

**FREEDOM CLIMB  
MELVILLE KOPPIES**

**14:30**

**5 October 2014**

**A PILGRIMAGE  
TOWARDS FREEDOM,  
HOPE AND JOY FOR ALL**



**“Nation will not lift sword against nation,  
there will be no more training for war.  
O, House of Jacob, come,  
let us walk in the light of God.”** Is:2;4-5

**People of Johannesburg, come,  
Let us walk in the light of our God.**

## INTRODUCTION

*Today, Sunday 5 October, is the start of Anti-Trafficking week. This week members of an organization called Freedom Climb (cf [www.TheFreedomClimb.net](http://www.TheFreedomClimb.net)) are climbing Table Mountain to stir up compassion, action, and advocacy on the issues of modern day slavery, exploitation and trafficking of women and children globally. Last year 49 members of this group climbed Mt Kilimanjaro for the same cause.*

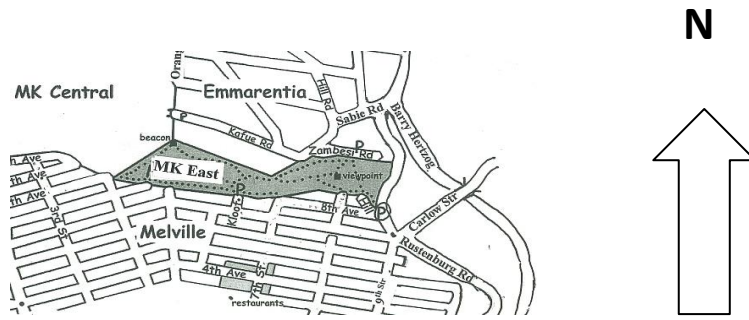
*We, a group of women who name ourselves SISTERS FOR JUSTICE, decided to hold this symbolic walk today on Melville Koppies in solidarity with Freedom Climb, and with all people who struggle to eradicate any form of modern day slavery in our world. We are delighted that you have joined us. Our walk along Melville Koppies East will pause at TEN STATIONS, at each of which we will reflect and pray together on problem areas afflicting our city, Johannesburg. At the heart of each STATION's theme is something that assaults the dignity of fragile human life and the equally fragile life of our planet. We have chosen themes for the NINE of these; at the last ONE we will invite you to choose your own themes.*

*Melville Koppies is a wonderful place for this short pilgrimage. In centuries past it has provided a home to human beings who lived more lightly on this earth than we do. Today it is a place of conservation and gentle recreation. It too has had its own share of assault on human dignity. As we move across it this afternoon, leaving only our footprints, we bless it with our presence and energy, and receive from it the blessing our precious earth is always generously giving us human beings.*

*One of us will lead each small group of pilgrims on this walk. Let us keep together, and keep each group in sight, for the duration of this short pilgrimage. For this short time we are together, even if we be strangers to one another, let us be united in spirit and united with all in our country and world who strive to make it a better place for all.*

## Overall plan

1. AT THE ENTRANCE	Freedom from all forms of domination	Partnerships and collaboration
2. AMONG THE ALOES	Freedom from human trafficking	Respect for human dignity
3. BEAUTIFUL GARDEN AND OVERFLOW	Freedom from exploitation of the world's resources	sharing
4. LOCKED GATE	Freedom from xenophobia	Freedom of movement
5. OVERLOOKING CITY, THE SKYLINE OF JOHANNESBURG TO THE RIGHT <small>(1<sup>st</sup> Crossroads)</small>	Freedom from exploitation of people	Honouring human rights
6. OVERLOOKING CITY THE SKYLINE TO THE LEFT <small>(2<sup>nd</sup> crossroads)</small>	Freedom from unemployment	Gainful employment for all
7 LOOKING AT THE KOPPIE & THE JESUIT INSTITUTE <small>(water tower)</small>	Teilhard de Chardin Scientist, Mystic and Jesuit Priest	Freedom to love and to hope
8. SOLAR PANEL AND THATCHED ROOF, PYLONS <small>(T-Junction)</small>	Freedom from pollution of the environment	A clean and health environment
9. SABC, P O TOWERS	Freedom from misuse of media	Respectful communication
10. OWN STATION AT FINAL ROCKY OUTCROP.		



## **STATION ONE**

### **Partnership and Collaboration**

Let us share our names as we enter into partnership and collaboration.

At this first stop on our journey, we pause to name some of the situations and places where partnership and collaboration already exist in our personal experience of life.

**PAUSE**

Name some of the situations and places.....

We pray in the silence of our hearts.



*The bee, the praying mantis and the sunflower in creative partnership!*

## STATION TWO

### Freedom from Exploitation of the World Resources

#### WE REMEMBER ALL THOSE WHO SUFFER BECAUSE OTHERS EXPLOIT THE WORLD'S NATURAL RESOURCES

Some facts about the exploitation of our natural resources:

1. By 2025, 1,8 billion people will be living in countries or regions with absolute **water** scarcity.
2. There is only enough **oil** for the next 42 years, should global production remain at the current rate.
3. There is only enough **natural gas** for the next 54.6 years.
4. Without **phosphorus**, plants cannot grow. Essential for fertiliser, phosphate rock is only found in a handful of countries, including the US, China and Morocco. With the need to feed 7 billion people, scientists predict we could run out of phosphorus in 50 to 100 years.
5. **Coal** has the largest reserves left of all the [fossil fuels](#), but as China and other

developing countries continue to increase their appetite for coal, demand could finally outstrip supply.

6. **Scandium** and **terbium** are just two of the 17 rare earth minerals that are used in everything from the powerful magnets in wind turbines to the electronic circuits in smartphones. The elements are not as rare as their name suggests but currently 97% of the world's supply comes from China and they can restrict supplies at will. Exact reserves are not known.



Prayer

Loving God, we pray for all who struggle for the basic necessities of life – nourishing food, pure water, fresh air and adequate housing. Help us to choose to live simply in order to share the earth’s resources with others. May we find better ways to care for the earth and to harness its energies for the good of all.

## STATION THREE Respect for Human Dignity

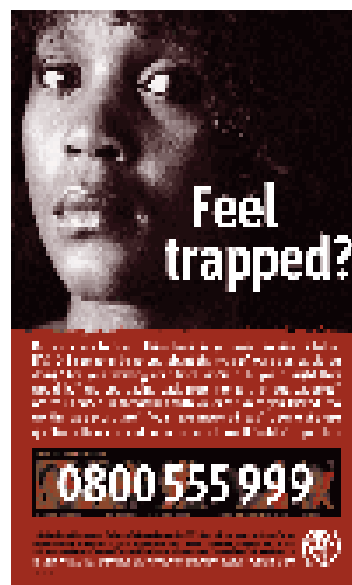
### Honouring the Dignity and the Freedom of Each Person

#### REMEMBERING ALL CAUGHT IN THE SCOURGE OF TRAFFICKING EITHER AS TRAFFICKERS OR AS THOSE TRAFFICKED

Here are 8 facts about human trafficking that everyone should know:

1. Human trafficking has been identified as the largest human rights violation in the history of humanity.
2. There are an estimated 27 million persons in modern slavery in the world today. That’s the highest recorded number of slaves in history!
3. Human trafficking is one of the three largest criminal enterprises in the world, with drug smuggling and arms dealing.
4. According to estimates, approximately 80 percent of trafficking involves sexual exploitation, and 19 percent involves labor exploitation.
5. The average age of a young woman being trafficked is 12–14 years old.

6. An estimated 13 million children are enslaved around the world today, accounting for nearly half of trafficking victims in the world.
7. Trafficked children are significantly more likely to develop mental health problems, substance abuse, engage in prostitution as adults, and either commit or be victimized by violent crimes later in life.
8. South Africa is both a destination and a transit place. The main places are ports, Durban and Cape Town. Johannesburg, Pretoria, Witbank, Rustenburg and Pretoria are all hot spots.



**STATION FOUR**  
**Freedom of movement**

**WE REMEMBER REFUGEES ALL OVER THE  
WORLD**

**AND ESPECIALLY IN SOUTH AFRICA**

The UN High Commission for Refugees' *Global Trends*, issued recently, observed

that the past year has seen the highest number of forcibly displaced persons in the world since

World War II. 51.1 million people were displaced, 6 million more than 2012. This figure was broken down into the following categories: 33.3 million

***Merciful God, bring an end to this  
horrendous scourge that besets our world  
today and causes untold suffering.  
Thank you for all who do sterling work to  
help those who suffer.  
Show us what we can do  
and give us the generosity and the  
energy  
to do it.***

were internally displaced; 16.7 million were refugees; and 1.1 million were asylum seekers. It is reported that refugees fleeing Syria and the Central African Republic contributed to this high tally. (2013 Report)

An estimated 3000000 Zimbabweans are currently “refugees” in South Africa.



Creator God,  
help us to value our own freedom  
and to find ways to promote the freedom of all people and creatures on this  
earth.

## STATION FIVE Honouring Human Rights





Howard Zinn has this to say:

*“The crimes of the rich and powerful go mostly unpunished .It must surely be a tribute to the resilience of the human spirit that even a small number of those men and women in the hell of the prison system survive it and hold on to their humanity.....*

*“I am convinced that imprisonment is a way of pretending to solve the problem of crime. It does nothing for the victims of crime, but perpetuates the idea of retribution, thus maintaining the endless cycle of violence in our culture. It is a crucial and useless substitute for the elimination of those conditions – poverty, unemployment, homelessness, desperation, racism, greed – which are at the root of most punished crime.”*

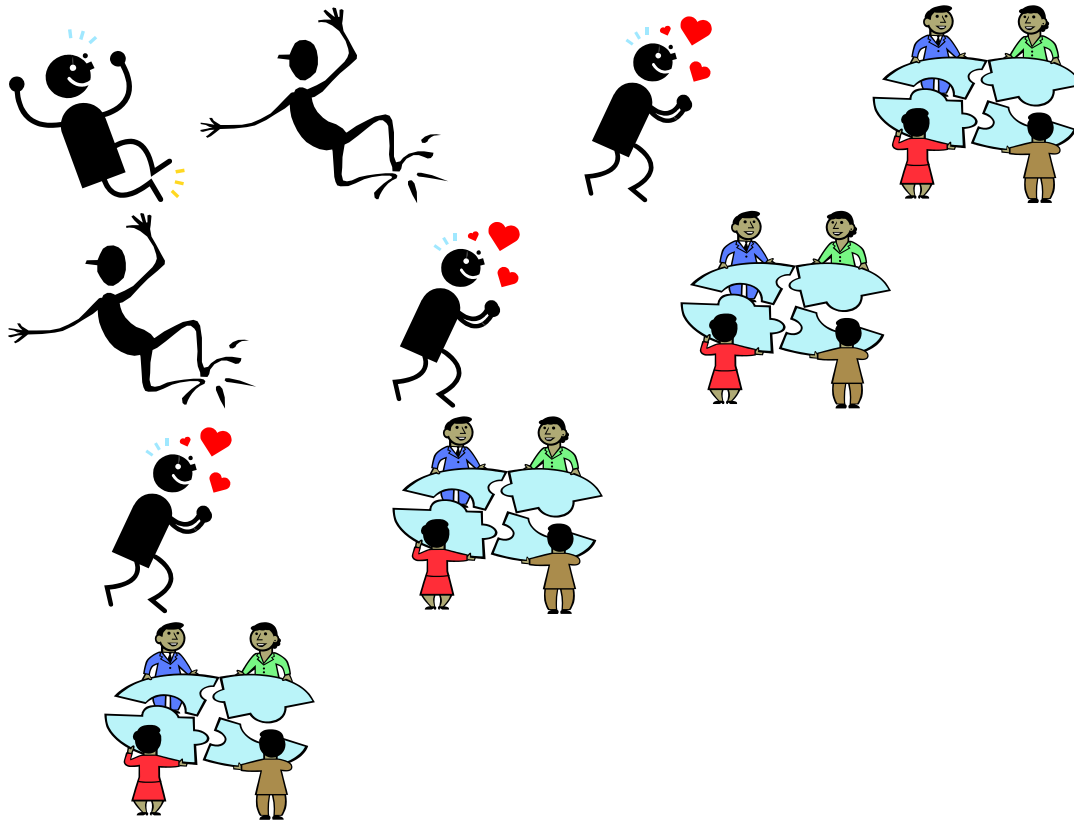
We pray: Spirit of Truth, shock us with your Presence  
to sear us in that same truth that we may have courage to be disturbers of peace.  
Fire us with longing to bring about right relationships with all that bears the mark of life, in ourselves, our world, in creation.  
Shock us with the truth of the ways we are complicit in diminishing life or taking it for granted. Grant us those things we cannot or dare not voice.  
Give us voice to declaim the power of the strong over the weak, the energy to proclaim good news to those most in need of hope. And by your strength, may we proclaim the power of your love in our lives by the way we manifest your kingdom coming here and now in us.

## **STATION SIX**

### **Gainful Employment for all**

*If heaven really exists; then heaven is the job, hell is unemployment  
while life is merely an interview.*

**(Mokokoma Mokhonoana)**



**“Commit your works to the Lord, and your plans will succeed” Proverbs 16:3**

The City of Johannesburg Local Municipality covers an area of 1 645km<sup>2</sup>. It is also known as Jozi, Jo ‘burg, or Egoli. We live in the largest city in South Africa that has a population of 4.4 million. It is the provincial capital of Gauteng which is the wealthiest province yet the official unemployment rate in the province is 25.5%, and youth unemployment 31.5% . Women head 36% of all households and only 64% of us have water piped in their homes. (Statistics SA 2011)

**Informal business a means of survival**

Almost 70% of people who start an informal business do so because they are unemployed and have no alternative source of income. This was just one of the findings of the Survey of Employers and Self-Employed (SESE) released recently (2014) by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA).

**Prayer for the unemployed in our city and country**

O God, the Creator of all things, you have made us in your own image so that we may find joy in creative work, Have mercy on all those who are unemployed; those who suffer want and anxiety because they cannot earn a living or support their families

Guide the people of this city and land. Help us to build a society where those who are ready to work may find employment and so contribute for the good of society. May they use their strength and abilities in meaningful employment and receive a just wage. Grant that we may all share together in the abundant goods God has given us. AMEN

## **STATION SEVEN**

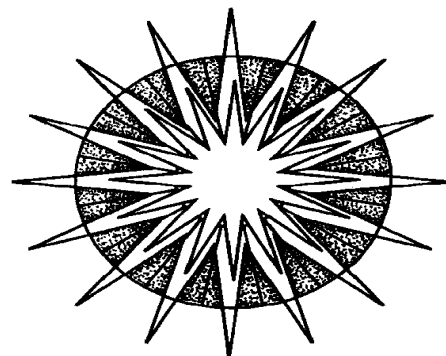
**TEILHARD DE CHARDIN**

**1881 -1955**

**Scientist, Mystic and Jesuit Priest**

Because Teilhard visited these Koppies in the 1940's when he visited South Africa and worked with the late Professor Tobias on the origins of the human race, we are remembering him at this spot. While his vision comes from his Christian roots it is in harmony with the vision of mystics of all traditions. Among many wise sayings he said:

“The role of Christians is to divinise the world by our actions, immersing ourselves in the world, plunging our hands into the soil of the earth, and touching the roots of life.” Teilhard’s deep secular humanism is a “mysticism of action”. “Before, we Christians thought that we could obtain God only by abandoning everything. We now discover we cannot be saved except through the universe and the continuation of the universe. We must make our way to heaven through earth. By bringing together evolution and incarnation in a single vision, Teilhard reshaped the meaning of Gospel life.”



Creator God, remove from our hearts and minds all dualistic attitudes and thoughts. Give to us a deep perception of the interconnectedness of all of creation. Grant that we may live in harmony with each other and with our

deepest selves. Give us ever truer faith, hope and love so that we may plant seeds of faith, hope and love for future generations. May each day bring us, as a human race, closer to the discovery of LOVE!

## STATION 8

### A CLEAN AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

Johannesburg is the seventh most polluted city in the world!



HOW WILL WE PRESERVE THE BEAUTY OF OUR CITY AND OUR PLANET FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS?



Prayer

*God of goodness, truth, beauty and love fill our hearts and minds*

*so that we can promote all that is good in our world. Help us to value and nurture all life.*

*Waken in us gratitude for our lives, love for every living thing, joy in all Your creation, praise for You.*

## STATION NINE

### RESPECTFUL COMMUNICATION

**‘What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light;**

**what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops.’ (Mt 10:27)**

The modern media of social communication offer men and women of today a great round table. At this they are able to participate in a world-wide exchange...[which] makes everyone a partner in the business of the human race... The swift advances of the means of social communication tear down the barriers [of] time and space... They can make for greater understanding and closer unity. A mass of information is continually on the move to and from all parts of the world and, as a result, people can learn what goes on and how others live. They can establish a measure of universal equality in which all can enjoy the delights of culture and leisure. They bring far away times and places within their grasp.

These technical advances have the high purpose of bringing men and women into closer contact with one another. If, however, people’s minds and hearts are ill disposed...technology may produce an opposite effect so that there is less understanding and more discord... Too often, social communications are used to contradict or corrupt the fundamental values of human life.

Rather let them serve to build new relationships and to fashion a new language which... inclines to justice and peace, to good will and active charity, to mutual help, to love and, in the end, to communion (extracts from *Communio et Progressio*).



*In the wonder of your creation, Gracious God, you have provided us with grace and insight to grow in ever deeper relationship with you and with one another. Through the interaction which our creativity affords let our love and knowledge abound so that we may be of greater help to one another, of true service to those in need, and in unceasing praise for all of your vast creation. We ask this through Christ, our Saviour and Brother.*

## **STATION TEN**

### **OWN STATION**



## USEFUL CONTACTS:

- ❖ SACBC Counter Trafficking Desk: Sr Melanie O'Connor SHF  
email: [moconnor@sacbc.org.za](mailto:moconnor@sacbc.org.za)
  
- ❖ Jesuit Refugee Services: 011 333 0980
  
- ❖ National Freedom Network: [diane.nfn@gmail.com](mailto:diane.nfn@gmail.com);  
[www.nationalfreedomnetwork.co.za](http://www.nationalfreedomnetwork.co.za);
- ❖ Crimeline: 32211
  
- ❖ Our local Churches Social Responsibility or Justice and Peace  
Groups
- ❖ Child Line: 080 005 5555
- ❖ IOM Toll Free: 080 0555 999
- ❖ Mercy House Pretoria: [mail@mercyhouse.co.za](mailto:mail@mercyhouse.co.za);

Love alone is capable of uniting living beings in such a way as to complete and fulfil them, for it alone takes them and joins them by what is deepest in themselves.

**Pierre Teilhard de Chardin**

Read more at [http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/p/pierre\\_teilhard\\_de\\_chardi.html#4gzZK8HOKv4mLzbQ.99](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/p/pierre_teilhard_de_chardi.html#4gzZK8HOKv4mLzbQ.99)





## OPENING AND CLOSING SONG

Lord, we pray for golden peace,  
peace all over the land,  
may we all dwell in liberty,  
all walking hand in hand.

*Banish fear and ignorance,  
hunger, thirst and pain.  
Banish hate and poverty,  
let no one live in vain,  
let no one live in vain.*

Keep us all forever one,  
one in love and grace.  
And wipe away all war and strife.  
Give freedom to each race.

Let your justice reign supreme.  
Righteousness always done.  
Let goodness rule the hearts of all  
and evil be overcome.

