was to become a little man with a big smile, a fine brain and the heart of a lion – Archbishop Desmond Tutu. The man who raised his hat to his mother was an extraordinary English priest called Father Trevor Huddleston who had lived and worked for years among the black people, keeping alive their desire for justice but helping them not to hate. These were the sort of people who were to save South Africa from a terrible fate but it was not going to be easy. I will continue this story tomorrow. God bless you.

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THE LIBERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA – 2

Assembly 99 – July 16, 2003

Yesterday I began to tell you the story of the peaceful revolution in one country – which one? -The Union of South Africa. I wonder if any of you looked at your atlases and found it. Many people said that there would surely be a terrible bloodbath there because the black people were so oppressed by the white people. Many millions of black people were living with injustice and prejudice under a government of a tiny minority of white people who believed in 'apartheid' – a Dutch word meaning separate development – but, some people said, it sounded like APART HATE and that was what it was. Society was divided into three groups, according to skin-colour - the white people, the coloured (or Indian) people and the black people. The three lived in separate areas and, if a white person's salary was 100%, then the coloured person's salary was 50% and the black person's salary was 25%. But, among the black people, there was a movement for change, shared by most of the Christian churches, that said, "Of course, we must work hard for change but we must not hate the white people. They must be shamed into giving us our freedom and our rights." At a conference in Switzerland in the 1960s, I met

a coloured Christian minister and a black minister who spoke with much understanding about the white people who were mainly descendants of the Dutch who had settled there. They said, "They are frightened. First the British took their land, and now they are frightened that we will." I was amazed that people who were suffering so much under this government, were refusing to hate those who were causing the suffering. They were trying to understand them.

Across the world, people began to put great pressure on the racist, white government of South Africa. No country would play sport with them. People would not buy South African products. People supported the African National Congress, the ANC, the party of Nelson Mandela, though he and his friends had been in prison on Robin Island for many years, and others had had to flee to other countries. There was a great movement to FREE NELSON MANDELA. People wore T shirts with this message and waved banners and went on rallies. Outside the South African Embassy in London, there was always a demonstration, every day for year after year. The churches that the white minority government supported had, for some years, said that the Bible agreed with their attitude but some of their Bible scholars began to say that the Bible did NOT say those things. It had been misinterpreted -and its leaders began to talk of peace and reconciliation between black and white.

The white police force continued to treat the blacks very badly. But every time someone was killed in police custody, their funeral was made the occasion for a great demonstration when thousands and thousands of black people – men and women and children - would sing and dance through the streets of the coming freedom that they could not see but was already in their hearts. There were so many of them that even the police were helpless. On one occasion, they had shot into the crowd and there was a massacre and it was all over the front pages of the world's newspapers and all the governments were very angry and they did not do it again.

On many occasions, the crowds listened to the voice of the little Archbishop Desmond Tutu, with his big smile and his wonderful words. Even when he was told it was far too dangerous for him to be present on these occasions, he was there. Sometimes, the crowds of black people would be very angry after someone had been murdered and he would hurry to the place and speak to them and calm them. I tell you his name because he is an old man now and fighting cancer and, maybe, one day in the near future, you will see on the news, that he has died. I want you to know his name – Desmond Tutu - because, if they show his life on television, it will be very interesting for you to watch.

Slowly, the mind of the racist, white minority government was changed and, in the end, it agreed to set free Nelson Mandela from prison and to allow the first free elections in South Africa. The world went wild with joy. Everyone was watching their televisions and laughing and crying. Nelson Mandela came out of 27 years in prison, walking tall and proud, not talking of revenge but of peace, of South Africa as a rainbow nation, not a nation with 3 separate colours but with many colours of people. There was a free election. The news programmes of the world showed the view from aeroplanes of the lines of black people standing for hours and hours in the sun to go to vote in the polling stations in their millions. Of course, the Party they voted for was the African National Congress. It came to power with a huge majority. Nelson Mandela became its Prime Minister and the peaceful revolution had happened - that noone had dared to hope for. Tomorrow is his 85th birthday and I am sure there will be something on television about it.

Life is not easy in South Africa. During the apartheid years, many children missed their education. Crime and other problems are very serious. But South Africa is free and has a majority government. Most of the whites have stayed to help build the nation and the long work of reconciliation and forgiveness is beginning to happen. But this was because of the leadership

shown – with great courage and persistence and hope. Many of the best and most educated people worked very hard among the ordinary and uneducated people to help them to have the right attitudes. People were not afraid to be leaders of opinion. It is not easy to speak of peace when people demand war – to talk of forgiveness when very hurt people demand revenge. But the world needs such people to be leaders and to speak out what is right and true, even when it is very hard. I hope that one day, you will be such people for Bangladesh. God bless you.

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MORE ABOUT LEADERSHIP

Assembly 100 – July 21st 2003

Yesterday I was talking about Nelson Mandela. Did any of you see anything on television yesterday about his 85th birthday? South Africa was not the only country to make a big fuss of this remarkable man who led his people to freedom from a white racist government. We have been thinking about leaders – good and bad – Mandela and Hitler.

Some of you may be watching 'Great Britons' on a Saturday night. There is a competition on BBC for who was the greatest British person who has ever lived and we can all vote. Last Saturday it was Queen Elizabeth 1st of England. Did any of you see it? Before her, England had had one Queen that was very weak and one Queen (Elizabeth's sister) who caused lots of trouble. No one thought, when Queen Elizabeth !st came to the throne in the 1500s, that she would be one of the greatest leaders ever known. I mean, she was a woman! But she led England from weakness to strength and the Elizabethan age (as her reign was called) was also the time when the English language was at its very best and we had wonderful poets and playwrights, not least,