



Declaration regarding South Africa

The Christian Network (TCN)

30 April 2010

The Christian Network

The Christian Network (TCN) represents a growing group of churches and believers across Southern Africa and is registered with the government as a Non-Profit Organization and Public Benefit Organization.

All 9 provinces are represented in its Membership which also has an accurate representation of the demographics of our country. The churches have a number of significant community programs which directly contribute to the wellbeing of different communities across South Africa.

Current Situation in South Africa

It has become clear that there are forces at work in our Nation from various quarters which are attempting to stoke fires of violence, hatred, discrimination, division and anarchy. We are experiencing a tide of fear, dissatisfaction and negative expectation from the people of the country. It has also become clear that healthy morals and values desperately need to be established in South Africa.

In this climate we, as the Leaders of TCN, have felt it our responsibility to communicate the views of our churches and make a declaration in this regard. In this we pledge our own support but also ask for yours to encourage all our followers to play constructive roles by promoting positive transformation through their work, behaviour and speech.

DECLARATION:

1. We affirm and are fully convinced that God wants the nation of South Africa to be a place of blessing and prosperity for all its people, and an influence for good among the nations of the world.
2. We affirm that God invites people from every nation, tribe and language to be part of His chosen people, the church, and that no one is barred from being part of His church provided they live for Him and not for themselves. We believe all people in our nation should be treated equally, and applaud the freedom of religion provided in our Constitution.
3. We affirm that the Christian church should play a significant role in bringing reconciliation and healing to the people of South Africa. Jesus Christ died to reconcile all people to Himself and then to one another. He died to pay for all the wrongs we have done to one another, and to heal all the damage we have done to one another. To be a true child of God has become our first identity. Thus we are Christians first before we are Zulus, Afrikaners, Indians or of any other national origin. Because of this God can use His people, the Church, as

a catalyst of reconciliation and a beacon of hope. The church is also called to demonstrate in a non-religious way answers to other challenges we face.

4. We affirm the value of a free press, as nations prosper who have the best information with which to make decisions. At the same time we call on editors and leaders in the Media and Communication fields to act responsibly with the information they have and not to succumb to sensationalism.
5. We affirm that we have sound democratic structures in place but our people need to have democratic values, behaviour and processes taught to them and modelled for them in order to use these structures effectively. In the absence of this, government structures become a force to be captured by one group to be used against other groups leading to the danger of the development of factions.
6. We call on all those in South Africa who are in positions of leadership and responsibility – from the President and Politicians to leaders in Business, Health, Religion, Industry, Education etc, to step up and live up to the high calling to serve and lead the people of this Nation. Whatever your political or religious convictions are, you are expected to do this mostly by your excellence of conduct. Leaders lead by example. You are called to serve beyond your own interest with honesty and integrity. We want to know that you are fully committed to serve all the people of this land without discrimination or partiality to ensure that all will prosper. Only moral and selfless leadership can take us forward to lay foundations for a healthy and prosperous South Africa for our children. To this we pledge our support.
7. We commend our Leaders for their attention to poverty alleviation and development. We call on you to continue to pursue these. We call on you to use your positions, appointment and influence to raise the value of human life in South Africa. We are living with unacceptable levels of crime accompanied by brutal violence (rape, child abuse, xenophobic attacks, farm murders, etc) in our Nation.
8. We call on you to lead with honour. We are praying for the government in authority in this nation, and for peace for South Africa and all its people. We also pledge ourselves to play our part in developing healthy values and standards of behaviour in our nation. We call on all leaders to publicly and privately dedicate themselves to this end. We are willing to serve the Presidency and government in these purposes with prayer, advice and practical support.

Francois van Niekerk
(Senior Pastor: Hatfield Christian Church)
together with and on behalf of the
Leadership of The Christian Network (TCN)