

Tutu in disagreement with church's stand on gays

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Archbishop Desmond Tutu, in the first authorized biography of the Nobel peace laureate, said he was ashamed of his Anglican Church's conservative position that rejected gay priests.

In the book, "Rabble-rouser for Peace" by his former press secretary John Allen, Tutu also criticized the last apartheid president, F.W. de Klerk, for not accepting accountability for apartheid atrocities. He said the failure caused him to regret having nominated de Klerk, along with Nelson Mandela, for their 1993 Nobel Peace Prize. Excerpts from the book were scheduled to be appear in South Africa on Friday and the biography was scheduled for release in time for Tutu's 75th birthday on Oct. 7.

The retired archbishop was critical of Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams for bowing on the gay priest issue to conservative elements, particularly African bishops, in the 77-million member Anglican Church

that includes Episcopalians in the United States.

In a 1998 letter to Williams predecessor, Archbishop George Carey, Tutu wrote he was "ashamed to be Anglican." It came after the Lambeth Conference of Bishops rejected the ordination of practicing homosexuals saying their sexual relations were "incompatible with scripture."

Tutu also said he was deeply saddened at the firing caused by the appointment of openly gay V. Gene Robinson as bishop of New Hampshire in 2003.

"He found it little short of outrageous that church leaders should be obsessed with issues of sexuality in the face of the challenges of AIDS and global poverty," wrote Allen.

As archbishop, Tutu criticized but could not change a policy in South Africa that said gay priests would be tolerated as long as they remained celibate. He did approve church blessings for gay and lesbian relationships, without calling them marriage. He also pushed for

the ordination of women, and when it was approved quickly appointed The Rev. Wilma Jakobsen as his chaplain.

Tutu's criticism of de Klerk stems from when Tutu was chairman of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which offered perpetrators of apartheid crimes amnesty if they told the truth about their activities. During the hearings, Tutu sometimes wept along with the victims of human rights abuses.

Allen wrote that the process left Tutu disappointed with some political leaders, particularly de Klerk, who he believed had not accepted accountability for apartheid atrocities.

De Klerk was not directly implicated in state-sponsored violence, Allen wrote, but had been aware of "mayhem" as a result of activity by the security forces. In an interview with the author, de Klerk acknowledged he failed to follow up suspicions security forces were committing human rights abuses.

Car dealership draws fire

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBUS, Ohio — A car dealership's tongue-in-cheek radio advertisement declaring "a jihad on the automotive market," will not be changed, the company said, despite drawing sharp criticism that the ad's content is offensive.

Several stations rejected the spot from Dennis Mitsubishi, which boasts that sales representatives wearing "burqas" — head-to-toe traditional dress for Islamic women — will sell vehicles that can "comfortably seat 12 jihadists in the back."

The Columbus chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations decried the ad as disrespectful.

"Using that as a promotional pitch when so many are dying from the criminal activity of suicide bombers, that's not funny," chapter president Asma Mobin-Uddin said. "I don't think it's appropriate when it causes real pain. It exploits or promotes misunderstanding in terms already misunderstood or misused."

In the ad, Keith Dennis of Dennis Mitsubishi talks about "launching a jihad on the automotive market."

The ads will begin airing next week, dealership general manager Aaron Masterson said, although it was unclear whether any radio stations had accepted the spot. A message was left seeking additional comment at Dennis Mitsubishi on Saturday.

Ministry provides porn escape

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McDandel said New Dawn/New Day is not just a Grand Strand stand-alone ministry.

Throughout the country, there is a network of such ministries and individuals, who have come out of the industry, supporting each other in the efforts of offering

help to those in need. Some include: New Friends/New Life in Texas; Beauty from Ashes Ministries Inc. in Florida; Wellspring of Living Water in Georgia; and the Mary Magdalene Project in California.

New Dawn/New Day wants to continue to enhance its program so that it can meet the

needs of its participants and their children, McDandel said.

"This ministry is for women who truly want to live life differently," she said. "It has to be their choice to want to come in the program. No one can call for them."

Hired to cleanse properties

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A farmer in Louisa called her because he couldn't get any crops to grow in a field. She said she saw a Civil War battle being replayed over and over. "Always in a war, the first thing they want to know is, 'Who won?'"

Wall said she can hardly breathe when she goes to the 17th Street Farmers' Market in Shoccoe Bottom, where slaves were once sold. "The energy there is oppressive."

Wall charges \$150 to clear a house. She moves from room to room with a white candle, making the sign of the cross and three clockwise circles, and a brush of smoking sage. Spirits don't like the smell of sage, she said.

"It's like when you clean your house of dust bunnies—only I clean the energy," she said. "I try to make it normal and not spooky."

Peggy Binford, a Richmond agent for 28 years, says she uses Wall's clearing services if she feels something isn't right in a house.

"Sometimes clients know, sometimes they don't, depending on how they would take it," she said.

In one situation, Binford sold a property to a couple who spent two hours in an uncleared house during a

home inspection. The woman got so agitated sitting in the house that she couldn't go through with the deal, Binford said.

Binford called Wall for a clearing, then sold the house to someone else.

A Richmond art and music promoter who didn't want to be named said he called Wall to do a clearing after he and his wife moved into a house.

He said he sensed a presence. His wife didn't. Their cat clawed and meowed at a closet door.

Wall did the clearing. "It felt like a weight had been lifted," he said. And the cat stopped fixating on the door.

Houses that were crime scenes can be heavy as well. Wall has not been to the south Richmond homes where musician Bryan Harvey, his wife and their two daughters were killed on Jan. 1 and where three people in another family were slain on Jan. 6. But she takes readings of the homes to sense their spirits and to determine what it would take to get them to move on.

Wes Atyeh, president of the Richmond Association of Realtors, said he doesn't believe houses are marred by unfortunate incidents.

"They can be overcome," he said.

Neither sellers nor agents in Virginia are required to disclose facts or occurrences, including crimes or suicides, that have no effect on the physical property.

The law says nothing about the spiritual side. Many would argue if there were such a thing.

"People react one of two ways when they find out what I do," Wall said. "They say, 'OK,' and change the subject—or they want to know more."

Americans generally hesitate to talk about spirits for fear of being labeled quacks. People from other cultures seem more open to the possibility.

Paul Vu, who is Vietnamese, said people from his culture would put death—whether natural or not—at the top of the list as a reason not to buy a house.

"We do not take death lightly," said Vu, a Richmond real estate agent. "People are scared by the spirit. You can't touch it, see it or smell it, but something is there."

If the death occurred in the family and the house is passed on through generations, that is different, Vu said.

"If it's a family member, you have sympathy. You're not afraid of your own family"

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