

A Declaration of Solidarity with the Relevant Pentecostal Witness in South Africa

We, the undersigned, assembled in a special session at the sixth Conference on Pentecostal and Charismatic Research in Europe at Kappel a.A., Switzerland on July 6, 1991, make the following Declaration of Solidarity with the Relevant Pentecostal Witness in South Africa, although we are concerned about injustice wherever it reigns. We express our deepest appreciation to Nico Horn and Japie Lapoorta for their forthright challenge in calling the participants of this conference to break our silence, to repent and to assume our responsibility for the well-being of the church in South Africa.

We affirm that the Spirit of the Lord anointed Jesus for the expressed purpose of preaching good news to the poor and releasing the oppressed (Luke 4:18). As Pentecostals and Charismatics, we believe that the same Holy Spirit that anointed Jesus was transferred to the church of Pentecost, and was also outpoured in the non-racial church at Asuza Street, Los Angeles, as a divine empowerment to continue God's redemptive mission in the world. We believe that God desires love, justice and shalom to reign in the human family and in the whole creation.

We acknowledge the present progress towards democracy and the dismantling of apartheid as the work of the Spirit and rejoice that it was brought about by non-violent actions. We lament the fact that Pentecostals and Charismatics have taken so long to see the Spirit of God at work in these events and to follow the initiatives in their own churches.

We regret that we did not speak out courageously and consistently against apartheid and the political oppression and economic exploitation that this immoral system has caused for our brothers and sisters in South Africa. We also acknowledge our uncritical attitude in accepting the information disseminated by the media without independently verifying the facts about the ongoing struggle of the church in the South African situation.

Therefore, we repent of our apathy to the human suffering that has occurred, and continues to occur, in South Africa and we renew our commitment to the claims of the liberating gospel of Jesus Christ. As a consequence, we declare our solidarity with the Relevant Pentecostal Witness and its action plan (*A Relevant Pentecostal Witness*, P.O. Box 45244, Chatsglen 4012, RSA, p. 11) for bringing meaningful social change. Moreover, we pledge our tangible support in assisting the suffering black pentecostal church in South Africa in the tasks of proclaiming the gospel nurturing the church's koinonia and promoting love, justice and peace in society. We affirm those white Pentecostals and Charismatics who have joined in partnership with their black brothers and sisters.

We pray that those white Pentecostals and Charismatics resistant to change will come to cooperate with the work of the Spirit.

We pray for continuous change and reconciliation in South Africa in the process towards a non-racial free democracy.

We pray that the God who empowers the church by His Holy Spirit may help our brothers and sisters in providing a relevant witness to the good news proclaiming the saving death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Nkosi sikeleli iAfrika! God bless Africa!

James E. Bradley, American Baptist; Roger Cabezas, Pentecostal Mission of Fatih and Holiness, Costa Rica; Bertil Carlsson, Swedish Pentecostal Church; Barry Chant, Pentecostal, Australia; Edward Czajko, Pentecostal Church, Poland; Dariuz Cupial, Roman Catholic, Poland; Murray W. Dempster, Assemblies of God, U.S.A.; Gilbert Dias, Roman Catholic, Switzerland; Manuel Gaxiola, Apostolic Faith of Mexico; Peter Hocken, Roman Catholic, U.S.A.; Walter J. Hollenweger, Swiss Reformed; Nico Horn, Apostolic Faith Mission, Namibia; Harold D. Hunter, Church of God of Prophecy, U.S.A.; Henriette Kauffmann, Dutch Reformed; Japie J. Lapoorta, Apostolic Faith Mission, Rep. of South Africa; Henry Lederle, Reformed Church in America; Frank Macchia, Assemblies of God, U.S.A.; Kenneth McKinney, Swiss Reformed; Raymond Pfister, Bund Freier Pfingstgemeinden, Germany; Jean-Daniel Plüss, Swiss Reformed; Cecil M. Robeck Jr., Assemblies of God, U.S.A.; Trandafir Sandru, Pentecostals Church in Rumania; Russel Spittler, Assemblies of God, U.S.A.; Bobbie Spittler, Assemblies of God, U.S.A.; George Stotts, Assemblies of God, U.S.A.; Philly Stotts, Assemblies of God, U.S.A.; Cornelis van der Laan, Brotherhood of Pentecostal Churches, Netherlands; HuiBERT Zegwaart, Brotherhood of Pentecostal Churches, Netherlands.