

# 30 minutes in the company of SABC 3

Dear Lara

21h45  
05.03.03

## Christians (believers for that matter) are normal people with normal needs.

I conducted a midweek church service this evening and after a tough schedule of admin. and the rest of the day in the studio, I decided to "relax" in front of the TV.

SABC 3 was on with the program "My Family" (21h00). I enjoy comedy and looked forward to a enjoyable time. My two girls usually fall asleep in front of the TV and so it was this evening.

No less than six times words like "Oh my God, for God's sake", etc were used. It did not add to the success of the program, but only annoyed me. Why not switch off the television. On the other hand, why not leave it on. Why not maintain that I have an equal right to be heard and accommodated. After all, I pay my license fees like any other person. Don't you think expecting viewers to simply switch off the TV is a rather selfish and undemocratic way of handling this problem.

I refer in all fairness to the letter I received:

### You claim:

In place of censorship, there is now a new approach: the more bad language is used in a film or program, the more risqué or violent it is, the later it is broadcast - accompanied by clear warnings about the content.

UNTRUE - FACT OF THE MATTER IS, IT WAS ONLY 21H00, MY CHILDREN STILL AWAKE, AND 6 PROFANITIES IN 30 MINUTES. NO "P" SYMBOL WAS DISPLAYED, ONLY "PG".

### You claim:

Everyone now has the freedom to decide for themselves whether they

want to watch a programme or to switch off, after receiving clear and sufficient information about the content, in accordance with their own persuasions and system of values.

THERE WAS NO INFORMATION GIVEN THIS EVENING.

### You claim:

The Christian community, and individuals, have been informed over the years that the L warning symbol for bad language includes profanity.

NO SUCH A SIGN THIS EVENING. WHEN WAS THIS INFO GIVEN. WHY ARE BELIEVERS NOT SATISFIED. WHY NOT CREATE A MECHANISM THAT CAN ACCOMMODATE THE REASONABLE CONCERNS OF MOST OF YOUR VIEWERS?

### You claim:

The SABC, M-Net and e-tv have workshopped the issue together with the Broadcasting Complaints Commission (BCCSA), the Film and Publications Board (FPB), and the Independent Communications Authority (ICASA). The consensus was that the number of symbols used should be limited in order to avoid confusion; that a B symbol would be inappropriate, since we do not broadcast blasphemous programming; that broadcasters could use a P for 'prejudice', which would include religious and other controversial themes, if they considered it appropriate; and that the L should include profanity, as people who objected to expressions such as "Oh my God!" were most likely to be offended by other bad language as well.

WHEN DID THIS MEETING TAKE PLACE. DO YOU STILL MAINTAIN THAT THE SABC DOES NOT BROADCAST BLASPHEMOUS PROGRAMS.

Yours - Rev Jannie Pelsler

**THIS LETTER WAS NEVER ANSWERED.**

*Supports the Jesus Project*

**BESTER & VILJOEN**  
ondersteun die Jesus Projek

# Bishop Dandala speaks out



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February 12 2003

Dear Rev Pelsler

## RE: Misuse of the Name of God

As the Presiding Bishop of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa it is my pleasure to wholeheartedly endorse The Jesus Project. At a time when moral renewal and moral regeneration rank as the highest priorities in South Africa, the misuse of the name of God, has become a burning issue.

I believe that a further detrimental outworking of such misuse, is that it seriously undermines and impedes the moral transformation process towards which we all strive.

As a Christian, I also note with deep appreciation, that a major cinema chain is investigating the possibility of classifying films with a "B" for blasphemy in which the name of the Creator is misused. As beneficiaries and stakeholders who represent a sizeable constituency, it is our hope that this bold move will be replicated not only by the public broadcaster and general electronic media, but also by the written media and theatrical production houses as well.

I further undertake to promote this initiative on the various regulatory bodies on which the Methodist Church serves.

I commend the organisers of The Jesus Project for their enthusiasm and unflinching commitment to an issue which is widely supported by members of all faiths.

In the name of the One whom we serve

**Mvume H Dandala**  
Presiding Bishop of the Methodist Church  
of Southern Africa.

*A Christ-healed Africa for the Healing of Nations*

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*Ds Jannie Pelsler en gesin*

# Vir wie dit mag aangaan

**Die volgende e-pos is onlangs ontvang:**

Hiermee bevestig ek dat die AGS van SA die JESUS PROJEK teen die misbruik van die naam van die Here heelhartig ondersteun. Daar was die afgelope paar jaar toenemende ongelukkigheid by groot getalle Christene vir die matelose onsensitieweit wat in die algemeen deur die filmbedryf

geopenbaar word. t.o.v. die waardes van Christene - veral i.v.m. die misbruik van die naam van die Here. Die AGS vereenselwig hom ten volle met die doelwitte, mikpunte en modus operandi van die JESUS PROJEK.

Dankie by voorbaat dat u die aangeleentheid met die nodige begrip en erns hanteer.

**Dr Isak Burger**  
President - AGS van SA