

JASA

Justice Alliance of South Africa

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NEWSLETTER NO 3 JUNE 2008

Just a short update for those of you who have not subscribed to media releases.

- **We have been immensely busy and badly need more help in the office.**
We need:

1. A bookkeeper for one day a month. Here's a chance for a retired person to earn some pocket money!

2. Somebody with legal training or experience to share the load with Tina and me.

- I am delighted to pay tribute to Dr Frank Muller who has given us a great deal of time and expertise in setting up a second website which provides facilities for web donations and web registration for our various information releases.
- **Circumcision case:** It's not plain sailing! Opposition from the Nkosi caused SABC to withdraw their documentary in which John was a contributor. The Chiefs were not served with the papers and John's trip to East London for the Directions Hearing was abortive. But the papers have now been properly served – it's the Court's responsibility – and we expect a new date before the end of June. The whole issue of community rights vs individual rights is fascinating and of course the President has been talking about *ubuntu* in his address to the nation about the Xenophobia crisis.
- Talking of which, we feel we should have a voice on this crisis and are planning a media release this weekend to coincide with the launching of eTV24 News on Sunday.
- The **DFL Theatre Sister case** continues to give major problems – but I cannot put out anything about the latest glitch at present.

Executive Board

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Nigel Desmond, Roger Gifford, John Smyth

- The **Langebaan racism case** is due for its Directions Hearing in Wynberg on June 12. We are looking for the right Afrikaans advocate to do it for us pro bono.
- **The Firearms Compensation case** has taken up a large slice of my time in May. We now have a number of excellent witnesses to ready to swear affidavits when I can get round to drafting them. I have drafted the Court papers and I meet with our attorneys to discuss the drafts this Wednesday May 28th.
- **Mrs Pillay's ghastly abortion experience with Mariue stopes** in Cape Town remains a matter we very much want to pursue but we can only do it with her full cooperation which is lacking at present.
- In April I attended the **NIRSA (National Initiative for Reformation in South Africa)** conference called by Michael Cassidy and the Evangelical Alliance of SA Churches. It was a very worthwhile time. And then in May I was asked to speak on the topic of **"Using the Constitution to Shape SA's Future"** at the **His People Nation Building Conference** attended by 350 Pastors from all over the southern Africa region.
- On June 6 I have accepted an invitation to speak at a **Business persons' Breakfast** organised by Common Ground Church, so it seems that the opportunities for raising the profile of JASA are increasing.
- Anne and I now host a fortnightly **UCT students group** – mainly medical students hungry for help on ethical issues – but some budding lawyers as well; we see this as very strategic.
- **Parliament** (and the 100+ Bills scheduled to go through this year) has not been forgotten. Everyday we monitor what is happening through 'Legalbrief' and Parliamentary Monitoring Group. We are biding our time with the Scorpions' abolition bills, and keeping an eagle eye on several others.

Anne and I will be taking a break during the legal vacation in July (except for speaking at the Christian Medical Fellowship Conference on July 10), so the next newsletter will be probably August.

Warmest greetings and thanks for your support,

John, Anne, Tina, Gil and Frank

JASA Account

Standard Bank Constantia Branch 025309 Acc No 252844475

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