



# A National Dialogue:

## The theological basis for restitution in SA

The Restitution Foundation's newsletter summarizing the discussion

Issue 1 August 2011

### Asking theologians ...

The Restitution Foundation's "National Dialogue" has been rather overtaken by the passionate response to [Archbishop Desmond Tutu's](#) suggestions for a "wealth tax"! The resulting debate illustrates so clearly that the theological mandate for restitution is contested. Consequently the Restitution Foundation has invited leading South Africa theologians to participate in a virtual discussion, linked with its ongoing web based National Dialogue, on *The Role of restitution in South Africa* ([www.restitution.org.za](http://www.restitution.org.za)) with a particular focus on the question of the theological basis for restitution in our context.

This newsletter offers an accessible summary of some of the responses received so far, with easy links to the larger debate, with the purpose of engaging theologians and religious leaders in the discussion. If you would like to comment please email [deon.snyman@telkomsa.net](mailto:deon.snyman@telkomsa.net).



**Prof Thias Kgatla**  
(Faculty of Theology,  
University of Pretoria)

It is a grievous [sin] mistake to try to short-circuit the process of lasting reconciliation by skipping restitution. ([Read More](#))



**The Most Rev Dr Thabo Makgoba** (Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town)

As a person of faith, I believe restitution is quite simply, the 'right thing to do.' ... At a practical, restorative level, perhaps the State, in partnership with business, should enact symbolic repentance. ([Read More](#))



**Prof Ernst Conradie**  
(Department of Religion & Theology, University of the Western Cape)

Restitution is a way of recognising the long term impact of centuries of economic domination in the name of the differences of race, class, civilisation and religion. ([Read More](#))



**Dr Braam Hanekom** (Moderator, Dutch Reformed Church, Western & Southern Cape)

Ons sal eerlik en reguit met mekaar oor restitusie moet praat. Tans is daar baie emosie, en wanpersepsies wat die gesprek beïnvloed. In so 'n gesprek gaan alle partye dinge hoor waarvan hulle nie hou nie. Ons mag nie daarvoor terugdeins nie. ([Read More](#))



**Prof Tinyiko Maluleke**  
(Executive Director, Research, UNISA)

Restitution is an acknowledgement that unjust and broken human relations are historical, material, spiritual and all encompassing – affecting blacks and white, rich and poor, men and women, straight and gay... ([Read More](#))



**Dr Moss Nthla** (General Secretary, Evangelical Alliance)

Restitution gives meaning to the concept of reconciliation beyond confession. ([Read More](#))

Restitution Foundation:  
[www.restitution.org.za](http://www.restitution.org.za)