

**Declaration in remembrance
of the MajiMaji War
100 years ago**

Protestant Christians in Germany have been closely linked to the people in present-day Tanzania for more than 100 years. Since the end of the 19th Century various protestant missions came to the area and witnessed to the love of God made visible in Jesus Christ. It is through the gift of God's spirit and the joint witness of Christians from the North and Christians from what is now Tanzania that the church has been established and has grown there.

We are grateful that the church was able to be established and that it could grow to become the church that we now know. We are grateful that over the years Christians in Tanzania and Germany have come to know each other as brothers and sisters and that great trust has grown between them. We are particularly grateful for our close relations with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT), the four Moravian Churches in Tanzania and the Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT).

When we think back to the outbreak of the MajiMaji War one hundred years ago, it makes us very much aware that the growth of the church in Tanzania and trustful relations between Christians in Germany and Christians in Tanzania cannot be taken for granted. Although on the one hand, the German mission agencies and their staff stood up for the Africans around their mission stations, on the other hand their close links with the colonial system gave reason for mistrust.

We remember what happened during colonial times and ask for forgiveness from God and from our sisters and brothers in present-day Tanzania.

- We confess that the witness of our churches did not always make it clear that God created all people in the image of God. There were Christians from our country who were blinded by racial ideology.
- We confess that our churches accepted that during colonial times, members of our nation took away land from the peoples in the area of present-day Tanzania and subjected them to their rule.
- We confess that on various different occasions Christians from our country supported the violent oppression of the peoples in the area of present-day Tanzania through their cooperation with the colonial administration.
- We confess that the brutality with which the German colonial power ruled in the area of present-day Tanzania was not always clearly denounced in the witness of our churches.

We are aware that even today our living together is strained by injustices, such as economic dominance or neo-colonial tendencies. We will therefore strive not to accept injustice as was the case in the past, but will stand up together with our sisters and brothers in Tanzania and oppose it, whenever this is called for.

In this context we appeal to the Federal German Government to explicitly recognise

Germany's historic responsibility for the crimes of colonialism in the area of present-day Tanzania. We also appeal to churches, political parties, various groups in society, institutions and the business world to take a closer look at this part of our history and to face the responsibility resulting from it.

We put our hope in God, who makes forgiveness possible and who leads us on the way to healing and reconciliation.

This declaration has so far been signed by the following mission agencies and church departments:

- One World Desk of the Evangelical Church of the Province of Saxony (EKKPS)
Leibnizstrasse 4, 39104 Magdeburg
- Evangelical Lutheran Mission Leipzig e.V. (LMW)
Paul-List-Strasse 19, 04103 Leipzig
- Herrnhuter Missionshilfe e. V.
Mission Association of the Moravian Church in Germany
Badwasen 6, 73087 Bad Boll
- Mission One World, Centre for Partnerships, Development and Mission of the
Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Bavaria (MEW)
Hauptstrasse 2, 91564 Neuendettelsau
- Northelbian Centre for World Mission and Church World Service (NMZ)
Agathe-Lasch-Weg 16, 22605 Hamburg

22. Januar 2007