

# Programme

## PLENARY SESSIONS

20 JUNE 2024

## Thursday

**INTRODUCTION TO THE WILBERFORCE ACADEMY**

**BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS: THINKING CHRISTIANLY**  
*Keith Matthee SC*

## SEMINARS & VOCATIONAL APPLICATION

21 JUNE 2024

## Friday

**GOSPEL AND CULTURE**  
*Andrew Marsh*

**LEGISLATING MORALITY**  
*Ryan Smit*

**WHAT IS TRUTH? WHAT IS LOVE?**  
*Afrika Mhlophe*

**PHILOSOPHICAL CAPTURE OF SOCIO-CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS**  
*Simon Brace*

**DEMOCRACY UNDER THREAT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA – WHERE IS GOD?**

### SEMINARS:

- Identity and Gender
- The problem of the resource scarcity mindset
- Christian Education

22 JUNE 2024

## Saturday

**THE VALUE OF LIFE**  
*Keith Matthee SC*

**COUNTING THE COST: WHEN NATIONS ABANDON GOD'S PATTERN FOR LIFE, FAMILY AND FREEDOM**  
*Andrew Marsh & Ryan Smit*

**NAMIBIA AT A CROSSROADS**  
*Shirley Magazi*

**THEOLOGY OF VOCATION AND WORK**  
*Andrew Duminy*

**NAMIBIA'S CALL TO BE FAITHFUL AND FRUITFUL**  
*Shirley Magazi*

### VOCATIONAL APPLICATION:

- Law & Public service
- Education
- Ministry
- Business

# Speakers include



## **KEITH MATTHEE**

*Senior Advocate*

Keith was admitted as an advocate in 1979. He left law for eight years to work for the Student Christian Association and then for the Methodist Church. From 1981 to 1982 he was based at St Aldates, Oxford. In 1987 he obtained a Bachelor of Divinity degree, majoring in New Testament Studies and Hellenistic Greek. He returned to work as an advocate in 1987. Since 1991 he has served in an adjudicating role in various forums, including serving as Acting Judge in various High Courts. In 2002 he was appointed Senior Counsel by President Mbeki. At present he is researching philosophical and ethical issues related to the Bill of Rights, while continuing to practice as an advocate. Keith has authored five books to date, one of which is co-authored with his wife, Roslyn. They have three children, five granddaughters and one grandson.



## **AFRIKA MHLOPHE**

*Author, speaker and public commentator*

Afrika Mhlophe is a gifted teacher of the Bible who ministers on various platforms in South Africa and abroad. He is a sought-after speaker and thinker and has featured at Mighty Men Conferences throughout the country. He runs and facilitates workshops and seminars for companies focusing on leadership, diversity, wellness, time-management, etc. He hosts a TV and radio programme called 'Pressing Matters' which deals with contentious and contemporary issues from a biblical perspective. He is the author of four books, including the South African best-seller, 'Freed by God but imprisoned by Culture'. Afrika is a PhD candidate with Trinity College.



## **ANDREW DUMINY**

*Advocate and farmer*

Andrew and his wife Deirdre live and farm in the Eastern Cape where they have raised cattle, sheep, horses, dogs and their three children. He practices as an advocate in diverse fields, including accountable governance, fiduciary relationships, community interests and abuses of power. Andrew has lived out and wrestled with various vocations: Christian, husband, father, son, friend, elder, leader, teacher, advocate, farmer and community member. We are all called to live responsibly and well in each role that we are given. Andrew discusses practical ways in which to face the challenges and pressures that derail and prevent us from fulfilling our vocations. He suggests further that cultural lenses have polarized South Africans and keep us from finding solutions to burning issues such as state capture, corruption, land reform and political transformation. A Christian worldview and practical application of Biblical principles can free us from many of the shackles that continue to bind us.



### **ANDREW MARSH**

*Head of Operations, Christian Concern*

Andrew currently oversees operations, supporter engagement and organisational development at Christian Concern. Within this role, he is responsible for the Wilberforce Academy. Prior to this role, he led campaigns for Christian Concern and was involved in parliamentary, public policy and media engagement. Previous employers include a local church, a corporate research agency and a large multinational



### **DEBBIE-SUE BLANKS**

*Assistant Director of ACSI (Association of Christian Schools International)*

Debbie-Sue has worked in Christian school education since 1998 and is currently the Southern Africa Assistant Director of ACSI where she mentors and supports Christian school leaders in parts of Gauteng and KZN. Much of her Christian school experience has been overseas, from 2000-2019, working for a large organization that has international schools in China and the middle East. Debbie-Sue began her journey in Christian education as a science teacher and then moved into school leadership as the Head Principal of 3 International Schools. Working for ACSI, she is blessed to visit and encourage Christian school leaders in their ministry and to train their staff to intentionally encourage spiritual formation in the lives of their students.



### **RYAN SMIT**

*Executive Director and Legal Counsel, Cause for Justice*

Ryan is a practicing attorney and has been serving as the Executive Director and Legal Counsel of Cause for Justice over the past six years. His work focuses on engaging in public policy development, governmental decision-making, law-making and litigation in the public interest. Originally hailing from Moorreesburg in the Swartland, Ryan obtained the degrees B Com (Law), and LLB, and after spending two years in the UK (London) on a church plant, qualified as an attorney and obtained a Master's in Taxation. After a six-year career as corporate tax consultant, he opened an attorneys' practice in Stellenbosch and co-founded Cause for Justice in 2013. During 2018, he transitioned to a full-time position with Cause for Justice. Ryan spent 2022 piloting and incubating the Wilberforce Academy in South Africa together with 20 faculty members and a small team. In January 2023, they launched the first annual Wilberforce Academy South Africa. Ryan is married to Elze-Mari and they have two pre-school daughters.