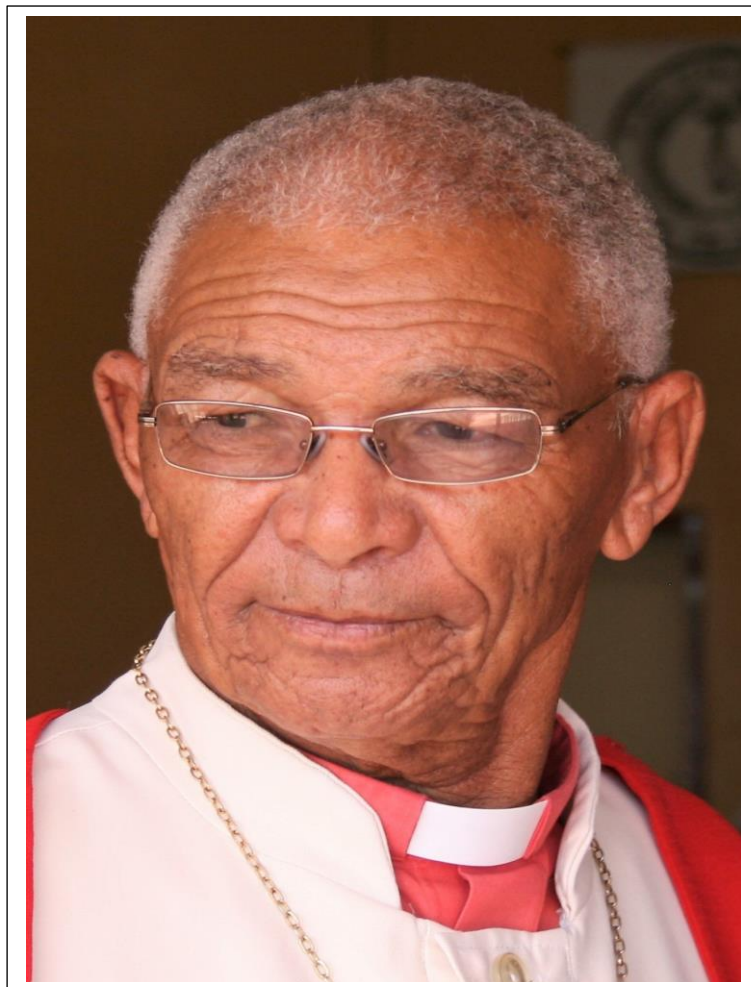




ABRIDGED HOMAGE
TO
THE LIFE AND TIMES OF PASTOR IZAK FREDERICKS
EVANGELIC LUTHERAN CHURCH IN THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA (ELCRN)
1936 – 2021



PREPARED AND DELIVERED

Steven H Isaack, Founder

Windhoek, 10 July 2021

The Late Pastor Izak Fredericks was born on the 22nd March 1936 at Helmeringhausen in the Bethaniën District in the present-day //Kharas Region. He received his basic education at Bethaniën and augmented his further education through home-schooling and distance education.

He served as an apprentice under Albert Plietz at Luderitz from 1957 to 1962. Upon completion of his apprenticeship he worked as a Fitter and Turner from 1963 to 1968. In one of his many anecdotes, he related to me how his grandparents wanted him to be a teacher. He told them that he had other plans given the fact that he committed himself to actively heed the call of the Ministry by age thirty-two (32). When he reached the latter age he was still working as an Artisan. He started to get epileptic fits and was hospitalized. While in hospital he (had his Jonah experience”) dreamt about the promise he made to the Lord to heed the call of the Ministry at age thirty-two (32). Upon his discharge he went to the parish leader to get application forms to apply for enrolment at the Theological Seminary. He forwarded the documentation in December 1959 and received his admission confirmation telephonically within three days. He subsequently joined the Seminary in January 1969.

HIS CALL TO THE MINISTRY”

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I, Send me!” Isaiah 6:8

He enrolled at the United Theological Seminary at Otjimbingwe for Evangelist Training which he completed between 1969 and 1970. He was subsequently appointed as an Evangelist at Karasburg. He was invited back to the Seminary by the faculty of the Seminary. He enrolled for pastoral training at the same Seminary and completed the theological training between 1973 and 1975. His ordination took place on the 2nd November 1975. He diligently served the people of God and the communities at large under the auspices of his beloved Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia (ELCRN) through pastoral and related assignments at:

Berseba (1976 to 1981): where he was responsible for Evangelization & Children’s Bible Studies at the George Krönlein Centre under the Keetmanshoop Circuit.

Mariental (August to December 1981): this temporary appointment put him in charge of the Ebenhaeser Parish in the Mariental Circuit.

Karasburg (1982 to 1986): as the Pastor of the Laetare Congregation in the Keetmanshoop Circuit. His Liberation Theological pronouncements in resistance to the erstwhile Apartheid subjugation often put him in the direct line of fire with the Security Apparatus of the State. It is said in anecdotes that the same Security Apparatus would often, against their better

judgement, call upon him to try and calm the masses down when there were direct political confrontations during demonstrations and rallies at the town.

In the Windhoek Circuit he led the Ebenhaeser Parish at **Rehoboth** from 1987 to 1989 and the **Bethel Parish, Katutura** from 1990 to 2001.

He also served as the Director of the Tabitha Old Age Home & Centre between 2002 and 2003. He formally retired from active pastoral service in 2004, but was designated by the Church Council to serve the local congregations (e.g. the Paulus Congregation) until 2008.

His pastoral work was not only confined to towns and villages, but he took the Good News to settlements and farms under extremely difficult and trying circumstances. When all is said and done, of him it can be said, that he spoke truth to power without fear or favour! His life and times resonated with the

Biblical Apostle Luke when he proclaimed”

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent me to heal the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; and to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.” Luke 4:18-19

!AMA //AES (VIZ. CLAN):

As a proud Nama and !Ama, the Late Pastor Izak Fredericks served as the Deputy Chairperson of the History Committee under the leadership of the Late Emeritus Bishop Hendrik Frederick. His research and related data gathering and mobilization work took him far and wide across Namibia as well as beyond the borders to Botswana, Ethiopia, Germany, Madagascar, and South Africa. He initiated the project to erect a monument at Shark Island, Luderitz in memory of the Late Chief Cornelius Fredericks to preserve the memory of the !Ama //Aes and her contribution to the present-day history of independent Namibia. The unveiling of the monument provided the opportunity for the !Ama //Aes to gather since 1814 on 14 December 2002. The Late Pastor Izak Fredericks made a clarion call for unity within the rank and file of Nama communities and clans by suggesting for the formation of a “Southern Traditional Council”. His view was that a united front was needed on the part of recognized traditional authorities to submit developmental proposals to Government for consideration and implementation. I can today safely confirm that he welcomed the subsequent establishment of the Nama Traditional Leaders Association (NTLA) with open arms. He was a keen advocate and champion of youth engagement and development of youth at all levels of society. He was particularly clear on the need to constructively engage and prepare the youth today and not to side-line young people who are supposed to be the leaders of tomorrow. He demonstrated this commitment through his attendance of the investiture ceremony of Chief Johannes Fredericks (on 28 February 2021 at Bethaniën) despite his advanced age and ill-health.

His clear message to the !Ama //Aes then and now is:

- ✚ *“In die voort bestaan van die volk is respek, onderlinge samewerking, agting en bemoediging van uiterste belang;*
- ✚ *‘n Volk wat wil oorleef moet bereid wees om opofferings te maak, lojaal wees teenoor hulle land en leiers, opstaan vir wat hulle eie is;*
- ✚ *Weier beslis onverslaaf te word, werk vir jou toekoms en verseker so die toekoms van jou afhanklikes, sodat hulle ook trots kan wees.”*

[Izak Fredericks, Luderitz, 14 December 2002]

He has given the !Ama //Aes clear tenants to build on. These are:

- ✚ Geloof standvastigheid;
- ✚ Tradisioneel geanker te wees;
- ✚ Selfverserkerd wees;
- ✚ Trots en oortuigend te wees;
- ✚ Met ‘n toekoms visie te het.”

[Izak Fredericks, Luderitz, 14 December 2002]

VETERAN OF THE NATIONAL LIBERATION STRUGGLE (NO: 30734)

The cause of Freedom, Solidarity and Justice!

Amongst many of his exploits as a freedom fighter he held SWAPO rallies while these were prohibited (around 1967 and 1968). At some point he was imprisoned for three months. His employer, Albert Plietz negotiated with the authorities to have him released in his care on a daily basis (during working hours) for the three months since his business was making losses. He was thus released during working hours and incarcerated overnight.

He was recognized as a Veteran of the National Liberation Struggle in 2009 by the Government of the Republic of Namibia. This development led to the Department of Veterans Affairs building and granting him an abode in which he spend his final years and days until his demise on the 30th June 2021

He is survived by children, grand-children and great grand-children from the marriage with his first wife, the Late Anna Magdalena /Hû-Buruxas Fredericks (nee Tiboth). He is equally survived by his present wife of 39 years, Elfriede Tetebas Fredericks, children, grand-children, great grand-children; the extended families; the entire rank and file of the ELCRN; the !Ama //Aes; fellow Veterans of the National Liberation Struggle, comrades, friends and compatriots.

In conclusion!

“Until the lions have their own historians, tales of hunting will always glorify the hunters.”

(A proverb of the great Ibo people of the Niger Delta in Nigeria)

Given his love for history and memory work we have often contemplated on the above-mentioned proverb and its narrative context. In good time, Heritage Watch, which I founded with my spouse, will knock on some of your doors for input and commentary on the Life and Times of the Late Izak Fredericks and how you experienced and related to him for us to collectively honour his memory and legacy. On a personal note I submit that his final words to ALL of us are in 1 Peter 1:6-7:

“For a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith — of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire — may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”

And now!

May he rest in eternal peace until the trumpet of the Lord is sounded to announce the Rapture when we all shall come face to face with Christ our Saviour!

May he at that moment rise and shine in eternal glory, having founded favour in the sight of the Lord

May we, his loved ones, find solace in the knowledge that he is simply resting from his earthly labour!

Sources:

DIE !AMA VOLK GESKIEDENIS, Eerste Druk, Eerste Uitgawe (Mei 2017)

Heritage Watch, Steven H Isaack

WAAROM !AMANVOLK FEESVIERINGE ELKE JAAR? Pastor Izak Fredericks (30 April 2004)