

Valley Pentecostal Church, Sheffield.d.txt

From: John Raby [johnraby86@yahoo.co.uk]

Sent: 25 January 2002 15:03

To: ownershipconsultation@culture.gov.uk

Subject: Christian TV & Radio.

Dear Tessa Jowell

I am writing in regard to your request for views on the whole subject of whether Christian organisations should be allowed to apply for licences to broadcast on TV and radio. I want to say straight away that I think it is absolutely great that you have bothered to ask our opinion on this matter - it makes me think that the Labour government is really listening to the people.

I am a church minister with the Assemblies of God (one of the largest Pentecostal denominations in the UK), and I am proud of Britain's long and distinguished Christian history. However, I am saddened that in this supposedly 'Christian country' (and I know that we are a multi-cultural society, but I still believe that we are essentially Christian in nature), there is so little Christian programming on the TV and radio. I am also equally dismayed that Christians are not allowed to even apply for licences to broadcast, when I feel that such programming would be beneficial, helpful and morally uplifting (instead of the endless round of violence and sex that is often offered to us by the media).

Please can you and your government colleagues seriously consider our honest and open desire to provide Britain with quality radio and TV programming of a Christian nature. I strongly believe that the more society drifts away from the eternal values of the Bible, the more society will experience moral decline and breakdown in the years to come. Aside from all of this, I believe that the Christians of this country deserve the freedom to apply for these licences; a freedom which is the possession of every democratic, and Christian country.

Thank you for taking time to read this e-mail. I trust that you will be successful in your quest to forge ahead in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Rev. John Raby
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