

AE FAMILY LETTER

February, 1993

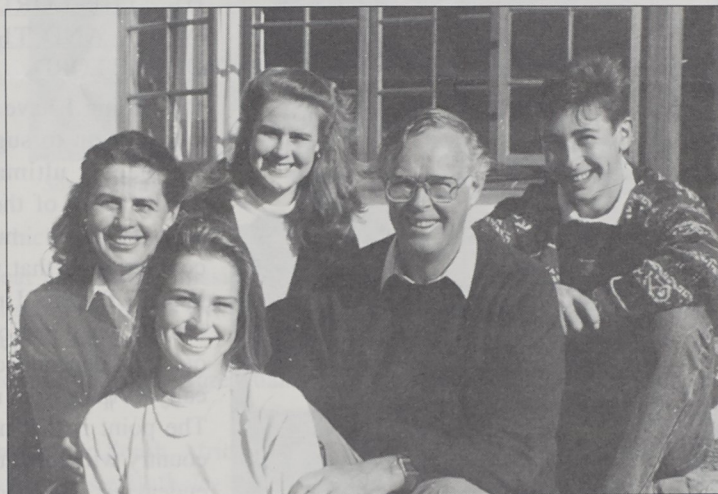
African Enterprise
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3200

Our Very Dear Friends,

I. OUR PRAYER FOR YOU

As 1993 gets under way, Carol, our family and I, along with the whole AE family, send you our best wishes and prayers for this new year. May the Lord garrison your souls with His inner might and may Psalm 91 (look it up and claim it) be your portion in terms of physical, emotional and psychological protection. Please also register Paul's prayer in Col. 1:11 — "May you be strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might for all endurance and patience with joy." It is an amazing prayer and so relevant for all of us as Christians in South Africa right now. You see, Paul's word in the original Greek for endurance means "fortitude" and the special ability to cope with ALL CIRCUMSTANCES. His Greek word for patience speaks of the ability to cope with ALL PEOPLE!! In other words, he is praying for you, as we are, that through the special power of God, you may not be weighed down or overwhelmed by problematic people. He wants us to be able to cope in joy, no less, with everything and everyone! What a prayer! I give it to you and claim it for all of us in 1993.

All of which leads me to say a few words about the country.



Down at AE with the family — all of us greet you.

II. THE COUNTRY

Only the deaf, dumb or blind would be unaware that our situation is becoming increasingly serious and critical. My own gut-feeling is that 1993 is likely to be a make or break year. My prayer is that everyone reading this letter, and every Christian throughout South Africa, along with all others who make no such profession, would resolve that we make this a truly solution-seeking year. Please, please, please do not allow the massively complex and indeed discouraging dimensions of the macro situation to paralyse you into doing nothing about your own micro situation. I am fully persuaded that South Africa is not going to be saved at a leadership level,

thoroughly vital though that is. It will be saved as every person in a Dunkirk-type effort moves out with their own little yacht or rowing boat or dingy of individual effort in order to rescue the nation from the Normandy-type peril of the forces of violence, reaction, bitterness and vendetta which threatens to engulf us. As all those ordinary little people sailed into the stormy seas to rescue the British army from the beaches of Dunkirk in May, 1940, so you can sail your little boat of positive and godly contribution into the stormy seas of South Africa to help bring rescue at this time. A key component in all of this will lie in the degree to which every person, and especially every Christian person, maintains a positive, courageous, hopeful and pro-active spirit in their own hearts.

Let me say at this point, without wanting to be unduly melodramatic or alarmist, that I believe darkness could engulf this country in the coming few years unless we move in the spirit I have outlined above. In December



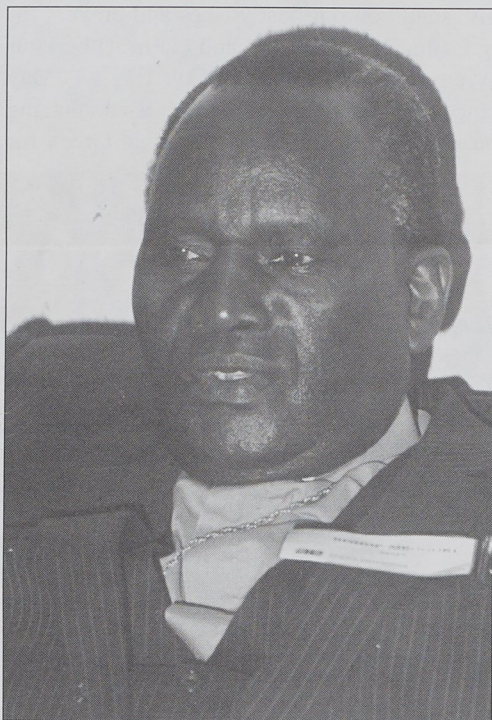
The whole Pan-African Team — Harambee, August, 1992.

last year I had probably the most vivid dream, possibly a vision, I have ever had. I was in a cheerful, sunlit valley with friends and family when in, second the sky began to cloud over and become darker and darker until suddenly the sky, like the underside of a great lid on top of a three-legged putu pot, became pitch black and slowly extinguished an ever-diminishing rim of light on the horizon, and there was total darkness, I cried out in anguish: "It is pitch dark at midday" and followed this with a strangled prayer of one word — "JESUS!" I woke electrified, alert and traumatised and began to reflect and pray for quite some while. The main feature of the vision was the speed with which day turned to night and light to darkness.

Historically it was like an overnight happening, the sort of thing which Clem Sunter calls "the Yugoslav dive".

My understanding in praying about it was that the Lord was not giving this as a prophecy of what would happen but as a warning of what could happen. It certainly need not happen and I do not believe it will if the Lord's people especially will rise in energetic faith, in earnest intercession, and in proactive initiatives of peace, justice, reconciliation and ultimately national transformation. May I also encourage you, wherever you are, and if you are in a position to do so, to help facilitate the provisions of the National Peace Accord. Get a copy of the document, pray over it, and see what the Lord would have you do.

In any event, we can be profoundly thankful that we are called to live in such stirring times. May all of our endeavour at this historic time bring forth a new sunrise of hope and healing for our land.



Bishop YOHANA MBOGORI ... his experience in From Africa with Love proved invaluable when he revisited SA as a peacemaker.

such as our own, covet intercessory prayer. The perils of discouragement or temptation or stupidity or wrong use of time are always around us and the devil and all his minions are busy about the destruction of the Lord's people. This kind of insight has come afresh to Nellis du Preez who was invited recently to a major International Prayer and Intercessory Conference in Jerusalem. He came back with the compelling message: "Everything we are on about is about Jesus, prayer, and getting the Gospel message out." Let these priorities therefore be upon us, beloved friend, and may we all love and serve the Lord of the Work even more than the Work of the Lord.

IV. HARAMBEE '92 AND AFTERMATH

The overflow from our Harambee '92 celebrations and the From Africa with Love ministry continues in a number of ways. Many new mission opportunities are arising and many wonderful new relationships for which we praise God. Various churches which gave us special encouragement at that time, such as St Luke's in Johannesburg and Hatfield Christian Church in Pretoria, make us appreciate in a new way the encouragement and support which we get from churches and the Lord's people around South Africa. Our own fervent hope and prayer is that the AE ministry itself may be likewise an encouragement and Barnabas ministry to the Church in this nation.

I dearly wish we could report to you in detail the fruit of some of the backstage and private initiatives with leadership which



NELLIS at the AE Prayer Chapel on the pond at AE.

III. THE LORD OF THE WORK AND THE WORK OF THE LORD

Everything I have said above might seem to suggest that I am placing ultimate priority on the work of the Lord. In actual fact, my strong conviction is that we need to be majoring in new ways on the Lord of the Work. By this I mean that we must not forget our love relationship with Christ, our devotional life, our prayers, our Bible study, our witnessing and our total dependence upon Him. In John 15:5 Jesus said simply but emphatically: "Apart from me you can do nothing." That is as true now as it was then. The point is that nothing we want to achieve in our ministries, churches or country will come to anything unless He is blessing and saying "Amen" to our endeavour. Beyond that we have to register that we are not saved primarily to serve the Lord, but primarily to love the Lord. Many of us busy-bees need to remember this.

I also believe that there are many great and grave forces of darkness and evil ranged against all of us, and especially any who are involved in Christian ministry. That is why all of us in AE, and many other people in ministries



TED ENGSTROM stepped down as Chairman of our USA Board. He will continue to serve on the board as he has done for the past 25 years.

have emerged from the From Africa with Love ministry. Some of these have been really astonishing with incredible new relationships set up right across the board from left to right. Into these we are seeking to pour both prayer and effort to seek the healing of our nations. These efforts will be ongoing throughout 1993 but in all likelihood we will not be able to publish them or share them publicly. We simply ask for your prayers that the Lord would guide and provide all the way.

Bishop Yohana Mbogori, Vice-Chairman of our Board in Kenya, was recently back in South Africa following the From Africa with Love ministry. He had been assigned by the All Africa Conference of Churches as one of a group of international and ecumenical monitors of the South African violence situation. Other monitors came from UK, Canada, Germany, etc. He was assigned to Port Shepstone in Natal for a month and his From Africa with Love experience and understanding proved invaluable.

We rejoice, too, in the many new mission opportunities for evangelistic outreach which are before us this year. We have scores of invitations and need the Lord's wisdom in terms of response.

V. AE ROUND AND ABOUT

1. Our Boards. All of us mourn the passing of Dr Paul White, our Australian Board Chairman Emeritus. We celebrate his astonishing life and Christian witness which deeply touched both us and most corners of the world. We knew him as an inspiring leader, a constant encourager and an endless fount of wisdom and good sense along with that irrepressible humour which always put everything into perspective.



Some of our administrative staff with AE's accountant, ALLAN PECKHAM.

In Africa he will always be remembered as the great and model missionary doctor who blessed our continent most wonderfully. In the wider world he is forever mortalised through his extensive writings and especially his Jungle Doctor stories as a great writer and one of the finest story tellers of our time.

We salute a great missionary statesman who also exemplified those rare qualities which characterised the consummate Christian gentleman.

We are most thankful for a number of new additions to our South African Board in 1992 in the persons of Rev Zeph Sikhosana, Mr Alan McCarthy, Dr Greville Wood, Mrs Elsie Buthelezi, Mr Kelvin Bosch, Rev Abe Xaba, Mr Keith Duane and Mr Eugene Reddiar. Rev Dr Stanley Mogoba has handed the position of Chairman to Bishop Brian Fennell and has himself become our Chairman Emeritus. We rejoice also that the Lord has given us Yvonne Breckenridge as our area representative who works in and with our Johannesburg Regional Board under the leadership of Mr Derric Reid.



The ladies who make our visitors so welcome ... JACKIE MARTIN, GLORIA KOOPMAN and COLLEEN HURD.

In the USA, Dr Ted Engstrom, who has served on our Board for 25 years and probably not missed more than half a dozen meetings, has stepped down as Chairman, though he remains on the Board, and been replaced by Dr Archie Hart, who along with Ted, gave a couple of brilliant lectures during our Harambee '92 celebrations. Archie is Dean of the School of Psychology at Fuller Seminary and will be touring South Africa later this year under our auspices. We also rejoice that Andy Lay joined us as our new Executive Director in the USA.

David Richardson wraps up his first year as Executive Director under the Canadian Board and we hope to see him back in Africa for our International Partnership Board meetings in February.

Our other Boards in Germany, UK and Australia continue to render sterling service to the ministry, along with the support committees in New Zealand, Norway and Switzerland.

2. Our Teams. We sadly bid farewell to Douglas Nsibande, our Swaziland colleague, whose family found the travel demands of our ministry too much. Douglas has joined World Vision, Swaziland, and we do wish him well and thank God for his service with us.

Emmanuel Kopwe, who made a great contribution during the From Africa with Love ministry, has been promoted to be our Team Leader in Tanzania and we welcome Dr Leonard Mbilinyi who has recently completed his doctoral studies in Germany, as a new team member.

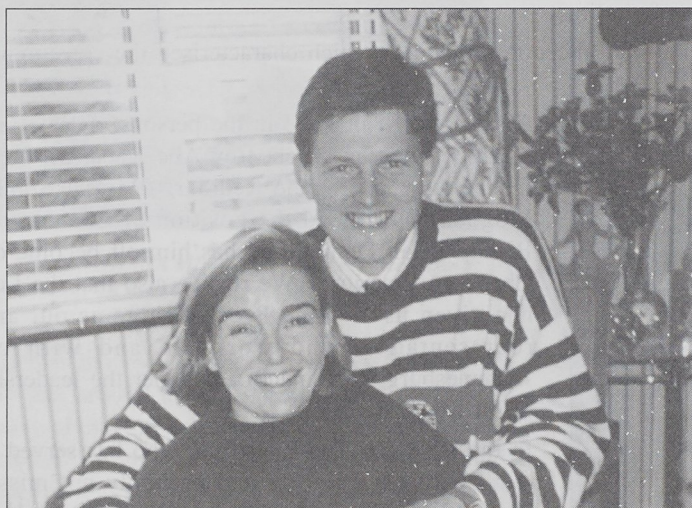
3. Our Support Staff. We are deeply blessed in AE with a tremendous support staff in terms of secretarial and administrative personnel, those who handle the finances, gardeners, folk who work in the kitchen, Communications and Media Department assistants, AE Centre helpers, Mailing Department, and a host of others. Those of us who go out on frontline ministries are acutely conscious and aware of the fact that we could not do anything without the backing, support and undergirding of our staff and personnel, all of whom are real winners. In this regard we are particularly blessed in the advent to our ministry of Mrs Colleen Hurd as hostess at the Centre. She and her husband, Peter, joined us in early November and 48 hours after doing so, Peter suffered a fatal heart attack. Colleen's testimony among us has been nothing short of mind-boggling and her radiant testimony to our Lord Jesus has been an inspiration of the first order. Keep a place in your prayers for her as she adjusts to this tremendous loss and takes up her ongoing work at the Centre.



I had the honour of addressing new British Members of Parliament in London. With me in the picture is Mrs BETTY BOOTHROYD, Madam Speaker of the House of Commons.

4. Our Interns. In 1992 we had a bumper year of interns from various parts of the world and around this country. We thank God for each of these wonderful young people who have come to help us. We rejoice in the tremendous programme which Steve and Ann Bennett are developing for our interns and we see the programme expanding in both numbers and quality in the years ahead. It is interesting to reflect that over the years since 1965 when we first began to have interns in a modest way, a very high percentage of them have ended up in full-time Christian work. We praise God for this.

5. Ministry Tours. Chris Sewell (Zimbabwe) and Steve Lungu (Malawi) have also recently completed ministry tours to



MICHAEL FITCH, our new Board member from Belfast, Northern Ireland, and his wife, JILLIAN.

strengthen our support bases in Canada and USA. Steve and Chris brought a phenomenal testimony of reconciliation with Christ as a former Rhodesian policeman and Steve as the bomb-throwing liberation fighter! My own recent ministry tour took me to UK, Belfast (Northern Ireland) and Switzerland. In the UK the Lord opened an amazing door to minister in the Speaker's Lounge in the House of Commons, with Madam Speaker Mrs Betty Boothroyd as hostess, to 90 or so Members of Parliament from the Commons and the House of Lords plus their wives on the theme of "A Leadership Led by God". In Northern Ireland, our new UK Board member, Michael Fitch, joined me for a very privileged briefing which we had from the Under-Secretary of Northern Ireland on the situation in that strife-torn place. There were many chilling parallels with South Africa and Belfast is certainly a warning to us.

These overseas ministry tours, incidentally, which are financed by our overseas support offices, are necessary

ingredients in our schedule each year in order to report back to praying and supporting friends and to encourage them to stand by the ministry on an Africa-wide basis. Our UK Chairman, Rev Richard Bewes, who also knows Africa very intimately, did a similar ministry tour for us in Australia and we so appreciate his doing this.

VI. LET US RUN WITH PATIENCE

Let me close in sharing my conviction that in South Africa we are involved not in a 100 metres sprint but in a marathon. We need courage, fortitude and faith to settle down to the fact that there will be no quick fix but rather a period of tight and demanding times for some years to come. This will require courage, faith and perseverance if we are to win through. So, "let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith who for the joy that was set before Him endured the Cross" (Heb. 12:1-2).

Beloved friends, please stand with us as never before in your prayers and in your generous financial giving. Without this our best efforts would come to nought.

Yours with great gratitude in the love of Christ,

Michael