

GOSPEL DEFENCE LEAGUE
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Dear Friends,

In the process of 'transforming' South Africa, towns, streets, dams and air ports are being renamed. For instance, Pietersburg has become Polokwane, Stanger has become KwaDukuza, and Pretoria has virtually become Tshwane. Another 50 place name changes are to come. - In Pietermaritzburg some 19 streets were renamed. In Cape Town 37 streets are to be changed. And in Durban 181 new name proposals have caused angry protests from English, Afrikaans, Zulu and Indian South Africans. Johannesburg Airport is now called "O.R. Tambo International Airport". And people are wondering: Will Cape Town be baptised *iKapa* and Johannesburg *eGoli*?

Streets and buildings are being renamed after ANC heroes, such as Steve Biko, a Black Consciousness leader who, during the "struggle", died in prison; or Chris Hani, the assassinated head of the Communist Party; or Joe Slovo, the late alleged KGB colonel/SACP leader who planned means of terror; and after countless lesser lights. John Steenhuisen, the opposition Democratic Alliance's leader of the Durban Metro caucus, said: *"This kick-sand-in-your-face kind of approach from the ANC cannot go unchallenged. They are using their majority in council as a blunt instrument to push their will and narrow party political interests."* Tony Leon, the DA's former national leader, called the new names *"a rogues' gallery of Third World Revolutionaries."* 1) Even liberation theologians are favoured with street names, e.g. Catholic Archbishop Denis Hurley † and Dr Christiaan Beyers Naudé †, once head of the South African Council of Churches (SACC). Zulu names, too, are to be abolished, such as that of Princess Magogo, the mother of the IFP leader, after whom a Stadium is named, and the Mangosuthu Highway which is called after Buthelezi himself.

Obliterating the History of South Africa

Rev Shaun Willcock of Bible Based Ministries, Durban, says: *"The ruling black Marxist African National Congress (ANC) is steadily and deliberately obliterating the history of English and Afrikaans South Africans. This is seen, in a very practical way, in the recent countrywide 'renaming process'. Most of South Africa's cities and towns were planned, laid out, and built by English and Afrikaner South Africans – the two 'white tribes'. It is not surprising, then, that the cities and streets and buildings were for the most part named after various white leaders and heroes of the past. Even so, however, South Africa has always had beautiful place names in the black languages as well. But this is not good enough for the ANC. They have embarked on a deliberate policy of what they call 'transformation' ...by erasing the monuments to English and Afrikaans South Africans, renaming the cities, and renaming the streets after predominantly ANC terrorist 'heroes' and others. The plan behind this is to obliterate the history of the whites in SA, to make it appear as if they never came to these shores and never accomplished anything."* 2)

Obliterating the history of Christianity

Karl Marx taught that the first battlefield is the re-writing of history. In the "new South Africa" all past history has been declared "unjust", while all post-1994 history is hailed as "proudly South African". The preamble of the Constitution of South Africa begins with: *"We, the people, recognise the injustices of our past."* These words are the starting point of the "New South Africa". All generations which developed the country before the ANC came to power are accused of "injustice".

This claim is not only untrue, it is also a condemnation of God and Christ. Admittedly, there have been good and bad times, but South Africa was much shaped by faith in Jesus Christ, and was thus able to create a thriving Christian civilisation. Jesus says in Revelation 21:5: *"Behold, I make all things new."* So everything He touches, He utterly transforms. When He came to the African continent He civilised it. He established churches, missions, hospitals, universities, education, free enterprise, modern science, benevolence and charity. He taught a better and higher regard for human life. He set free many who were enslaved by witchcraft, demons, and fetishes. He released them from superstitious fears and magical beliefs

which destroy initiative and effort. Today South Africa has roads, railways, harbours, airports, electricity and computers. It has a stable supply of food. It has teachers, managers, doctors, professors, artisans and businessmen of a higher standard than all other sub-Saharan countries. Indeed, within only a century, South Africa was moved from stone age to space age with much goodwill and finance from the Whites.

Almighty God honours those who honour Him. When Jan van Riebeeck came to these desolate shores in 1652 he prayed that God might help him and his people to *“implant and expand the true Reformed Christian religion... to the praise and honour of His Name.”* The spirit of this prayer has permeated much of South Africa’s history. In a barren country depopulated by war, starvation, and death, there arose mealie fields, supermarkets, gold mines, and housing estates. Large numbers of Africans migrated to it and have increased to almost 50 million. In fact, many have prospered and *“become heavy and sleek.”* 3)

Pretoria

Though one should pay honour where honour is due, the South African authorities are now trying to wipe out the history of the Whites by superimposing their own people’s names. One interesting example is Pretoria. This history-rich city was established in 1855 and named after Andries Pretorius, the Christian Voortrekker leader who lived from 1798-1853. Even before the accession of the ANC, Pretoria was destined to be wiped off the map. In 1987, the liberation theologian Dr Allan Boesak, speaking against Apartheid and hailing the future ANC dispensation as the “New Jerusalem”, declared: *“The New Jerusalem is not a future world somewhere else. No, the New Jerusalem comes from heaven into this reality... this City does not need to wait for ‘eternity’. This new Jerusalem will arise from the ashes of all that which today is called Pretoria.”* 4)

Hence, on 5 December 2000, Pretoria was symbolically put to ashes, and the megacity of Tshwane was established. It was named after a mythical chief who may have lived in the area 200 years ago, although *“some Ndebele kings have never heard of him.”* - But *“the most plausible explanation,”* says the Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality, *“is that the name is derived from the Setswana word ‘tshwana’, meaning a black cow. During a time of drought and famine, a black cow was used as a principal part of a rainmaking ritual in which water was taken from the main river that flows through the area... and sprinkled on a black cow. The cow was then allowed to graze freely, under the belief that wherever the cow grazed, the land would become fertile and rain would fall.”* Tshwane thus means *“the place of the black cow.”* 5) In spite of this explanation the authorities erected a R1 million statue of chief Tshwane who, representing paganism, stands now in close proximity of Paul Krüger, the Christian President of the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek. 6)

Let those who build be honoured

The African National Congress came to power in 1994 and received with it every opportunity to build cities, dams, schools, hospitals, and roads to which to give the names of its honoured members. Thus there is no need to rob the honour of past historical figures, neither is it necessary to steal God’s glory. The ANC has inherited the richest and most powerful country in sub-Saharan Africa, and Thabo Mbeki, the State President, is regarded as the foremost leader in Africa. Such *‘riches and honour come (not from the struggles of the ANC, but) of God, and he reigns over all. In His hand is power and might; and in his hand it is to make great and to give strength unto all.’* (1 Chronicles 29:12) But God demands that those who enjoy the blessings must not forget to *‘glorify him and give thanks to him’* (Romans 1:21). In every generation God warned the Israelites, but they, being *“filled with food, became heavy and sleek. They abandoned the God who made them and rejected the Rock their Saviour...”* *“The LORD saw this and rejected them because he was angered by his sons and daughters. ‘I will hide my face from them,’ he said, ‘and see what their end will be... I will heap calamities upon them...”* (Deuteronomy 32)

Let us honour the great deeds of the past, remember their doers, and thank Heaven for them. God is giving South Africa ample opportunity to add to these deeds, to give tribute to those who do them, and to thank Him for all His blessings.

D. Scarborough.

Footnotes:

1. Shaun Willcock, Obliterating the History of the Whites in South Africa., June 2007. 2. Ibid. 3. National Department of Health, Strategic Plan 2000-2004. This states: *“The prevalence of over weight in adult males 45-59 years is 29% and 55% for females of the same age range, whereas obesity is 9% for males and 29% for females (SADHS 1998).”* 4. Dr Allan Boesak was then Vice President of the SA Council of Churches (SACC) and President of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC). He spoke in Frankfurt, Germany to a crowd of c. 100 000 people at the final rally of the Kirchentag on 21 June 1987. 5. City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality, from Wikipedia free encyclopedia, redirected from Tshwane. Internet. 6. Chief Tshwane statue finally unveiled, Internet.

CHRISTIAN WARFARE

Based on 'Faith in Action' by Dr Peter Hammond, chapters 17 and 18.

The Bible makes it clear that the Christian life is real serious warfare, not only against one's own self, but also against God's and one's own enemies, and against the devil. The man who perseveres under trial, "when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him." (James 1:12) He will not only be honoured by men but by God. - Every monument, every memorial, every name, thus bears witness to a great struggle, and documents a victory won or a battle lost. In a Christian civilisation such places are testimonies not only of the greatness of men, but also of the providence of God.

In principle Christian warfare is like any other warfare.

Weapons are issued (2 Corinthians 10:4)

"The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds."

Strategies are formulated (Luke 14:26-33)

"If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters – yes, even his own life – he cannot be my disciple. And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost... Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Will he not first... consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand?"

Espionage is exposed (Acts 20:29-30)

"I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them."

Commissions are given (Matthew 28:19-20)

"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age."

Battle cries are sounded (Ezekiel 33:3-9)

When the watchman "sees the sword coming against the land and blows the trumpet to warn the people, then if anyone hears the trumpet but does not take warning and the sword comes and takes his life, his blood will be on his own head. If he has taken warning, he would have saved himself. But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet to warn the people and the sword comes and takes the life of one of them, that man will be taken away because of his sin, but I will hold the watchman accountable for his blood. Son of man, I have made you a watchman... If you warn the wicked man to turn from his ways and he does not do so, he will die for his sin, but you will have saved yourself."

Opponents are disarmed (Colossians 2:15)

"Having disarmed the powers and authorities, he [God] made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross."

Captives are taken (2 Corinthians 10:5)

"God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered over the desert."

Prisoners are freed (Isaiah 51:14)

"The cowering prisoners will soon be set free; they will not die in their dungeon, nor will they lack bread."

And Victories are won (1 Corinthians 15:57)

"Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

We cannot have victory without a battle.

We need to look beyond our problems to God's solutions, beyond our needs to God's provision.

I have the power to face all circumstances through Christ who strengthens me.

"I can do everything through him who gives me strength." (Philippians 4:13)

If God be for me who can be against me.

"In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us." (Romans 8:37)

There is no sin so great but that God's grace is greater still. There is no problem so large but that God's answer is greater still. There is no enemy so strong but that Jesus is stronger still.

“Greater is HE who is in us than he who is in the world.” (1 John 4:4)

“Who will rise up for me against the wicked?

Or who will take a stand for me against evildoers?” (Psalm 94:16)

We are Christians, people with a message – a message of life and death.

We are soldiers of Christ engaged in a spiritual world war.

Let us wake up to the urgency of a world going to hell and a spiritual emergency in the Church. Truth is at stake as humanistic unchristian philosophies creep into the churches and sweep through the universities of our land. Newspapers, films, tapes, videos, books, TV programmes, and lectures are all too often promoting unbiblical standards and anti-Christian ideologies.

“The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.” (2 Corinthians 10:4-5)

If we love the Lord then we must obey him.

“If you love me, you will obey what I command.” (John 14:15)

If we love the lost then we must tell them the truth of the Scriptures.

“Just as a man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.” (Hebrews 9:27)

“Unless you repent, you will all perish.” (Luke 13:3)

“Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on him.” (John 3:36)

The priority of our time is to love God with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind (Mark 12:31).

This will involve “the fear of the Lord which is the beginning of wisdom.” (Proverbs 1:7)

“To fear the LORD is to hate evil.” (Proverbs 8:13)

“Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.” (Romans 12:9)

“Do not be overcome by evil; but overcome evil with good.” (Romans 12:21)

God’s soldiers (2 Timothy 2:3-4) must be willing (Philippians 1:20), dedicated (2 Timothy 4:7), disciplined (2 Timothy 2:4), motivated (Acts 20:24), obedient (1 Timothy 6:14), prepared (Ephesians 6:10-18), and alert (1 Peter 5:8).

They have to know that

Forgiveness conquers evil (Matthew 5:44; Romans 12:20; Colossians 3:13; Luke 17:4; Proverbs 25:21),

Love conquers hatred (1 Corinthians 13:4-7; 1 John 3:18; 1 John 4:16-18; Luke 6:27-36; John 13:34-35),

Faith conquers unbelief (Ephesians 6:16; Romans 10:17; James 2:26; 1 John 5:4; Hebrews 11, 1 Thessalonians 5:8),

The Holy Spirit conquers the flesh (Galatians 5; Romans 8; John 6:63; 1 John 4:4; 2 Corinthians 3:17),

The Word of God – the sword of the Spirit – is the truth that sets us free (Hebrews 4:12; Matthew 10:34; Ephesians 6:17; John 8:32; John 15:3; John 17:17).

The power of the blood of Jesus conquers sin (1 John 1:7; Revelation 12:11).

The angelic powers protect us (Acts 12:7; Psalm 91:11).

Prayer changes things (Acts 4:31; Acts 12:5,11; Daniel 9:3-19; John 17).

Praise conquers defeat (Joshua 6:20; 1 Kings 18:36-39).

The name of Jesus gives victory (Luke 24:47-49; John 16:23-24; Luke 10:17-19; Acts 3:6; 4:12; 16:18; Colossians 3:17).

A Christian is called by God to “fight the good fight of faith.” (1 Timothy 6:12) The Lord says: “Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God’s.” (2 Chronicles 20:15) God wins His battles. He has not programmed His children for defeat, but for victory and for honour. He has “not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” (2 Timothy 1:7) So we can gratefully say: “Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Corinthians 15:57) Human history is HIS Story, and the true honour of men is also the honour of God.

