

Apostolic Christian Church Nazarene

Second Avenue, North Altona

Victoria

To Whom it May Concern

My wish is to bring to light the injustice that is taking place in our Church community. We, as Christians, need to be able to voice our feelings within our congregation but that is forbidden to us, not by God, but by our Ministers and our church Elders.

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When any member of the congregation wishes to convey their opinion on decisions that are being made, decisions which will inevitably effect the community as a whole, we are censured. Occasionally, we are punished with religious sanctions because our views are in opposition to the plans of the Ministers and Elders.

It appears that if a member of the congregation is not in agreement with them, they have no right to voice their disagreement.

We migrated to Australia because of its attitude to Freedom of Speech yet we are denied this in our own Church by our Elder Paul Pentsa and Assistant Elders: Janko Tomek and Vladimir Papuga. They apparently, do not respect our right to speak freely.

In particular, I refer to their cunning move to sell our Church building (at the above address) **without** the support of the majority of the congregation.

I use the word "cunning" because, knowing that the majority of the Church community would NEVER agree to sell the building, they went to the Titles Office and claimed that the Title for the Church building had been "lost" and a new one was needed. With a few "dishonest" witnesses in tow, claiming the Title had indeed been lost, the unsuspecting Titles Office, granted a new Title.

The original Title is in safe-keeping by those who will not see it sold. Those members, many of whom are the original members who took out, and paid off the loan when the church was being built in 1973.

Our reasons for not wanting our Church sold are many. The main reason is that many of the congregation are elderly. They have been attending that same Church for the past **39 years**. They cannot travel (and many do not drive) to where the Elders and Ministers are planning to build a new church – in Werribee.

But our words continue to be silenced, our tears are ignored and all our attempts at reason are in vain.

We ask that this unjust act, that is not from God, be stopped so that those who wish to attend church are able to do so.

Churches are not built on farms, out the back of nowhere, but where its members live.

What's more, the majority of those, now wishing to sell the Church, were not even born when our Church was built in 1973. How is it possible, before God or in legal terms, for people who had no involvement in its construction, to now claim power over its sale?

With God's help, I plead that the laws of this wonderful country put a stop to this injustice. We are good Christian people who are simply asking for the freedom of speech - so that we too can voice our opinions and our adamant opposition to the sale of our Church.

I hope, that with God's help, you will show the Brothers and Sisters of our congregation, compassion and understanding in our plight. We are under immense pressure to agree to something that we know in our hearts to be wrong.

We sincerely thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.

Please refer to the following Elders/Assistant Elders who are at the centre of the push to sell our church:

- Paul Pentsa  
34-36 Sharni Court  
Heritage Park, Qld 4118
  
- Janko Tomek  
40 Sycamore St  
Hoppers Crossing, Vic 3029
  
- Vladimir Papuga  
18 Phoenix Avenue,  
Hoppers Crossing, Vic 3029

*This letter has been sent to VCAT (Victorian Civil Administrative Tribunal)  
GPO Box 5408 Melbourne Vic 3001*