

# FREEDOM OF RELIGION SOUTH AFRICA

A voice for the Christian Church



—by Jackie Georgiou

## An assault on Christian belief Pressure is mounting against Biblical values

- ▶ Globally we see governments imprisoning Christians for their Faith. Some are martyred. Some beaten. Many silenced. In the West, persecution often takes the form of legal restrictions being placed upon Christians, prohibiting them from living out their Faith. Pastors are fined or jailed for preaching the full Word of God. Guesthouses and wedding venues are sued for following their Christian conscience. Teachers suspended for praying with students. CEOs fired for giving to Christian causes. But we can stem the tide in South Africa. If we stand together, if we act decisively, we can hold back persecution and remain free to believe, preach and live the Gospel.
- ▶ The time to act is **NOW**.

*“When governments fear the people, there is liberty. When the people fear the government, there is tyranny.”* Thomas Jefferson

## FOR SA Leadership

### ANDREW SELLEY

Andrew is the Senior Pastor of Joshua Generation Church, with multiple congregations in and around the Western Cape. He is also the leader of an international apostolic movement of churches known as Four12. Andrew is the Founder and CEO of **FOR SA**.

### NADENE BADENHORST

Nadene is an Advocate of the High Court of South Africa. She has worked at the United Nations in New York, and served as a part-time lecturer in constitutional and public law at UNISA. Nadene serves as the Legal Counsel of **FOR SA**.

### MICHAEL CASSIDY

Michael is a respected Christian leader both internationally and in SA. He is the founder of African Enterprise and was named Honorary Chairman of the global Lausanne Movement in 2012. He has worked with presidents, church leaders and various stakeholders specifically in the area of transformation.

### MOSS NTLHA

Moss is an influential evangelical leader and one of the leading evangelical voices against Apartheid; through the Evangelical Alliance of South Africa (TEASA) where he is the General Secretary, he is involved in public policy advocacy nationally and internationally.



**“REMEMBER** them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and **THEM WHICH SUFFER ADVERSITY,** as being **YOURSELVES ALSO** in the Body.” Hebrews 13:3

The vision of **FOR SA** was birthed when Andrew Selley found himself and his church, Joshua Generation, **under scrutiny** by the Human Rights Commission (HRC) last year for teaching certain portions of Scripture that the HRC regards as in violation of human rights. Recognising that the issue had **far greater implications** than just the issue at hand and becoming aware of other churches and Christian ministries also coming under fire for their Biblical beliefs, Andrew prayed for wisdom. **With deep conviction and urgency,** God gave him a vision for an organisation that would (1) discern the issues that affect the religious freedom of Christians in South Africa; (2) create public awareness and **rally the support of the Church and Christians;** and (3) address the relevant issues as a united Christian voice, doing so in the proper forum, in government or in society. Since its inception, **FOR SA** has made submissions to government on potentially harmful Bills and - **together with organisations** like the Institute for Public Justice (IPJ) and Cause For Justice, with whom they work closely to push back **anti-Christian agendas** - helped Christians facing charges by the HRC, Gender Equality Commission and in the Equality Courts. They have the support of various leaders, ministries and allied organisations - but there is **still more to be done. Prayer, participation and partnership are essential** if we as His Body are to be salt and light, and win the cultural war.



# 12,000,000

Last year, **FOR SA** rallied the signed support of leaders representing 12 million people on a religious freedom issue. **FOR SA** is confident that it will be able to rally at least the same number of people behind the organisation. United we stand; divided we fall. Your sign up will enable us to speak as a strong and united voice to government, to protect religious freedom and the autonomy of the Church.

pastors

**JOIN US**

ministry leaders

christian business people

organisations  
media

**SIGN UP**  
[WWW.FORSA.ORG.ZA](http://WWW.FORSA.ORG.ZA)

Issues tackled by **FOR SA** to date:

**GENDER EQUALITY BILL**



**CORPORAL PUNISHMENT**



**HOMESCHOOLING**



***“FOR SA’s vision is to be a voice for the Christian Church in South Africa to government and to society, on issues affecting our freedom of religion, freedom of religious expression, freedom of association and the rights of religious communities in South Africa. All of these are fundamental rights entrenched in our Constitution. As such, the State as well as the citizens of South Africa have an obligation to respect, protect and promote these rights.”***

# Call to **Action** meeting

FOR SA invites pastors and Christian ministry leaders to a meeting to discuss the current threat to religious freedom and our imminent response

## Save the Date

**Bloemfontein**  
Thurs, 28 August

**Gauteng**  
Wed, 3 September

For more information  
& registration, visit  
[www.forsa.org.za](http://www.forsa.org.za)



## FREEDOM OF RELIGION

### SOUTH AFRICA

A voice for the Christian Church



Practically speaking, how **FOR SA** works out its mission and vision is as follows: a team of dedicated volunteers (lawyers, psychologists, theologians, etc) research local and global trends around issues that may affect the freedom of Christians to believe, preach and live according to the Word of God. Working alongside like-minded organisations (like the IPJ and Cause For Justice), **FOR SA** scrutinises proposed legislation and where these Bills pose a threat to religious freedom, **FOR SA** makes a submission to government on behalf of Christians.

*“Silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.”*

*Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

An example would be the Gender Equality Bill which in its initial proposed form, could have led to pastors being fined or even jailed for teaching that the man is the head of the home as Christ is of the Church. Churches who believe that church governance is reserved for men, would have been forced to change their governance structures such that women make up 50% thereof. As a result of **FOR SA's** submission to government, the Bill was changed to exclude churches and public benefit organisations from the Act. This was a great victory for religious freedom and the freedom of the Church to govern her own affairs.

When the **FOR SA** leadership team becomes aware of a Bill that may affect religious freedom:

- ▶ The four members of the leadership team, would have to agree unanimously that this an issue affecting religious freedom and needing a response or action from the Christian community.
- ▶ Once the team decide on a response, they would notify their signees of the issue and the action that **FOR SA** intends to take. At this point signees have the choice to opt-out on the particular issue (should they disagree with **FOR SA's** position), but this would be undesirable as we have a united common goal – to protect our freedom of religion – and to prevent the State from interfering in the autonomy of the Church.

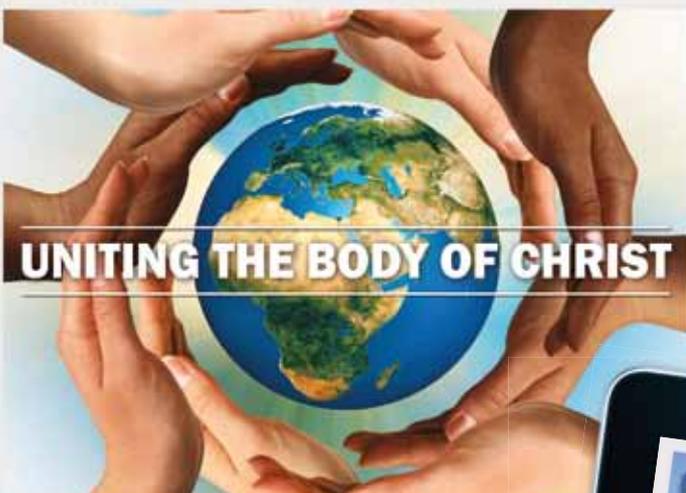
**FOR SA's** rallying point is this: while as Christians we may disagree with each other on the interpretation of certain Scriptures, we can unite around the principle that it is not for the State to tell us what we may believe, preach or how we should live our lives according to the Word of God. ■

## THE NEXT STEP...

- sign up online (at no cost)
- urge your pastor, church, Christian friends to join
- attend the **Call to Action** meeting (details left)
- volunteer your skills and time to **FOR SA**
- inform **FOR SA** if you know of any pressing issues
- follow **FOR SA** on twitter @FORSAAorg and like their facebook page: Freedom of Religion SA



**[FORSA.ORG.ZA](http://FORSA.ORG.ZA)**



## UNITING THE BODY OF CHRIST



PASTOR CARL LENTZ



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There is one body and one Spirit, just as you w...

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Not just Nigeria's problem



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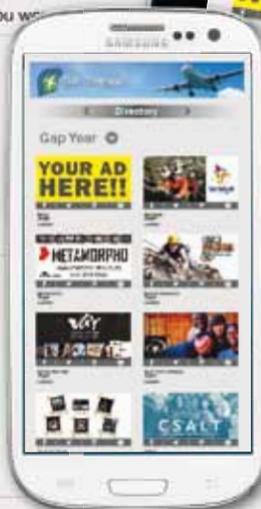
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