Seventy eight (78) years ago in Oct. 1904 — two years after the end of the Anglo-Boer war, the foundation-stone of this Church was laid — a building which would be erected from hewn rock taken from the quarries of the Witwatersrand, the Reef. A To-day, I wish to en-courage, as I believe God wants us to do, not so much the ceremony of that day as the question: What is the real purpose of erecting such a building?

The answer is provided in the passage of 2 Chr. 7:11-20 where God reveals His understanding of the purpose the Temple should serve which Solomon had built. In effect God is saying that a church building as a place of worship is a symbol, a visible sign of a confession of love and obedience. What is important is not the edifice of stone and wood and glass — however beautiful it may be — but the life it will offer, the love it will impart, the beauty it will provide, the justice it will seek in obedience to Christ, its Head and Lord. And God is also telling Solomon that if the worshiping people of Israel refuse to fulfill this purpose, this divine charge, then its people will be uprooted from the land, its witness will be rejected, its life will be destroyed. But if it keeps God's purpose, it will flourish and prosper and become a source of love, of justice, of the power of justice, of liberation and reconciliation.
This was the message which God wanted to convey to Solomon and to the people of Israel; this was the message which Christ wanted to convey to the Jewish Church of his time when he swept away Jerusalem, the city of God, and when he cleansed the temple. It was God's intent over his Church because they had refused to heed his pleas for love, for compassion, for justice, for reconciliation. But this is the message which God is conveying to his Church in S.A. today: any Christian community holding whatever doctrine or confession and claiming to be part of the Church, the body of Christ, but which betrays the fundamental purpose of its existence by distorting the truth of God's word for its own selfish ends will inevitably have to face the judgment of God.

This is what essentially is happening today in S.A. in the life of the Reformed Churches where recently the 2 S.A. white D.R. Churches (U.G.K. & N.H.K.) have been suspended by the world body of Reformed churches representing 70 million Christians for their support for apartheid which has been declared a heresy. Is it only the crown of Christ or is it in fact part of God's judgment that the two church bodies, one of which (N.H.K.) tried and convicted Rev. A.S. Geyer of heresy and the other (N.G.K.) declared the Church unable to be a heretical movement — that both these bodies have been condemned by the whole Reformed church world for the heresy of their belief in and support of apartheid?
especially to understand what God is trying to say to them.

In refusing to speak or act at
does in fact speak or act.

Importance of De Chody in sight of God
I believe that the moment of truth has arrived for these churches - they are standing before the Tribunal of God’s judgment, and therefore they need our prayers as never before. But you may ask: but what has all this to do with other Christian and other churches? We are Anglicans - and this fight within the U.K. Churches doesn’t really affect us; we have never tried to justify apartheid on Biblical grounds!

If we probe a little deeper I believe we shall discover that the whole Christian Church in S.A. is in a trial never before in our history have so many different denominations simultaneously been challenged so strongly to face up to the fundamentals of the faith they profess as the is happening in S.A. especially as this faith relates to the political, social and economic policies of the land. No longer can any church, regardless of whether it is Reformed, Anglican, Methodist, Lutheran, Roman Catholic or Pentecostal, avoid taking a stand. Too long too many churches and their people have avoided on the basis of the Gospel. And the judgment of God extends itself over the ideological divisions and the refusal to openly acknowledge a Biblical truth (as in the case of the white SRC’s) as a false compromise for the sake of racial ‘gain’ (as in the case of many independent churches).

S.A. Churches are not one important in Christ’s sight than other
The present crisis in the life of the Christian churches in S.A. is not going to diminish. I can see a deepening of the crisis and a sharpening of the confrontation before true reconciliation can be effected. It is only through the heat of the embers that the Church's life can again be purified. Therefore we must prepare ourselves for a period of suffering and pain. (See www.259.org report)

But out of the agony of suffering, the conflict of interests, the clash of the fundamentally opposed interests to those of the Church, faith, a new life will eventually be born: a new unity will grow, a new recognition of God's image in every human will be given and an authentic and meaningful reconciliation will take place.

An excellent example of this action of God's grace is that a conference already at work is the proposed new confession which the Synod of the U.E. Synodical Council adopted as a draft confession. It contains 5 articles dealing with (1) God's concern for the church, (2) the unity of all believers, (3) the meaning of reconciliation, the challenge of justice and (4) the price of obedience. This draft confession could form the basis of the establishment of a united Reformed Church of Southern Africa. It could go even further: it could be the beginning of a new church unity which could contribute, even in a small way to heal the painful wounds which apartheid have inflicted on the body of Christ.
May I end on a personal note: somebody asked me the other day whether I was not angered or saddened by the fact that at this crucial period in the life of the church in S.G. my voice has been silenced and I said: Yes, at times I get angry, at other times I am sad—but I rejoice in the knowledge that the true new supervenience, despite the silencing of individuals, need not wait through the suffering of many. God will achieve His purpose with this church, with His people, with His land.