**Rev. Esme Bowers:**

Esme Bowers is an ordained minister in the Full Gospel Church and serves as Missions Director at Calvary Sanctuary in Wynberg, Cape Town, where her husband is the senior minister. Her Christian ministry began 53 years ago in the Kenilworth Methodist Church. After her marriage to Theo Bowers, they moved to the Full Gospel Church of God in Steenberg, Cape Town where they pastored. This was during the struggle years against Apartheid. Working in this sub-economic community and in the first squatter camp in Cape Town called Vrygrond, challenged this couple to engage in transforming the community in partnership with other church leaders in the area. This developed into a vision for addressing issues of poverty and justice in the community. A deep yearning for developing transformational leaders, burned in her heart. Esme has always been in the forefront of fighting for justice on behalf of the oppressed and speaking up for the voiceless and helping the voiceless find their voice.

She is passionate about developing leaders, especially Christian African women at all levels of society, including Church and civic organizations to transform the Continent. In fact, her reach and influence go beyond the African Continent! Esme has facilitated leadership workshops around the globe for the past 25 years, having received her training at the World Evangelical Leadership Institute in Manila, Philippines. She is a sought-after speaker across the globe.

She has served on many boards including as the International Secretary for the Lausanne Movement; Chairperson of African Enterprise SA and the WEA Task Force on Abuse. Presently, she serves on the World Evangelical Alliance leadership team as the Director of Church in Community. WEA represents 600 million Christians around the world. She is also the current Chairperson of The Evangelical Alliance of South Africa (TEASA); chairs the African Women in Missions Network and leads The Pan African Christian Women’s Alliance in South Africa. She indeed has high capacity!

Esme has always served sacrificially, often at great cost to herself! She exudes enthusiasm, is committed to excellence and has an integrity that is above reproach! Those that worked with her consider it a privilege. She is a very faithful servant of the Lord. Her resilience has stood her in good stead, helping her navigate well through difficult situations. Her passion for the Lord, His people and His mission, is palpable and contagious!