

# Namibia Newsletter

Wartburg Seminary  
Dubuque, IA 52001



Dear Friends,

Our Namibia Newsletter comes to you after a silence of several months--a delay for which I am to blame. Last summer I began full-time work, and still have not discovered how to juggle job, family, and Namibia Concerns.

The newsletter also has a new look. We are trying this new format because we have so much information to share with you, and because we would like to include articles from various sources. We are also expanding our mailing list, so some of you may be receiving the Namibia Newsletter for the first time. We invite you to share our concern about the situation in southern Africa, and we hope you will join us as we seek to "stand with" our sisters and brothers in Namibia.

A report of the International Seminar on the Role of Transnational Corporations in Namibia appears on another page. But in this column I must say that attending that seminar was both helpful and inspiring. Many times I wished that each of you could have been there. (The American Committee on Africa provided the air ticket, so my attendance did not drain the Namibia Fund!)

It was thrilling to see the "veterans" in action; some of them have been working against apartheid for nearly thirty years! I was also impressed with the younger generation: lawyers, researchers, political activists, church people. Their single-minded dedication to the cause was encouraging. The struggle continues, and we are called to play a role in it.

Also, I call your attention to the announcement of the Namibia Conference which will be held at Wartburg, March 4th through 6th. We encourage your attendance. A number of the participants in the Washington Seminar will be here to give us information and encouragement in our Namibia advocacy.

Finally, a special thank you to those who have faithfully supported the Namibia Fund even during these months of silence on our part. I hope to get caught up on the "thank you's" during the Christmas holidays.

Meanwhile, from all of us on the Namibia Concerns committee at Wartburg, comes our wish for a blessed Christmas and a peace-filled new year. Again this year we remember our friends in Namibia and pray that they may be given courage and hope as they celebrate the birth of the Christ.

*Salvage Kjerfve*

for the Namibia Concerns Committee  
December, 1982

## Jailed Namibian Pastors Released: Two Detainees Die In Custody

Geneva, Dec. 2 (Lutheran World Information)—Two pastors of the Evangelical Lutheran Ovambokavango Church, who were among 26 persons detained last month in northern Namibia, have been released. But two other of the detainees died while in police custody. All had been arrested in the Kavango region and held under Proclamation A.G. 9, which provides for incommunicado detention at the discretion of the police.

The two pastors were identified as Asser Lihongo and Herson Nghulundilua. Jona Hamukwaya, a teacher, died in custody on Nov. 18, shortly after his arrest. Kadumu Katanga, who police claimed was a guerrilla, had reportedly agreed to point out arms caches in the area, but failed. He collapsed and died en route to the hospital.

The London based human rights organization, Amnesty International, has appealed to the South African government for an end to detention without trial and the use of torture in Namibia. They recommend telegrams or airmail letters of concern be sent to: His Excellency Danie Hough, Administrator-General for the Territory of South West Africa, Berg Hotel, Private Bag 1327/8, Windhoek, Namibia.

Hon. P.W. Botha, Prime Minister, Union Buildings, Pretoria, South Africa.

Brigadier Johan Van Der Merwe, Head of Security Police, Police Headquarters, Windhoek, Namibia.

We suggest you send copies of your letters to:

Ambassador Brand Fourie, The Embassy of South Africa, 3051 Massachusetts Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008.

Bishop Kleopas Dumeni, Evangelical Lutheran Ovambokavango Church

Oniipa, Private Bag 2018, Ondangwa 9000, Namibia/SWA

and to your Senators and Representative in Washington.

## ALC Sponsored Namibia Conference at Wartburg March 4 - 6, 1983

The Namibia Concerns Committee will host an ALC Namibia Conference next March. Focus of the Conference will be two-fold: To share information on the situation in Namibia, and to train persons for effective advocacy on behalf of their sisters and brothers in Namibia. Among the people who have agreed to serve as resource persons or "trainers" are: Ed May, from Lutheran World Ministries; Bill Johnston, of Episcopal Churchmen for South Africa; John Evenson, Namibian advocacy person for the LCA; Kim Zalent, coordinator of the Lutheran Coalition for South Africa; Jerry Herman, American Friends Service Committee; Charles Ruehle of Lutheran Human Relations Association; Mark Thomsen, head of the World Mission Department of the American Lutheran Church; and Charles Lutz, who heads the Office of Church and Society for the American Lutheran Church.

From Friday through Sunday we will be learning from these experts, sharing our experiences, worshipping together, and preparing to spread the word about Namibia in our congregations and in the larger community. We invite you to participate!



# United Nations Conference Highlights Importance of Continued Namibian Advocacy

**Editors Note:** The following article is excerpted from a news release concerning Solveig Kjeseth's recent experiences as an invited guest to a U.N. conference on Namibia.

"The outlook for Namibian independence is not as hopeful as we have been led to believe," says Solveig Kjeseth, one of the participants in a United Nations sponsored seminar on **The Role of Transnational Corporations in Namibia** held November 29 to December 2, in Washington, D.C.

Kjeseth was invited to the conference, organized for the U.N. by the American Committee on Africa, in recognition of the work of Wartburg Seminary's Namibia Concerns Committee. She was impressed by the broad spectrum of people and organizations represented at the meeting. "People gathered from twelve countries to share information about recent developments in the continuing struggle of the Namibian people for independence", said Kjeseth.

While continued repression and torture of the Namibian people is still the chief affront to humanity carried out by the South African apartheid regime, Kjeseth believes another side of the Namibian issue needs increased attention. "It is not just apartheid which must be attacked," she states, "because the violations perpetrated by South Africa also include the systematic exploitation of Namibia's natural resources."

The U.N. Council on Namibia has declared the export of products from Namibia to be illegal until independence is secured. But in spite of this U.N. decree, the draining of Namibian resources continues at an accelerated pace.

"Namibia is rich in various metals as well as diamonds and uranium. There has been a thriving fishing industry, but research shared at the Conference verifies that lack of controls has led to the virtual depletion of various species of fish," Kjeseth said. "Similarly, investigators around the world have begun tracing how minerals, such as uranium, are illegally exported from Namibia and find their way into world markets. Even though many governments acknowledge Namibia's desperate situation, few have begun to tackle the economic subterfuge that is involved."

For several years our government has maintained that hope for a Namibian settlement lay just around the corner. Part of this hope sprang from the intervention of the so-called "contact states" (U.S.A., Britain, Canada, West Germany, and France) in negotiations for a Namibian settlement.

"The ironic thing," Kjeseth contends, "is that it is precisely this same group of 'advocates' who are benefiting tremendously from the economic exploitation of Namibia. While the contact states are supposedly attempting to negotiate Namibian independence, it is clear that they benefit from any delay in achieving agreement. No wonder the talks are in their fifth year with no settlement in sight!"

Recently the United States has blamed the presence of Cuban troops in Angola as the problem blocking negotiations. Until these troops are removed the United States insists no ceasefire can be reached between South African troops and Namibian patriots.

However, groups all over the world have decried this strategy as illegitimate and unhelpful. In a meeting in Tripoli, November 23-26, the heads of thirty-one African states condemned "the U.S.A. and the South African racist regime for their attempts to establish any linkage or parallelism between the independence of Namibia and the withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola." (Tripoli Declaration)

Similarly, the commissioners of Lutheran World Ministries (LWM), meeting November 10, 1982, called upon the U.S. government to "formally disassociate itself from making the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola a pre-condition to the implementation of United Nations Resolution #435 which calls for free and internationally supervised elections in Namibia." (LWM

statement is printed in full form in this newsletter.)

Attending the United Nations Conference were representatives of organizations from Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Britain, United States, and the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO is the official representative of the Namibian people at the United Nations.)

"I was amazed and overwhelmed by the work which is going on all over the world on behalf of Namibia," Kjeseth states. Children and adults in Norway working to supply refugee camps with materials, Dutch researchers tracing illegal exports of natural resources from Namibia to European ports, groups from many countries pressuring transnational corporations about their role in the economic exploitation of people in South Africa and Namibia---advocacy work takes a great variety of forms."

Namibia Concerns Committee at Wartburg Seminary was formed in 1978 to provide financial and material aid to Lutherans in Namibia. The Committee also seeks to inform members of the ALC and the larger community about conditions in Namibia and the need for responsible action in the U.S. Kjeseth says, "I was surprised to discover that our Lutheran network is one of the larger grassroots organizations."

Wartburg Seminary has been a leader in providing theological training for Namibian church leaders, and for the last decade has been blessed by the presence of Namibian students and families. "Since over half of the Namibian people are Lutheran, we feel a special kinship, and a responsibility to assist them in their struggle," says Kjeseth.

The Namibia Concerns Committee functions as a resource center for materials on Namibia. Files tracing the history of the Namibian struggle provide a historical perspective. Films and other media resources are distributed to congregations or groups doing Namibian education. Displays are available for conference and district conventions.

Kjeseth recently collaborated with Julie Dennison and Susan Burchfield in a publication for the ALCW's Resource packet. Entitled, "Black Women Under Apartheid", it will serve as a study guide for ALCW groups.

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## Report of the Namibia Fund

As indicated in the newsletter last spring, this year we are "testing the limits" in terms of the number of projects we have undertaken. Support for the Namibian students and their families will cost nearly \$20,000 this year. In addition, we hope to continue with our other projects within Namibia. Since the total figure is somewhat overwhelming, we have decided to itemize some of the needs in the hope that individuals or groups might select a particular project to work on.

Exchange students . . . \$20,000 (We have received approximately \$7,000 toward that.)

Books for Paulinum Seminary . . . \$500

Sewing machine for the ELOC women's department . . . \$250

Sewing materials . . . \$500

ELOC fund for children who have lost their parents . . . \$1500 (Have received \$200).

Cost of printing a newsletter . . . \$300

Cost of postage . . . \$120

Expenses for literature and films that we loan to congregations \$550

Since all work relating to the Namibia Fund is done by volunteers, any gift that you send (tax-deductible through Namibia Fund/Wartburg Seminary) will go directly to the project you choose.

## A Statement On The Situation In Namibia

By the Board of Commissioners of Lutheran  
World Ministries - November 10, 1982

*Conscious* of the bloodshed and suffering of the people of Namibia caused by the refusal of the South African Government to accept the judgment of the world community that its presence in the territory is illegal and that it is under obligation to withdraw,

*distressed* that numerous resolutions of the United Nations Security Council designed to bring peace and independence to Namibia have been either rejected by the South African Government or their implementation delayed with the result that warfare continues and not only Namibians but also Angolans and South Africans lose their lives and property,

*dismayed* that after all substantive issues related to the implementation of the latest United Nations Security Council resolution, namely 435 of 1978, have been resolved, a cease-fire has not taken place because of the insistence of the governments of the United States and South Africa that Cuban troops must withdraw from Angola prior to implementation, a condition not included in UNSC Resolution 435, and

*concerned* that South Africa's attempts to install illegally another internal government in Namibia will delay implementation of UNSC Resolution 435 at least another two years,

The Commission of Lutheran World Ministries assembled in New York City on 10 November 1982,

*expresses* its indignation at the actions of the governments of the United States and South Africa which prolong the struggle causing deaths and bringing instability to the region,

*deplores the "constructive engagement" policy of the U.S. Government which:* renewed training of South African Navy personnel at U.S. Coast Guard stations; received South African military personnel on official visits; established new South African consulates in the United States; permitted official visits by U.S. diplomats to so-called "homelands"; permitted the sale of specialized equipment and aircraft to South Africa which can be employed by the military and of electric batons to South African distributors; protected South Africa by a veto in the Security Council after South Africa's illegal invasion of Angola;

*while on the other hand, South Africa has:* delayed again the implementation of UNSC Resolution 435 and; brought instability to the region by bombing, strafing and occupying Southern Angola, by invading Zimbabwe, and by installing an undisciplined defense force in Namibia which harrasses and abuses the Namibian people,

*urges* the United States Government to formally disassociate itself from making the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola a precondition to the implementation of UNSC Resolution 435 (1978),

*assures* the people of Namibia of continued prayerful concern and material support by their brothers and sisters in the member churches of Lutheran World Ministries, and

*calls upon* the members of these churches to express their views to their congressional representatives, the President of the United States and the Ambassador to the United States from South Africa.



## Señator Clark Visits Wartburg



Former U.S. Senator Dick Clark chats with Zedekia Mujoro (left) and Engelhard !Noabeb (center) after his presentation at Wartburg Seminary on November 5, 1982.

"South Africa will never allow Namibian independence until it is pressured to do so," Clark said.

South Africa's unwillingness to seek alternatives to its policy of "apartheid", legal separation of the races, has turned most of the world against that country, Clark stated. South Africa has extended this policy to Namibia, refusing to give up its illegal occupation of that country in spite of repeated United Nations resolutions to that effect.

Senator Clark, who served as Chairperson of the African Affairs Subcommittee of the U.S. Senate from 1975-1979, insists that the United States should apply economic pressure on South Africa. Clark maintains that such pressure could be effective, because the United States is South Africa's last powerful friend. If this country were to impose sanctions, South Africa would indeed find itself standing in isolation in the world.

Even if economic sanctions did not bring change in South Africa, they still would be in the best interests of the U.S. for at least we could no longer be seen as a supporter of the racist apartheid system.

Clark, currently a Senior Fellow of the Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies, spoke at the invitation of the Namibia Concerns Committee at Wartburg Seminary.

### Please send me more information about the March Namibia Conference

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Check all that apply:

- I would like more information about the conference.
- I plan to come to the conference.
- I might be interested in the conference.
- I will work to publicize the conference in my area.

Return to: Namibia Concerns, Wartburg Seminary, 333  
Wartburg Place, Dubuque, IA 52001.

## Wartburg's Namibian Families

Wartburg Seminary is fortunate to have a new Namibian family: Pastors Zedekia and Emma Mujoro, 5 year old Tangeni, and 2 year old Ndapanda arrived last August. Since 1978, Zedekia and Emma (who is the first Namibian woman to be ordained in their ELC) have been working as youth directors for their Synod. It was their responsibility to visit congregations throughout Namibia to help organize and develop the youth program.

Emma and Zedekia were selected by Lutheran World Federation to do further study in this country. While at Wartburg, Emma will work toward her STM in Christian Education, while Zedekia concentrates on Ethics. We expect them to be a part of the Wartburg family for the next three years, and hope that many of you will have an opportunity to meet these delightful people.

Meanwhile, the Engelhard !Noabeb family is beginning its last year with us. Engelhard has successfully defended his thesis, and will begin teaching at Paulinum Seminary after their return to Namibia next summer. Christiane !Noabes has amazed us all with the progress she has made in English, and, of course, the kids speak like native Dubuquers! It will be hard to say good-bye next spring, knowing the difficult situation into which they will go.

Finally, those of you who remember the Abisai and Selma Shejavali family will be interested to know that they have had a fourth baby girl!--born last summer, little Nangula is reported to be as beautiful as her sisters. We have had difficulty in receiving news from the Shejavalis. When we telephoned on November first, they mentioned two letters which we have not received. They sounded well, and sent greetings and thanks to all of you. However, since the phone conversation is brief and indistinct, it is frustrating that we have not received the letters which would really provide news from them.



Above - !Noabeb family; below - Mujoro family



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