

Fa ! La! La! La! La!

So here we are in the Yuletide season enjoying the festivities that the season offers and brings. Amidst the advent of this Season – one of the greatest leaders the world has ever known transitioned – Nelson Mandela – Madiba!!!!

As we symbolically welcome Baby Jesus into the world – Madiba who embodied many Christian like qualities has transitioned, has left a big hole in our lives - but I would like to think a great hope and legacy for many to champion in the years to come – just as was the objective of Christianity which has survived nearly three thousand years later.

FORGIVENESS and COMPASSION

Jesus's crucifixion symbolized forgiveness of human sin and compassion for the whole human race. Mandela's journey through Apartheid, coupled with imprisonment for 27 years to being the first democratic South African President, would give many a reason to fear. But he saw the bigger picture - a vision of a united South Africa for blacks and whites to work and live together and build a stronger nation. Ludicrous many might have found this, because the very system that robbed him of his freedom, he turned around to transcend above this humanness for the overall humanity to carry on his mission for a united South Africa. Every day he embodied forgiveness and championed compassion and peace.

All throughout history civil wars and activism play an integral role in the transformation of societies and civil liberties – but there comes a time when one has to move forward for the greater good. US President Barack Obama stated in his delivery at the Mandela Memorial Service that it was time world leaders take a page out of Madiba's book "too many us are on the sidelines comfortable in complacency or cynicism when our voices must be heard". President Obama eloquently stated that Madiba not only changed the laws but he changed the hearts.

Like Jesus his mission was to point people towards a better way of life and a more fulfilling and meaningful way of living. Jesus handpicked 12 disciplines that through the generations have created the world's greatest congregation. Mandela was also a student!

So how many of us through this season of merriment will stop and reflect on its true meaning and the journey to follow and look at men like Madiba who through their imperfections saw it fit to constantly remind us of our civil dignities as a human being and in the spirit of the season show true compassion towards another human being and also forgiveness towards those who have inflicted pain and hurt. Let us reflect on our own personal journey and what we are here on earth to do and embrace the trail blazers who set the shining examples for us to follow.