Conference of Churches and as General Secretary of the South African Council of Churches, but also his precious support as facilitator and mediator in many occasions.

Moreover, we lose an upright and confident Bishop and Church Leader, who stood for a strong and visionary commitment for Justice, Dignity and Peace in South Africa, in Africa as a whole, in Israel/Palestine and in many other parts of the world.

We also lose a passionate theologian, a protagonist of African Theology, advancing Christian theology from the perspective of the African cultural context and a Christianity rooted in African traditions. Important not only for believers in Africa, but also an important contribution to Christian theology as a whole with deep impact on worldwide Ecumenism.

Brot für die Welt appreciates the fruitful Partnership and Cooperation with Archbishop Tutu during his service as General Secretary of SACC, especially in times of Apartheid and the struggle of South African

Churches under the great commitment and leadership of Archbishop Tutu for justice and equal rights for all of Gods Children in South Africa. This struggle and his charisma had a beneficial impact far beyond his country.

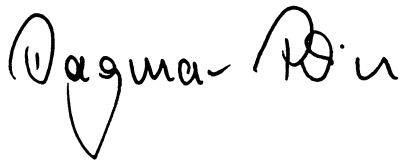
We are grateful that it was possible, a few weeks ago – just in time for his 90th birthday – to present to the Archbishop a volume entitled "Ecumenical Encounters with Desmond Tutu" which he was able to receive on his sickbed in October and still could enjoy to see so many of his companions and contemporaries giving witness to his work and vision for a just, democratic-participatory and reconciled South Africa. Bread for the World is pleased to have been a partner in these Ecumenical Encounters with Desmond Mpilo Tutu.

May his Family and all who now mourn his death find consolation and solace in the word of the Prophet, who promises Restoration and Protection in God the Almighty.

We trust that our Brother Desmond Mpilo Tutu has entered into the joy of our gracious Lord and our hope and belief is that we meet again, when we all by our Lord will be called by our name.

Archbishop Tutu will be kept in our Prayers. We hope and pray, that his Anglican Church family, the Churches of South African Council of Churches and all its believers will stand strongly together in these dark hours of grief and that his family will find Sisters and Brothers standing by their sides to carry and comfort them.

Yours in Christ

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dagmar Pruin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large loop under the 'D' and a long tail on the 'n'.

Rev. Dr. Dagmar Pruin

President Brot für die Welt