



GOSPEL DEFENCE LEAGUE

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Dear Friends,

On February 12, 2008, the South African Minister of Education, Naledi Pandor, announced that in future all school children might have to formally pledge allegiance to the Constitution of the country. This proposed national oath (heralded by State President Thabo Mbeki in his earlier State of the Nation address) is based on the preamble of the Constitution, and all learners are asked to “*internalise*” its values. The pledge reads: “*We the youth of South Africa, recognising the injustices of our past, honour those who suffered and sacrificed for justice and freedom. We will respect and protect the dignity of each person, and stand up for justice. We sincerely declare that we shall uphold the rights and values of our Constitution and promise to act in accordance with the duties and responsibilities that flow from these rights.*” 1) The Minister has invited comment and received widespread reaction. Typical of these is a media release by Dr Pieter Mulder of the Freedom Front, who said: “*The oath is nothing other than an attempt by the ANC to, through their failed political ideology and flawed contemplation of history, try to indoctrinate vulnerable school children with a permanent guilt complex. It is directed at the past and not the future and will not be promoting nation building, but will rather be dividing people.*” 2)

The Politics of Guilt and Pity

It is a known fact that, even without such attempts at guilt infusion, all human beings suffer from **guilt** feelings. Guilt is a vast drain on human energies and a mainspring of human action. A guilty man feels like a leaky, sinking ship and, unless he experiences God’s forgiveness, he spends much of his energy in self-defence, self-justification, and self-atonement. To make South African school children ‘*recognise the injustices of our past*’ is to fill them with shame or contempt for past history which took place long before they were born. It is to instil in them a false guilt and a false contempt, which will not advance nation-building because it will kill their hope and idealism. A guilty person, whether filled with true or false guilt, feels weak and fearful. Remember Adam and Eve. After they had disobeyed, they hid from the LORD God. When they heard Him in the garden they were afraid and felt naked. (Genesis 3:8-10) So it is with all guilty people. The Bible says: “The wicked man flees though no-one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion.” (Proverbs 28:1)

Dr Rousas Rushdoony, the American Reformed theologian, wrote in his book ‘*The Politics of Guilt and Pity*’: “*The political cultivation of guilt is a central means to power, for guilty men are slaves; their conscience is in bondage, and hence they are easily made objects of control. Guilt is thus systematically taught for purposes of control...*” 3) Indeed, guilt infusion and guilt manipulation are major weapons of our time, and a means of subjecting and exploiting whole nations. A well-known example is the exploitation of Western nations by Jewish demands for holocaust restitution. For this alleged injury world Jewry has claimed and received \$60 billion from Germany, 4) and \$10 billion from the USA, 5) plus a lot more from other countries. Could the instilling of guilt in young South Africans have similar material motives? After all, the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission* has laid the groundwork for the payment of ‘restitution.’

Assault on Religion

But the proposed school oath goes further. It seeks to force South African children into spiritual conformity with Humanism, which is the current world religion. “*The purpose of the politics of guilt is to enslave man,*” says Dr Rushdoony. “*Its strategy involves the destruction of meaning. First of all, this requires an assault on religion, on Biblical Christianity, in order to destroy the mainspring of meaning, faith in the triune God. It involves further an attack on the church, family, private and Christian schools, private associations, and every independent sphere...*” 6) Already, Bible reading and prayer have been taken out of most South African schools. Children, instead of learning to be accountable to God, are now to be asked to pledge slavish obedience to the State. Rushdoony says: “*The communist countries make all citizens slaves... In virtually all the world today, the citizenry is moving into slavery of the state...*” - “*The enslaving state speaks much of the privileges of being a ‘free nation.’*”

For instance, the “ *African states formed in the 1950s and 1960s ... became technically free nations, but ceased to be free peoples: their citizenry became slaves of the state.* ” 7)

With the proposed oath, South African school children are asked to confess the “*values of the Constitution.*” Now, the religious foundation of the Constitution is Humanism, and its values are entirely secular. Mrs Cheryllyn Dudley, a Member of Parliament of the *African Christian Democratic Party* (ACDP), says: “*While the ACDP supports a constitutional democracy, it voted against the constitution precisely because certain clauses diametrically oppose these values (mentioned in the pledge). For example, it is recognised as a higher authority than the Almighty God, protects the right to life of murderers and rapists, but denies the right to life of innocent unborn children, and it opened the door to pornography and same sex marriage.*” 8) - Humanism deifies Man, and its first principle is the denial of God and His values. Thus the *Humanist Manifesto* (of 1973) states: “*We begin with humans, not God. No deity will save us; we must save ourselves.*” 9)

Seventy percent of South Africans claim to be Christians. They allegedly hold to the Ten Commandments, especially to the first and greatest, which says: “*I am the LORD your God... You shall have no other gods before me.*” (Exodus 20:1) Hence they should ‘*not make for themselves an idol*’, and not ‘*misuse the name of the LORD their God*’. They should ‘*remember the Sabbath Day,*’ ‘*honour father and mother*’, and ‘*not murder, commit adultery, steal, give false testimony and covet their neighbours goods.*’ - The proposed school oath, if implemented, will however force an entire generation to abandon the commandments. It will take the youth of South Africa into an anti-God religion and orientate them toward a new god - the State. - But who voted for the South African State to be god? By what power could he enforce the oath? Is not the State in defiance of the Constitution? For the Constitution promises that “*everyone has the right to freedom of conscience, religion, thought, belief and opinion*”. (Bill of Rights, paragraph 15)

The proposed school oath will impose upon South Africa guilt, paganism and slavery, and therefore it is the duty of every church to resist it. It is the duty of every parent to protect his child against such a pledge. It is the duty of every teacher to prevent it from being enforced. It is the duty of every child to stay away from pledging ceremonies. Minister Naledi Pandor has asked for comments from the public, and thus every citizen should telephone or write to her at Tel. 012-312-5501, Fax 012-323-5989 or Tel. 021-465-7350, Fax 021-461-4788, or to e-mail her private secretaries at carmen.h@doe.gov.za, or whittle.g@doe.gov.za. You can also contact the Director-General, Mr Duncan Hindle, at 012-312-5422, Fax 012-323-5837, or Anele Kabingesi of the Education Portfolio Committee at akabingesi@parliament.gov.za or Tel 021-403-3760.

Pledge to Honour God

Instead of rejecting God, we should commit ourselves anew to Him. He has created and redeemed us, and all the blessings which South Africa enjoys come from Him. If children should need a pledge, one could consider the following one proposed by *Africa Christian Action*. It is a commitment to love and obey God, and it reads: “*We, the youth of South Africa, recognising that God has given us a beautiful country, honour Him by committing ourselves to show our gratitude for all His gifts. - We promise to work hard and to strive to become good citizens of our country, using our gifts and talents to honour God and serve other people by displaying the characteristics of diligence, integrity, and self-control. We will not lie, steal, or cheat. Neither will we tolerate amongst ourselves anyone who does. - We sincerely declare that we will uphold the Law of God as expressed in the Ten Commandments and summarised by our Lord Jesus Christ as loving God and loving our neighbour, and that we will try to the best of our ability, and with the help of our Lord and Saviour, to live in accordance with these standards. - We will do our best to care for all of God’s creatures and to improve our environment.*” - With a pledge like this South Africa would be revived with a new hope and a godly energy to build up rather than to tear down. And walking in the ways of Christ, she would be blessed.

May God bless you richly,
D. Scarborough.

Footnotes:

1. News 24, School oath: Yes or no? 12.2.2008
2. Dr Pieter Mulder, FF Plus Leader, Media Release: Parents and Learners must ignore Oath of Allegiance, 12.2.2008
3. Rousas J. Rushdoony, Politics of Guilt and Pity, Thoburn Press, Fairfax, Virginia, 1978.
4. Mark Weber, M.A. Die Wiedergutmachung als Plan und Wirklichkeit. Die westdeutschen Zahlungen an Israel und das Weltjudentum. Historical Revisionism – International and Independent Scientific Historical Research, USA.
5. Michael J Bazylar, Suing Hitler’s Willing Business Partners: American Justice and Holocaust Morality, Jewish Political Studies Review 16:3-4 (Fall 2004), Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs.
6. Rushdoony, page 37.
7. Ibid. page 27
8. Cheryllyn Dudley, ACDP, cited in SA School Children to be forced to give Pledge of Allegiance to the State, Africa Christian Action, 14.2.2008.
9. Humanist Manifesto 1973, Principle 1.

LETTER TO THE YOUTH

By Dr Lothar Gassmann, Germany*

Scriptures from the New King James Bible

Dear Friends, awake, you are being betrayed!

You have been told:

“Enjoy your sex-life, live out your sexual energies, then you will be happy!”

The Word of God says:

“Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God.” (Matthew 5:8)

“Fornicators and adulterers God will judge.” (Hebrews 13:4)

You have been told:

“Turn up your amplifiers, make deafening, ear-shattering music, then you will feel good!”

The Word of God says:

“In quietness and trust is your strength...” (Isaiah 30:15)

“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts... as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.” (Colossians 3:15f)

You have been told:

“Learn occult practices – magic, witchcraft, sorcery- then you will gain supernatural knowledge and power.”

The Word of God says:

“There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practises witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritualist, or one who calls up the dead. For all who do these things are an abomination to the Lord.” (Deuteronomy 18:10-12)

“But outside (of the heavenly city) are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practises a lie.” They have their part “in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.” (Revelation 22:15; 21:8)

You have been told:

“Unite, for all religions worship the same god!”

God says: “I am the Lord your God... You shall have no other gods before Me!” (Exodus 20:2f)

Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, says: “I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” (John 14:6)

You have been told:

“Everybody is a child of God, for the Holy Spirit lives in every human being.”

The Word of God says:

“But as many as received Him (Jesus Christ), to them He gave the right to become children of God, even so those who believe in His name: who were born... of God.” (John 1:12 f)

“And having been perfected, He (Christ) became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.” (Hebrews 5:9)

You have been told:

“Do not call anything ‘sin’, but rather ‘mistakes’, ‘accidents’, ‘slips’ and ‘misfortunes’! Good and evil are all the same.”

The Word of God says:

“Sin is a disgrace to any people.” (Proverbs 14:34)

“Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil, who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!” (Isaiah 5:20)

You have been told:

“Concentrate your mind on your inner being, for in yourself you find the truth if you meditate long enough!”

The Word of God says:

“Out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, and blasphemies. These are the things which defile a man.” (Matthew 15:19)

“I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells.” (Romans 7:18)

You have been told:

“Tolerate everybody’s faith, culture and way of life; may each one be happy with his/her own lifestyle!”

The Word of God says:

“Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the spirit of our God.” (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

Therefore:

Resist the deceivers in the media, in newspapers, magazines, radio, television and the internet, who talk about “love” but mean sexual immorality and lead you to ruin!

Follow the example of God’s Son Jesus Christ who is pure and holy and who shows us by His life and teaching what true love is!

Resist ecumenism and unBiblical religious unity.

Hold to the four “solas” of evangelical Protestantism: Sola Scriptura – The Bible alone; Solus Christus – Christ alone; Sola gratia – by grace alone; and Sola fide – by faith alone!

Resist an unBiblical addiction to signs and wonders!

Hold on to the greatest miracle: the wounds of our Lord Jesus Christ who gave His life on the cross for our redemption, and who wonderfully rose from the dead on the third day.

Resist a “fun culture” (which is prevalent even in so-called “Christian” circles), which degrades the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ to an object of entertainment and thus blasphemes the Holy God!

Hold on to the triune God who is holy and just, loving and merciful.

Stay away from mysticism which suggests that you have a “divine spark” within.

Hold on to the fact that the human heart is by nature wicked and lost, and that it can be redeemed and renewed only by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Resist a “music culture” which wants to win people for the Christian faith by using pagan elements (e.g. ecstatic rhythms, mantra-like repetitions or trance-inducing tunes)!

Hold on to melodious spiritual songs, flowing out of a quiet heart!

Resist the spirit of the times which is the spirit of the Deceiver!

Hold on to the Spirit of God Who separates you from this world which will pass away and who guides you into all truth!

“The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth.” (Psalm 145:18)

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HOW TO SUCCEED IN LIFE

“Trust in the Lord, and do good; ... Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desire of your heart. Commit your life to the Lord, trust also in Him...” (Psalm 37:3-5)

“Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added unto you.” (Matt.6:33)

“What does the Lord your God ask of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.” (Deuteronomy 10:12)

“Trust and obey, there is no other way.”