

World Social Forum
Opening Ceremony at Holy Family Basilica 20th Jan 2007

Key note address: By Archbishop Desmond Tutu - "Theme: God is weeping"

God created the world and everything in it, it was beautiful. God created man but he was lonely. God created the animals and brought them to man to see if a suitable partner could be found. Man name all the animals but there was no suitable partner for him. God made a wonderful creature and brought it to man. Man said this is now flesh of my flesh bone of my bones. God said it is most beautiful. God gave man responsibility to be faithful, multiply, replenish the earth.

God looked down and he was perturbed and he wept. The man he created had desecrated the earth. Man committed sins against God and each other. The beautiful creation that he (God) had created was being wasted away. Man had become greedy and started grabbing lands for himself. He was also taking control of foreign lands. The natural resources that God gave became the reason for wars and continue to date to be cause of international conflict. Man did not realise that the natural resources, the minerals, gold, uranium and the oil amongst others are the benefit of the whole human race. Man destroyed trees (natural vegetation). Man continues to destroy the land that God created and God is weeping in the destruction of the earth.

God is weeping in that even the ozone layer is being destroyed. The gases that man continues to make affect the ozone layer and if we do not address the issue of global warming, there wont be another world for the coming generations. God is weeping for the earth that is being put to waist. There is too much dangerous gases on the land, some waist are thrown at the sea and they kill the fishes in all their kinds. They cannot go anywhere. Stop polluting the seas and oceans.

God weeps when he receives millions of people who died because of HIV and AIDS. God commands the world to work together in the fight against HIV and AIDS. God weeps when he sees children who are orphaned by HIV and AIDS. The Abujah declaration of 2000 stated that 15% of the national budget of all countries shall go to health care. In is the promise that our government made. It is the promise that nobody fulfilled. Keep the promise The HIV and AIDS prevalence in Africa is going up. The ARVs rollout is at a slow pace and more and more people are dying.

Political leaders must understand that if they make a promise they must keep it. We elected you to serve us. We elected you on clear mandates. We want you to know that we will

support you as long as you fulfil the mandates of the people. You are not in position of power to enrich yourself, lining your pocket. We want you to know that if you move away from the mandates of the people to your personal agendas at the expense of the nation. We will fight you with every fibre of our being. We will oppose in every street, town, village, slum area etc. You accept leadership, you accept position to serve.

God is weeping there are so many women and children who die under the smoke of guns and bombs. Countries are attacked without good solid reasons. The base of the attack is greed. Look at Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan. We want another world a better world. But that world cannot be achieved a long there is a big brother and small brother. We are all equal before God. Europe, America, Great Britain must be a little modest. It is not Africa that introduced Hiroshima, the gas chambers, slavery and degradation of human dignity. Be a little modest and accept that it is now the time for your flow back of all the plunders that you took from Africa. National Debts must be cancelled. How shall the people of God rise up with such heavy burdens of billions on their shoulders. Through this World Social Forum we are calling for the cancellation of debts. The World Economic Forum is meeting as we are meeting and this message must reach them to be a little modest.

God is weeping who will help me to save the world. I looked and behold I saw a little angel coming closer and closer to wipe away the tears of God. And I said Lord what does this mean. He said unto me these are the people gathered at the world Social Forum. They are saying do not weep. For another world is possible.

- These are the people who are committed to diversity and unity, social justice, human rights, peaceful and equal relations.
- These are the people who are opposed to concentration of wealth among few, the use of violence, marginalization and exclusion and the destruction of the earth.

God smiled and he is smiling because you are here at World Social Forum and you all say another is possible! Another world is possible. Amen.

Rev. Ndebele (Participant of the World Social Forum):

This key note speech was not prerecorded and is not 100% word for word reflection of what Archbishop Desmond Tutu said. It is my recollection of his presentation. Should the reader wish to correct or add valuable information that I have omitted the reader is at liberty to do and would not need my permission. Members of Bread for the World who attended the World Social Forum who wish to keep this copy for their records are at liberty to do so.