



# *Damaraland Special*

*Spring 1980*

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Church leaders discuss the church's ministry of care and love to the suffering people of Ovamboland. Priests and catechist risk their lives to travel in "no-go" areas in order to bring communion and spiritual comfort to members. Their reassuring words provide the only link and bond which remains in a country divided by fighting.



Andreas repairs his bicycle, which is the sole transportation for the Ovambo people in all parts of Ovamboland. The bicycle brings Andreas from his father's Kroal in far off Okasheshete. At St. Mary's School he studies Standard VI. One day he will be a teacher.



Deacon Ananias measures a pole to bolster up the sagging walls of his home. Much of Ovamboland has been torn up by South African troops, and church properties have not been spared. Churches and homes for catechists and clergy must now be rebuilt



Father Humutumbangela comes with arms full of clothes for the children of his parish. There is always a need. Not all families have a man working in the mines down south, and those who do cannot buy too much with a day's wages - about a dollar!



Elias, the sacristan of St. Mary's, the mother church of Ovamboland, grins from ear to ear when he presents the element at the offertory. His bright enthusiasm is typical of the hearty joy of Ovambo Christians in their life with the lord. Each year 250 to 300 are confirmed at St. Mary's alone, and an equal number at several other locations.

How will the church look in the world of tomorrow? Will there be a way to rebuild from the shambles in Ovamboland a strong and independent church? The leaders of the Ovambo people are looking to us.



**YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!**

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