



Southern Africa

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FREEDOM TO WALK

A landmine pushed its way into the SAN office this morning. A fax from Handicap International (the group that provides the videos for SAN's landmine kit) reported on the killing of two nuns in Rwanda by a landmine. I did not know Sr. Carmen or Sr. Alphonsine of the Little Sisters of Jesus, but three Little Sisters of Jesus live several blocks from the SAN office so I telephoned them. SAN's neighbor, Sr. Roberta, knew Sr. Carmen and my call was her first news of the landmine causality; Little Sisters of Jesus identify with the poor and don't have fax machines or e-mail. Sr. Carmen and Sr. Alphonsine died as do many poor people: killed by landmines.

This experience renewed my commitment to encourage SAN members to pass resolutions, gather petitions, write letters, and place phone calls as we work together towards an international ban of landmines.

Recent news is encouraging. Madeline Albright, the US representative to the UN, was so disturbed by the landmine casualties she saw on a visit to Angola that she asked Gen. John Shalikashvili, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Secretary of Defense William Perry to review the American policy on landmines. General Shalikashvili ordered the review, volunteering that he himself was "inclined to eliminate all anti-personnel landmines."

But millions of landmines litter Angola. Usually planted just inches below the earth's surface, the mines are set off by a single footstep—that of a soldier, mother or innocent child. Over a period of 20 years, both sides in Angola's war planted nearly 50 varieties of mines throughout the country. These landmines come from Hungary, Cuba, China, South Africa, and the United States. The conflict in Angola is over, but the mines remain active and waiting.

Removing the mines is costly and slow. Metal detectors are often of little use either because the mines are predominately plastic or the ground is so rich with shrapnel, shell casing, and other metals. Therefore mines are usually removed by hand. The mine that costs only \$3. to produce costs as much as \$1,000 to find and remove. International donors provide funds to train thousands of former soldiers to de-mine the land; Lutheran World Relief has joined in this humanitarian

work. Expert mine removers consider clearing a 20 by 20 foot area a day a heroic effort.

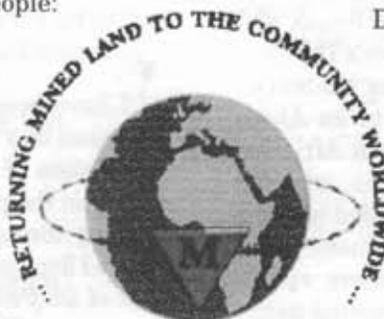
Economic growth and agricultural development are nearly impossible when mines are suspected. There is no freedom to walk; farmers cannot plant crops; refugees cannot return home; and children cannot attend school. An estimated 70,000 Angolans live without one or more limbs because of landmines, and many more have died as a result of landmine explosions.

In February, President Clinton signed into law a moratorium on the sale and export of landmines but the US has not joined the ban endorsed by 24 countries. In urging President Clinton to join the ban, Senator Patrick Leahy states that the issue is not a

Democratic or Republican one, "It is not a matter of civilians versus the military. It is an opportunity for the US to end this millennium as the leader of a global effort to ban a weapon that Civil War General Sherman called "a violation of civilized warfare."

As this newsletter goes to print, a UN conference on limiting landmines is convening in Geneva. Although a landmine ban would be difficult to enforce, it would not be useless. Once landmines become as stigmatized as chemical and biological weapons, the world will have fewer legless people.

In reading this issue you will note landmine information on pages 4, 5, and 7. There are many ways to participate in this campaign; I pray that you will discover the appropriate one for you.



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Insert: Human Rights Review 1995-Southern Africa. Reprinted from The Human Rights Committee of South Africa Report.

FIRST PERSON ACCOUNT

Discovering a Hometown in Africa

The Luther Seminary Program in Zimbabwe has evolved since 1986 when an arrangement was made for faculty exchange between Zimbabwe and the US with the focus on strengthening theological education in Africa. In recent years, Luther Seminary's commitment to globalizing theological education has been strengthened through sending students to Zimbabwe. SAN member Lois Snook, who coordinated the seminars and site visits for the program, provided this report. Lois is also writing a history of the program and adds that there will be a group of students going to Zimbabwe in 1997.

Winter Quarter for eighteen students from Luther Seminary was not study on campus in St. Paul as usual. Instead their campus was Domboshava House in Harare, Zimbabwe, the Seminary's program in Africa. Their "integrated quarter" involved courses in Theology, Old Testament, Church History and Christianity and Culture in Zimbabwe. Luther Professors Lee Snook and Frederick Gaiser and University of Zimbabwe's Dr. Paul Gundani served as instructors for the Luther students.

The quarter was an intense immersion in an Africa culture: learning about Africa, in Africa, from Africans. Students lived with African host families, studied throughout as a community of scholars, traveled into the rural areas to see first-hand the development work assisted by Lutheran World Federation where village people are transforming their lives by constructing dams, raising poultry, and sewing school uniforms. They visited the five missions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe where one in each group was invited to preach, for several students, their first sermon ever!

And during these weeks of study and travel, the RAINS came to southern Africa! Drenching, soaking, non-stop rainfall after months and years of terrible drought. Praise God!



Cooperative workers of Chipenge who sang about their lives and hard work adding the refrain, "Take the message to America!"



Reflections of participants:

I never expected or imagined to be so welcomed that first day and all through my stay with my family. My African mother even baked a cake that read, "Welcome home, Steven"....Through their love and encouragement, the family strengthened my sense of call to be a pastor.

—Steven Pannkuk, student

I have been suspicious of liberation theology...(but it) has taken on a new face for me, that is, an African face. The incarnation of God was present in Jesus, but also concretely in the people we meet. The Christ that I have seen walking through Kuwadzana (the "high density" suburb where I lived with my host family) is a different Christ than that of St. Paul, Minnesota. That is to say, a Christ that "crosses over" to stand with the poor, oppressed, rejected, and those that live daily on the edge...I have come to realize that liberation is a necessary part of a Christology. A Christology that does not articulate the socio-economic struggles is finally a faceless Jesus in Africa.

—Marty Tollefson, student

When preaching, I learned that I was important to the women..I've never danced in church before..The Spirit was there....I believe whenever you take yourself out of your own comfortable atmosphere and go into another, there is only room for growth and transformation.

—Emily Hegener, student

...This is the great gift of an extended program: it turns a previously unknown city into something of a "hometown"; it changes a country from a geographical curiosity into a place about which one cares. The African experience gives occasion for one to re-examine one's life. There are times in Africa when one recognizes profoundly the tenuous nature of existence, when the veneer we apply so carefully in the West is peeled back. And then there is nothing at all to rely upon except the love and goodwill of other human beings and the grace and providence of God. This is a moving and humbling reality.

—Frederick Gaiser, instructor

COMPANION SYNOD REPORTS

NAMIBIA REPORT

Rev. Dan Olson, Program Director for Southern Africa of the Division for Global Mission of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, recently returned from Namibia. He reports on the happy occasion of the Bishop's consecration and the emotional issues raised by a recently published book.

ELCRN's New Bishop

A weekend of festivities accompanied the consecration of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia's (ELCRN) Bishop Petrus Diergaardt in Okahandja, Namibia, March 3. For two years the church had been led by an acting bishop and the church council since no candidate received the constitutionally-required 2/3 majority.

Scattered rain showers which crowded people under the tents, permanent shelters, and trees were welcomed in that dry part of the world. A brass band, other musical groups, drama teams, and dance presentation all welcomed the church's new beginning with ELCRN's second bishop. Bishop Hendrick Frederik, ELCRN's first bishop, is now retired in his home area of Bethanie.



Bishop Petrus Diergaardt

International guests and officiants were present from Germany, India, Angola, South Africa, and the US. Introducing Bishop Diergaardt, University of Namibia professor and Lutheran pastor, Dr. Paul Isaak, emphasized the new bishop's humble beginnings, coming to this high office not with degrees and credentials of academia, but from years of service as a parish pastor and a church general secretary.

Bishop Kleopas Dumeni, one of the officiating clergy, will himself be consecrated as presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia (ELCIN), May 26, together with Bishop-elect Kaulinge of the ELCIN's Eastern Diocese. Bishop Dumeni will continue as diocesan bishop of the West as well as the presiding bishop.

Leadership in ELCSA

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (ELCSA) has elected a new General Secretary, Rev. Louis Sabiya, currently the Lutheran Chaplain at the University of Natal at Pietermaritzburg. The former General Secretary, Rev. Thomas Mbuli, has been consecrated as bishop of ELCSA's Eastern Diocese, based in Mbabane, Swaziland.

Namibian Church Voices Divided

Church leaders are divided over the content of a recent book by German Lutheran pastor, Siegfried Groth. The issue centers on the process of national reconciliation and the role of disclosing reported acts of violence in the protracted struggle for Namibia's independence. Groth has long been identified with the Southwest Africa Peoples' Organization (SWAPO), the liberation movement which, after independence in 1990, became the ruling political party of the Republic of Namibia. In *Breaking the Silence* Groth wrote that atrocities of SWAPO leaders against suspected informers in SWAPO camps in Angola during the heat of the liberation struggle should be brought to light just as atrocities by the South Africa-led forces against SWAPO have been made public.

Namibian President Sam Nujoma's response stated that old wounds must be allowed to heal and not be reopened; nation-building and reconciliation deserve Namibia's full energy rather than investigations of old issues. Bishop Dumeni is among those who support the president's stand. Other church leaders and human rights groups insist that true reconciliation cannot be effected without full disclosure of truth of excesses and abuses on all sides of the long and bitter struggle. They cite South Africa's ANC position of emphasizing both truth and reconciliation.

In response to public controversy, the Council of Churches in Namibia (CCN) and its General Secretary, Dr. Ngeno Nakamhela, have called for a conference permitting victims of violence on all sides to share their stories. In his consecration sermon, Bishop Diergaardt, apparently reflecting on this issue, stated, "...genuine reconciliation is based on confession, forgiveness, and repentance. Wrong deeds committed by us can only be rectified if we admit and absolve. We as the church will therefore be involved in this process of reconciliation. (The church will carry on) with its prophetic role which God has entrusted to her to proclaim in all humility the message of love and justice."

Companion Synods of the ELCA and Churches in Southern Africa

Montana Synod-Cape Orange Diocese ELCSA
 Southwestern Minnesota Synod-South Eastern Diocese ELCSA
 Metropolitan Chicago Synod-Central Diocese ELCSA
 East-Central Synod of Wisconsin-Western Diocese ELCSA
 Northeastern Ohio Synod-Northern Diocese ELCSA
 Caribbean Synod-Eastern Diocese ELCSA
 Northeastern Iowa Synod-Namibia ELCRN
 Southwest Washington Synod-Namibia ELCIN
 Metropolitan Washington, DC Synod-Namibia ELCIN,ELCRN
 New Jersey Synod-Namibia ELCRN
 Upstate New York Synod-Zimbabwe ELCZ

ADVOCACY

LANDMINE RESOLUTION

The following resolution on landmines was prepared for Synod Assemblies which are being held this spring. Copies have been sent to over 40 synods where SAN has strong connections. If you are a delegate to your synod, make certain this resolution is on the agenda and be prepared to speak in support of it.

Share the resolution with your friends. It can be used in other organizations. The more times it gets introduced, the more potential allies we have to work to ban landmines everywhere.

LANDMINE RESOLUTION

Whereas an estimated 100 million landmines laid in more than 60 countries indiscriminately maim or kill over 2,000 women, children, and men every month as well as render huge tracts of agricultural and pastoral land into death traps; and

Whereas the most heavily landmined continent is Africa, where in Angola alone there are an estimated 9-15 million landmines, and people in Mozambique, Namibia, and Zimbabwe continue to live at risk because of landmines even though they are working to sustain a lasting peace; and

Whereas Archbishop Desmond Tutu has called on the international community to unequivocally condemn landmines which he noted are "excessively cruel and cause horrific injuries," as the most widespread and toxic pollution currently known to humankind, undermining development and preventing any meaningful rehabilitation of social and cultural systems; and

Whereas over three million mines have been laid in the former Yugoslavia, and eight million in Cambodia, and ten million in Afghanistan, and a world without landmines would be safer for everyone, including US troops, than the world with the millions that exist today; and

Whereas the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adopted a social statement, "For Peace in God's World" in 1995 which urged priority attention by the ELCA to agreements to ban the production, sale, and use of landmines; and

Whereas the Board of the Division for Church in Society in March 1994 authorized the Division to join with the Lutheran World Federation, the World Council of Churches, the National Council of Churches of Christian the U.S.A. and other humanitarian organizations, in the International Campaign to Ban Landmines;

Therefore, be it resolved that:

The _____ Synod of the ELCA recall the implementation provision of the ELCA social statement, "For Peace in God's World." and encourage their congregations to urge the President of the United States and Members of Congress to support a comprehensive ban of landmines as well as contributions to the United Nations' mine clearance and mine victims' assistance programs, and to do advocacy and education on the elimination of landmines; and

Be it further resolved that:

Individual congregational members be encouraged to utilize the "Freedom to Walk" resource packet available from the Southern Africa Network, ELCA, and to corporately and individually, pray both for the abolition of landmines, and for those who live at risk of sacrificing their bodies to clear minefields "an arm and a leg at a time."

ACTION ALERT

The Minnesota Campaign to Ban Landmines invites us to join them in writing letters to the CEO of ALLIANT, a company that produces antipersonnel landmines in their state. In your letter, ask them to stop producing any type of antipersonnel landmines, including the self-destruct variety. Send letters to CEO Richard Schwartz, Alliant Techsystems, MN11-2043, 600 Second St. NE, Hopkins, MN 55343.

FREEDOM TO WALK: Landmine Kit Available

SAN has prepared an education/advocacy kit that will assist you in sharing the information about landmines in schools and churches. It includes a video, posters, simulation game, and action suggestions. By June 1 it will be available for purchase (\$22). The original version of the kit with the 12 x 12 foot handpainted mat of an African scene to enhance the simulation game is available in limited quantities for \$100. See page 7 to order.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

1995

an excerpt from *Human Rights Review*
which is published by the Human Rights Committee of South Africa

The Region

The regional conflict which has continued to be waged throughout southern Africa for the better part of twenty five years has been drastically reduced to two contained locations at the end of 1995. Angola, and to some extent KwaZulu-Natal, represent the only areas of continued large scale violent conflict, and even in these areas the levels of violence, while no means acceptable, have been significantly reduced. There is good reason to believe that the twenty year old war in Angola is nearing some sort of lasting conclusion. The unparalleled peace in the region has offered up the opportunity to rebuild a region devastated by continuous war.

At the end of August, South Africa hosted the annual summit of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) just outside Johannesburg. The location of the summit in Johannesburg was symbolic of the transformation that SADC itself was making from an organization committed to the political liberation of the region to the economic development of the region. Substantial achievement was made at the summit in the area of regional development as countries signed bilateral and multilateral trade and development agreements. There can be no doubt that these agreements about items as basic as electricity and water lay the foundation for the creation of an integrated southern African community in which a basic standard of living can be guaranteed.

The rebuilding of a region devastated by war clearly will take time particularly as the legacy of twenty five years ongoing regional conflict cannot be simply erased by the shaking of hands or the signing of agreements. The continued danger of landmines planted especially in Angola and Mozambique will continue to be a destabilizing factor long after peace has been agreed upon.

From a human rights perspective, this new era in southern Africa offers up promising prospects. The task now at hand is to ensure that civil liberties, so long sacrificed on the altar of war, become enshrined in the fabric of each of the southern African nations.

Some efforts have been made. Discussions in September in Cape Town between lawyers from the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) and representatives of the OAU centred around establishing an African Court of Human and Peoples Rights. It is envisaged that the Court would work together with the African Human Rights Commission and would arbitrate on human rights issues within and between African countries in the manner of the European Court.

In this transformatory period in the region it is up to civil society to take the lead in encouraging, cajoling and agitating reluctant government to ensure that civil liberties are entrenched. Already this year there is evidence of a growing sense of NGO community within the region, most especially in the response to the homophobic statements of Zimbabwe's President Mugabe. It is clear that many governments in Africa have a reluctance towards embracing a culture of human rights. This is demonstrated by the disdain with which the African Commission is treated. being a signatory to the African Charter requires that member states supply country reports on human rights every two years, yet most countries have not even sent their first one despite ratification of the Charter over a decade ago.

The South African interim Constitution, a clearly libertarian document, has set the trend in the region in terms of providing a set of rights which every person in the country is entitled to and protected by. In many areas this document goes further than the African Charter on Human and People's Rights. South Africa's particular challenge is to ensure that these rights have real and substantial meaning. One of the most problematic areas for South Africa and for the relationship between South Africa and the region involves undocumented migrants.

Historically, South Africa has followed a racial approach to immigrants. White immigrants have generally been allowed to obtain South African citizenship with comparative ease; black immigrants by contrast have often been recruited to work in the country without receiving any of the benefits of citizenship. Legislation introduced this year by the Home Affairs minister sought to create a uniform approach to those wishing to

immigrate to South Africa. What still has to be addressed is what to do about the number of immigrants who enter this country illegally. No-one knows with any certainty the extent of the problem. A figure of 8.2 million illegal immigrants is often bandied about but is unclear where this number comes from. Newspapers have dealt with the issue quite irresponsibly at times, helping to nurture a popular conception that the illegals are largely responsible for crime and drug running in South Africa. It is one of the ironies of domestic policing that the Community Safety Plan's chief success has been in identifying "illegals". At present, the procedure is that immigrants who are found to be in South Africa illegally are sent back to where they come from. They are housed in jails and deported, most often, by train to neighbouring countries. This has proved to be an unsatisfactory approach from every angle. Firstly, it appears not to work: "illegals" once deported simply return. Secondly, this approach is not only ineffective but costs a great deal of money. The repatriation of the undocumented migrants is paid for by the state. Thirdly, the deportation of "illegals" seems to sit uneasily with the ideals and ambitions of the human rights documents South Africa claims to be guided by.

The issue of undocumented migrancy highlights the way in which the region as a whole needs to address certain issues. It remains unclear whether the South African government would be able to construct an efficient immigration policy without regional co-operation. At the same time the contours of a policy of regional co-operation remain undefined. It was anticipated that the SADC conference in August, held in Johannesburg, would go some way to creating a mechanism by which the issue could be addressed. Unfortunately this was not done due to what were understood to be more pressing commitments and a quite staggering bureaucratic procedure which ensures that any issue at all is dealt with in a slow and cumbersome manner. The issue of undocumented migrants, even if it were being addressed by the respective governments, is also a clear example of an issue upon which the regional human rights network can and must involve itself.

Angola

At the end of the year Angola remained once again on the edge of conflict having almost managed to secure peace. The background to the events of this year are to be found in the 1994 peace accord in Lusaka which committed the principal rival parties of Unita and the government, headed by MPLA leader dos Santos, to a peace process.

Early in the year the UN gave a unanimous go-ahead for the formation of a peacekeeping force in the country named UNAVEM 3. This force, with troops drawn from various nations, was to oversee the process including the demobilisation of Unita troops, the withdrawal of foreign mercenaries, and the clearing of an estimated 10-20 million landmines.

The year was characterised by the Lusaka peace accord being stretched to its limit by accusation and counter-accusation of the two protagonists. Any single month provided fresh evidence of continued atrocities which resulted in the deaths of aid workers and countless civilians.

There were several serious problems in the process itself. The first had to do with the slowness with which the UN forces were deployed. The second had to do with the involvement in Angola of the Pretoria-based military outfit Executive Outcomes, which the government alleged were advisers but which Unita claim are mercenaries. The third has to do with the diamond-rich areas of northern Angola, dubbed the Wild West, which has a political economy of its own, where a political settlement was never close to being reached.

Late in the year there was clear cause for optimism. In August, the two leaders met in Gabon and followed it up with a media-friendly meeting in Brussels. The two leaders jointly appealed for \$700 million for a two year emergency fund to reconstruct Angola's basic infrastructure. Against a positive background, where Savimbi vowed never to return to the warpath, donors promised a total of \$997.5 million for a comprehensive rehabilitation and construction programme. Savimbi subsequently undertook a brief southern Africa tour reaffirming his commitment to peace. The UN peacekeepers had arrived and it appeared that Unita troops were to be quartered.

The end of the year found the peace process in tatters amidst counter accusations of atrocities deemed to demonstrate bad faith. The visit to the United States by President dos Santos to meet with his American counterpart Bill Clinton helped to firm up the government commitment. By year end, however, the significant concessions made by dos Santos as a result of the meetings in the United States had not been reciprocated. Nonetheless a re-opening of the channels of communication between the two sides has been effected.

Lesotho and Swaziland

Both countries continue to experience difficulties in the transition to democracy. Basic rights guaranteed under international human rights law are far from being a reality. In Lesotho, while elections have been held as the result of a regionally brokered peace deal, the military remains the dominant force and it is unclear whether the government in power is able to govern independently of it. Human rights abuses carried out by the military remain an ongoing occurrence and the government seems powerless to act. Swaziland, which continues to be ruled by an authoritarian monarch, is notable for its disregard for international human rights norms. The constitution was suspended in 1973 with the result that political parties have been banned and basic rights, for example to association and assembly, have been denied. Legislation passed in December by the House of Assembly allows that those who encourage strikes can be imprisoned for up to ten years. This year has witnessed a gradual stepping up of pressure on the government to demand basic democratic rights through strikes and boycotts primarily by workers, students and youths. So far, the government has demonstrated little willingness to negotiate. Union leaders and journalists are regularly harassed. Government leaders are of the opinion that the political system in place in Swaziland is one that is best suited to the needs of the country.

Malawi

The central feature of the year was the trial of former President Hastings Banda and five co-accused on charges of conspiring to murder four politicians, three of whom were cabinet ministers, in 1983. In January 1995 a commission of enquiry released its report which indicated that the four men had been killed by police. After the release of the report the accused were placed under arrest. It was in mid-year that the trial commenced in the High Court in Blantyre. The result was the acquittal of Banda and the co-accused in December. Despite the acquittal of the former president on these particular charges the history of human rights atrocities committed during his 30 year rule is clearly documented.

Mozambique

The first year of multiparty democracy has generally proceeded smoothly during 1995. The signs are generally good: Renamo and Frelimo, the former antagonists, are working together, and the economy is expanding. However, there remain serious problems relating to the inherited situation to do with military integration, the

presence of weapons caches, unemployed former fighters, and social and economic deprivation.

The year continued to witness isolated instances of armed attacks and food riots. Local elections are to be held in 1996.

Zambia

The second half of the year was consumed by a political tussle between President Chiluba of the Movement for Multi-Party Democracy (MMD) and the former President, Kenneth Kuanda, now on the comeback trail. Kuanda was elected leader of the main opposition party, the United Independence Party (UNIP), at the end of June by an overwhelming majority. Since that day Chiluba has spent much of his energy on attempting to discredit and even silence Kuanda's challenge by one means or another. Questions were raised about Kuanda's nationality; constitutional proposals were made to challenge Kuanda's right to run for the presidency; allegations were made against Kuanda's human rights record while in power; Kuanda was arrested on charges of disregarding the law by holding a political meeting without seeking permission. By-elections held during the year were shared evenly between the two parties indicating a revival of fortunes for UNIP ahead of next year's presidential election. Meanwhile the country moves along falteringly as Chiluba seeks to liberalize the economy which shrank by 5.4% in the year.

Zimbabwe

President Robert Mugabe's ruling Zanu-PF party won the general election held in April, winning the fourth consecutive five year term. The ruling party was also successful in the local government elections which were held in October. The successes, however, reveal serious problems in Zimbabwe's political process. In both elections ZANU-PF won the election even before it got underway due to the lack of meaningful opposition. In the general election the President is empowered to fill 20 out of 150 seats with his own appointees. A further 55 seats had been won by Zanu-PF prior to the election which ensured its victory before voting commenced. Similarly, in the local government elections Zanu-PF won 172 out of 242 council seats before election day.

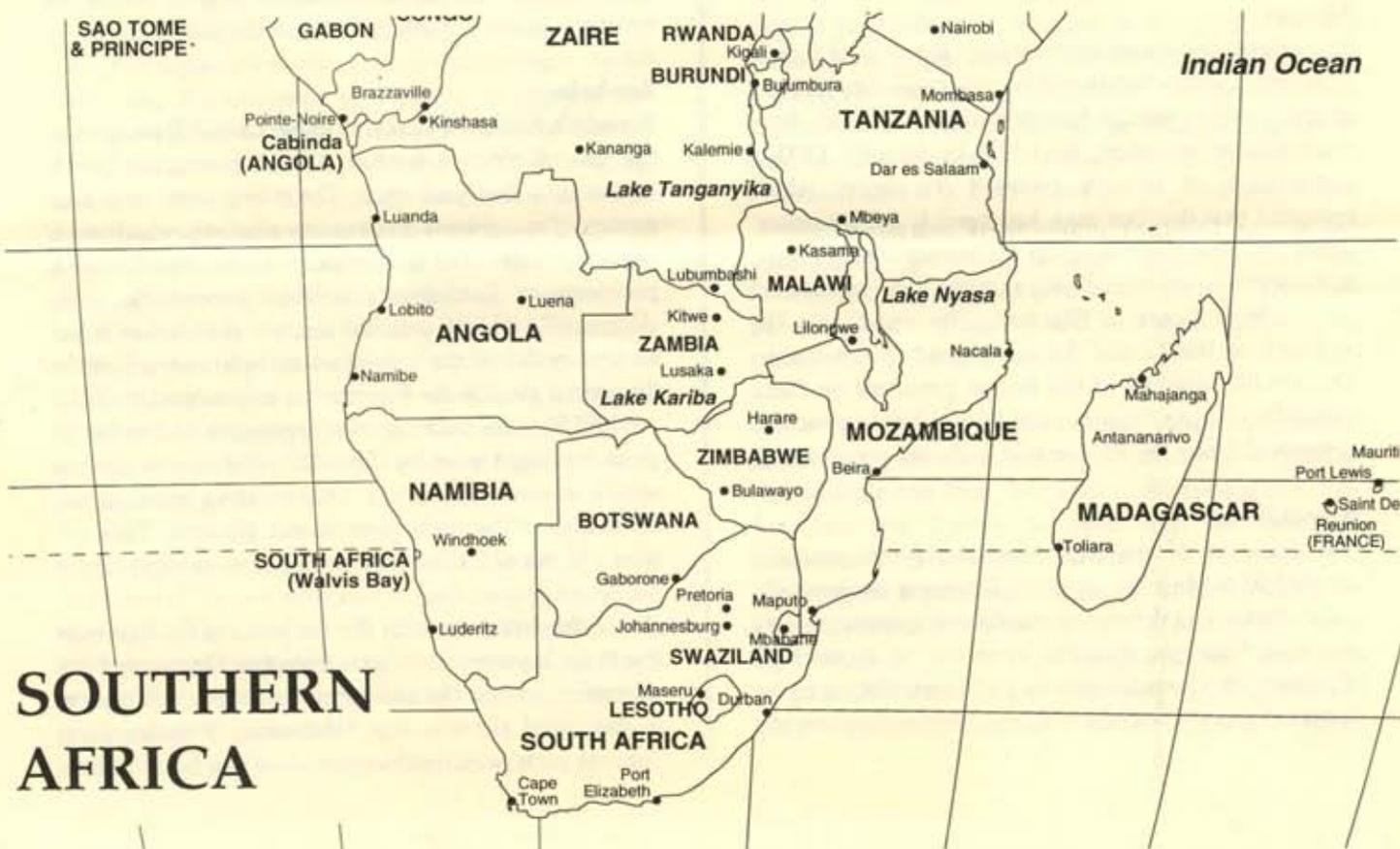
Part of the explanation for the starkness of the figures is due to the boycott of both sets of elections by most of the opposition parties. The sole opposition to the ruling party in the April election was Ndabaningi Sithole's Zanu Ndonga party which managed to win two seats. Sithole

has subsequently been arrested and is out on bail awaiting trial on charges of conspiring to assassinate President Robert Mugabe and overthrow the government. In the October elections, despite the boycotts, fifteen independents, including 10 Zanu-PF rebels, won council and mayoral seats.

The boycotts themselves most probably did little to change the results. What they did do was to focus attention on the political system through their claim that the political process is weighted too heavily in favour of the ruling party. The President appoints 20 MPs, he has the power to alter constituency boundaries, and appoints officials to run and supervise the election. In addition, the ruling party receives a subsidy of more than Z\$30 million per year. The independent Zimbabwe human rights group Zimrights have supported calls for change and greater transparency in the electoral process: "It is clear that the institutional framework for the supervision and management of elections and the legal regime regulating elections have serious weaknesses which ought to be rectified if the process of electoral democracy is to be enhanced".

In the Harare High Court the trial of alleged conspirators to assassinate President Robert Mugabe and overthrow the government was still being played out at year end. By December two men had been separately convicted regarding the plot which allegedly links Zimbabwe opposition politics and rebel forces in Mozambique. It is alleged that the leader of the opposition Zanu-Ndonga party, Ndabaningi Sithole, is the orchestrator of the plot. Sithole is currently out of jail on bail of \$100 000 which comes with substantial conditions which include surrendering his passport and the title deeds to his house.

In August, President Mugabe lashed out at lesbians and gays on four separate occasions, the first of which was at the Zimbabwe International Book Fair which had as its theme "Human Rights and Freedom of Expression". Mugabe labelled gays and lesbians "sodomists and perverts...[who] offended the laws of nature and religion". Pressed by journalists he said, "I don't believe that they should have any rights at all". His pronouncements were met with opposition from within Zimbabwe, southern Africa and the world. Subsequent attempts by Mugabe to take a leading role within SADC on human rights were strongly opposed by human rights groups.



SOUTHERN AFRICA NEWS BRIEFS



Update on Peace Process in Angola

Among the positive developments of the past month in Angola are a decrease in the number of cease-fire violations; a further reduction in hostile propaganda; the release of additional prisoners; the disengagement of government forces from some forward positions; and continued quartering of the rapid reaction police in 3 out of 10 planned quartering areas. However the implementation of many other elements is still behind schedule, particularly the crucial quartering of UNITA troops.

For the fourth time since the signing of the Lusaka Protocol, Angola President Jose Eduardo dos Santos met with UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi. UNITA presented a list of nominees for the government and administrative positions reserved under the Lusaka Protocol for UNITA. Names were also given for UNITA nominees for the 70 seats in the National Assembly left vacant by UNITA after they rejected the results of the 1992 elections. The two leaders agreed that the present National Assembly will be extended beyond November 1996 and UNITA accepted the principle of postponing elections until the year 2000.

(Angola Peace Monitor 4/96)

Southern Africa's Landmine Legacy

Africa contains about one third of the world's 100 million hidden landmines. Southern Africa is the most mined region within Africa. South Africa, which pursued military strategies in Mozambique and Angola through direct involvement or support for Renamo and UNITA, has been responsible for the production, exportation, and placement of many of the mines in southern Africa. One out of every 470 Angolans has had a limb amputated, and most of these do not receive artificial replacements. In Mozambique landmine casualties contribute to 25% of all surgeries.

(Human Rights Report 7/95)

Development Initiative in Africa

In March the UN and the World Bank launched the UN System-wide Special Initiative on Africa, a multi-billion dollar program of concrete actions to accelerate African development. Over a ten-year period the initiative aims to expand basic education and health care, promote peace and better governance, and improve water and food security. National governments will have responsibility for implementation of the initiative.

In recent years consistent evidence has shown that basic education, particularly for girls and women, is the best possible development investment. Basic education is strongly correlated with greater participation in democracy, more productive farmers, better family planning and higher incomes.

(Lutheran Office for World Community, UN Publication 3/96)



Harold Mettler

The Welcome

Cuban Doctors to South Africa

In March the first of 96 Cuban doctors arrived in South Africa to work in the rural areas, where an acute shortage of medical doctors exists. At least 2,000 vacant posts exist for doctors throughout the country. The shortage arose when many doctors disillusioned by the meager salaries the state offers, started their own private practices or emigrated.

(SA Political Update 3/96)

Zambian Journalists Jailed

Fred M'membe and Bright Mwape, editors of Zambia's *The Post* were imprisoned indefinitely for expressing in newspaper articles their criticism of remarks made by Vice President Godfrey Miyanda in parliament in January 1996. Over the past few years, the government has made a series of arrests and charges against staff at *The Post* in an attempt to intimidate the independent press in Zambia and suppress criticism of government official and policies.

After spending 23 days in prison, the two editors were released on March 27 when the Zambian High Court said it was unreasonable to lock up the editors indefinitely without proper judicial procedure.

(Amnesty International 3/96)

Adult Education in South Africa

According to Education Minister, Sibusiso Bengu, there are between 12 and 15 million adults in the country that do not have basic education skills. A new campaign, "Ithuteng" or "Ready to Learn" hopes to provide basic adult education to about 180,000 people in a period of two years. The Department of Education donated R50 million to the project and the European Union R1.4 million.

(SA Political Update 2/96)

SOUTHERN AFRICA CHURCH NEWS

So. Africa Churches Find New Common Enemy

Now that they no longer need to spend their time battling apartheid, South Africa's churches have found another common enemy—the nation's spiralling crime rate. Methodist, Anglican, Roman Catholic, Congregational, and Presbyterian churches in Johannesburg engaged in a four-week moral crusade against crime in their region. In 1994 more than 800,000 violent crimes were committed. White-collar crime doubled between 1993 and 1994. The crusade was designed to challenge church members to examine their own ethics and values, and ask whether they are helping or hindering the struggle against crime. The campaign was scheduled to climax prior to Lent with special services where people could commit themselves to fight crime.

(Ecumenical News Service 2/96)

Namibia Connections Continue at Wartburg

Wartburg Seminary of Dubuque, Iowa is sending a group of students to Namibia in early summer. The students will meet Namibian students at Paulinum Seminary and be placed in local churches. Professor Peter Kjeseth of Wartburg is on "cooperative loan" to the University of Namibia department of Religious studies providing continuity and further impetus to the expanded Wartburg/Paulinum exchange.

The Namibia Archives and Study Center at Wartburg, organized by Ilah Weiblen with assistance from Solveig Kjeseth, makes materials available for study and research by Wartburg students going to Namibia and for Namibia students studying at Wartburg.

(letter 1/96)

Theologian to Write Human Rights Report

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission has appointed theology professor Charles Villa-Vicencio to write the history of human rights under apartheid rule. The Truth Commission said he had been appointed director of research for the two-year probe, heading a team of researchers and social scientists around the country.

(SA News Update 3/96)

ELCZ Women Development Leaders

The women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe (ELCZ) were instrumental in initiating the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) water program in the early 1980's. LWF records show that nearly three fourths of the participants in their various rural development activities are women. They are doing most of the work at dam sites and are also the ones initiating the income generating activities.

(LWF Zimbabwe Report 5/95)



Pastor Ursula Judith Mubasan Hoebes

Namibian Pastor in Des Moines

Pastor Ursula Judith Mubasan Hoebes, a student at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, spent her spring break preaching and teaching in Des Moines, Iowa. She is a third generation Lutheran pastor in Namibia; her grandfather was the first black person ordained in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in South West Africa and her father retired from the ministry on the day of Pastor Ursula's ordination in 1992.

The apartheid system led Pastor Ursula to seminary. Trained as a staff nurse, she worked for five years in the medical field, but resigned when asked to spend more time nursing white patients than black ones. Her desire to minister to her own people with the same tenderness that the hospital required for white patients simply did not fit with the apartheid system.

"Because I strongly felt called to serve my people, I joined the seminary at Paulinum and received a diploma in theology," Pastor Ursula describes her shift to church work. Following her ordination she taught biblical courses at a theological institution and served a congregation.

After completing her Masters of Arts degree in youth and family at Luther this year, Pastor Ursula will return to Namibia. She envisions a counseling ministry with a focus on drug and HIV counseling. "Many of our people are infected with HIV. It is a mission field for me to be a Christian friend to them and to proclaim God's love and hope in the midst of the despair and pain of isolation." Pastor Ursula also hopes to encourage pastors and families to support people with AIDS.

Thankful for the opportunity to study at Luther through the assistance of the Lutheran World Federation, Pastor Ursula adds, "We really appreciate it and do not take this education for granted. We pray God will bless you for your mission in helping us with our education. On the sixth anniversary of our independence we again thank all the Americans who prayed for us."

CALENDAR OF ACTION AND REFLECTION



This poem by Rebecca Larson is reprinted from "What is your Church doing about Landmines?", a publication of the Lutheran World Federation and the World Council of Churches.

Anti-Personnel Landmines

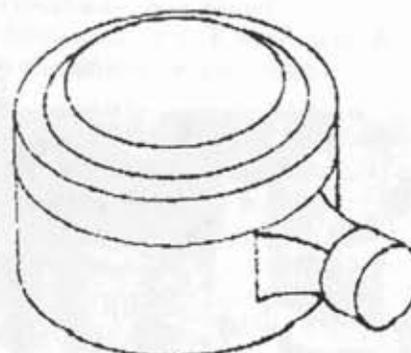
**Standing guard without supplies
Night and Day
This soldier is a coward,
Not willing to kill eye to eye
Or one day risk
The laughter of children
On these polluted fields.
A coward's war it is where
Sins of the fathers are
Seeded into the
Cut off limbs
to third and fourth generation
With military skill
And precision
Slicing the future
from their children s children
And yours - and mine
As well.**

Landmine Ban Pilgrimage May 7 - July 29, 1996

An interfaith pilgrimage to highlight the call for an international ban on landmines will begin May 7 in Minneapolis at Alliant Techsystems, the largest producer of landmines in the US. The pilgrimage will continue on to Washington, DC, passing through Eau Claire, Madison, Milwaukee, Chicago, Gary, Ft. Wayne, Lima, Akron, Cleveland, Youngstown, and Pittsburgh.

The purpose of the pilgrimage is threefold: to gain support for the national/international ban on landmines; to offer prayers for the victims of landmines and those who continue to make and use them; and to offer peaceful steps in memory of those whose lives have been cut short or unalterably changed by landmines.

The pilgrimage will pass through the Chicago area June 6-9. At least one SAN member will join the pilgrimage for part of that time. If you wish to join for a day, help host walkers or publicize this event please contact the pilgrimage organizer, Ariel Brugger at (603) 543-0568.



Miniature anti-personnel mine (actual size)



STAY CONNECTED!

Yes, I want to become/remain part of the Southern Africa Network - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and receive the newsletter, *Southern Africa*, regularly. Enclosed is my annual membership fee.

- Individual (\$25)
- Synodical Group (\$50)
- Organization/Congregation (\$100)
- Here is an additional contribution
- I would like to order **FREEDOM TO WALK: Advocacy/Action kit on Landmines in Africa** (\$22)

Name _____ Day Phone _____

Organization _____ Eve. Phone _____

Address _____

City, State _____ Zip _____

Please return to: Southern Africa Network-ELCA, 3560 W. Congress Parkway, Chicago, IL 60624 (312) 826-4481

NETWORK NOTES



SAN member Anne Thye (above) and her family graciously hosted pastor Ursula Hoebes and SAN Coordinator Joan Gerig in their Des Moines, Iowa home during Pastor Hoebes' spring break from Seminary studies. Anne, who first met Pastor Ursula in Namibia when she was a Woman-to-Woman visitor there, organized an Independence Party on March 21, Namibia's 6th Anniversary of Independence. Pastor Ken Diable (below) arranged for Pastor Hoebes to speak in several classes at Grand View College. Thanks to all of you and welcome to our new members in Iowa! To arrange a guest from southern Africa to preach/teach in your community contact SAN.



Rev. Philip and Lou Marie Knutson, SAN members in Port Elizabeth, South Africa write, "We still experience the roller coaster mixture of great hopes, when we talk to friends and comrades of the struggle now well established in parliament, and pessimism when we see the escalation of gang and drug related violence in our community. With high unemployment, widespread frustration and no clear "enemy" as in the past we face a new kairos or moment of truth." The Knutson family will attend two of the Global Mission Events this year.

We're pleased that 58 members renewed their SAN membership so far in 1996. If you see a date more than a year old on the mailing label below you are invited to renew your membership before June 30, the end of our fiscal year. Help SAN reach its goal of \$6,000 from memberships. Each \$25 check helps!

Volunteers are needed in Minneapolis, Spokane, Sioux Falls, and Selinsgrove during June-July '96! If you are attending the Women of the ELCA Third Triennial Convention or one of the Global Mission Events, SAN invites you to volunteer an hour or two at our interactive display. It's fun, you'll meet wonderful people, and you'll get a peak into the underbelly of SAN. Call Joan or drop her a note to let her know of your availability. You'll make her day.

Southern Africa is edited by Joan Gerig.
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