



Southern Africa

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Southern Africa Network-ELCA 1507 E. 53rd Street, #674, Chicago, IL 60615
phone (773) 702-4559 • zpngwane@midway.uchicago.edu

Teaching and Learning Music in South Africa

by Dr. Kathy Robinson

Dr. Kathy Robinson, Assistant Professor of Music Education at Temple University in Philadelphia writes of her experience teaching music at a school outside Kimberley, South Africa. The program, jointly sponsored by Temple University and the Philadelphia Boys Choir, offers musical training and resources to schools which lack funding for music education. Dr. Robinson returns to Kimberley this summer to continue her teaching and learning.

At the end of the Spring semester last year, while many students and faculty were looking forward to winding down, relaxing and enjoying the warm, hazy Philadelphia summer, I was bringing out the winter clothing, listening to Hugh Masekela, Ladysmith Black Mambazo and the Soweto String Quartet, and gathering materials for my summer assignment. I was to teach music to children in the town of Kimberley, South Africa and experience first-hand some of the rich musical traditions of the country.

I was invited to bring music education, skills and resources to 1-10 grades at the Sol Plaatje Educational Centre. Sol Plaatje is a school with no formalized music education program located across the street from the "Big Hole" - the largest man-made hole in the earth and the apex of the early diamond industry in South Africa. The children came from the neighboring township of Galeshewe. While seTswana is the dominant language spoken in the area, English is the medium of instruction at Sol Plaatje. While what to teach was still a concern, thankfully, language was not!

The quest for what to teach led me to wonderful resources which brought some clarity to a complex musical and cultural picture - from the conveniences and affluence of the west to the poverty and starkness of township squatter camps, and from the strains of traditional Black choirs to those of the Johannesburg Symphony Orchestra. The music program had to reflect the diversity of the nation, of the people, and of the world.

I began to formulate a curriculum based on indigenous folk music and literature of many cultures, periods and styles - one which centered on the structure of music, the function, role and power of music in the lives of the world's people and offered an opportunity to build students' musical skills and complement the rich South African vocal tradition. My exposure to theory and recorded music led me to anticipate new rhythms and harmonies, but could not have prepared me for the power of the experience of making music together.



I arrived in a musical heaven where nearly every child could sing on pitch with a soaring voice spanning a two-octave range. The heavy, full-bodied tones which seemed to rise from the student's toes and threatened to burst the thick brick walls of their school classrooms were perfect for traditional Black South African music but did not translate well to the Mozart and Haydn they were determined to master. No amount of singing was enough. I knew that the sky was the limit. No matter what I could give, they would want more. They shared their music and energy, stories and dances. I shared my skills - breathing, placement, range extensions - and repertoire. Galeshewe's Salvation Army Church choir (complete with brass band) and other community choirs opened their rehearsals to me and invited me to be a part of their music-making. For these South Africans, sharing their music with me meant that in addition to traditional songs I also heard Battle Hymn of the Republic and rap music with a decidedly Bushman twist.

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TRANSITIONS

Joan Gerig bids farewell as SAN Coordinator

Joan Gerig, long-time Southern Africa activist, veteran of the anti-apartheid struggle and organizer par-excellence, concludes her service as Coordinator of the Southern Africa Network:



This farewell is long overdue. A year ago, when I was working on the last issue of this newsletter that I would edit, I could not bring myself to say goodbye to you, the SAN Network—it was too sad and I knew how much I would miss the work and all of you. So I told myself I would ask to slip a note in the next newsletter that the new coordinator would edit. As you know, the process of locating a new coordinator took a bit longer than anticipated, so I had a long time to think about what I would say to you.

It isn't any easier to say goodbye now than it would have been a year ago. It was a real privilege to work with all of you for five years—sharing your passion for justice, for southern Africa, and for the church. What a powerful combination! During this historical time we joined with many others in praying and working to bring about a landmine ban treaty and peaceful elections in South Africa. Thank you for the opportunity to walk with you on this journey.

Since financial changes in my family made it necessary for me to return to full-time work, I now join your ranks as a member of the network looking forward to new paths we will walk with Linda and Zolani. It is a honor to have them follow me in this capacity. Having worked with both of them (even before they met one another!) for almost ten years, I know they bring a deep level of commitment, experience, and analysis to the network.

I say farewell with love and a prayer that God bless all of you and God bless Africa.

... Joan

“You have been the heartbeat of this Network”

SAN Co-chair, Rev. Michele Robinson, celebrates the work of Joan Gerig.

When Joan Gerig announced at our Spring 1997 Steering Committee meeting that she would be resigning as SAN coordinator, it came like a ton of bricks. Joan was leaving. She had become such an invaluable part of the Network. It seemed as though she had always been there for us, answering questions and providing information. Graciousness and hospitality were meted out in biblical proportions. She

worked tirelessly with “unflagging zeal”, caring leadership and steadfast commitment. How would we get along without her? She even learned about us Lutherans - our many quirks and idiosyncrasies - accepted and cared for us as though we were her own. She gave us so much during her tenure as coordinator. The landmine education efforts, the anti-apartheid protests and vigils, the speaker tours, the countless Global University Sessions, the fine newsletter and the information-brokering.

Dear Joan, we owe you a great debt of gratitude. We thank you for everything you've done to establish and grow the network. We miss you and will continue to “thank God for every remembrance of you.” Godspeed and farewell, dear friend and sister in the struggle.

From the new Coordinators: Zolani and Linda Noonan-Ngwane

While we could never fill Joan's shoes, we can certainly “walk the walk.” It is an honor to be invited into this circle of commitment, energy and passion known as the Southern Africa Network. Originally from the Eastern Cape in South Africa, Zolani is an ordained Presbyterian minister, trained at Federal Theological Seminary in Pietermaritzburg. He has worked in South Africa as a local pastor, Director of the Black Theology Project, and the Director of the National Youth Leadership Training Project. He is currently writing his doctoral dissertation in anthropology at the University of Chicago. Linda, ordained by the United Congregational Church in Southern Africa, has lived and worked in South Africa as a theological fellow at Federal Theological Seminary, lecturer at University of Durban-Westville, and chaplain at Inanda Seminary in Durban. We have two daughters, Sonja and Sarah and live in Chicago. We look forward to knowing you and invite your questions, suggestions, reflections or correspondence at any time! Write, call or email us!





ADVOCACY



U.S. Moves One Step Closer to Signing Treaty to Ban Landmines

Background

The "Ottawa Treaty," a comprehensive ban treaty on the production, use, stockpiling and trade of anti-personnel landmines was signed by 125 nations at a conference in Ottawa, Canada, December 2-4, 1997. The United States attended the conference but did not sign the treaty. To date, all of the western hemisphere has signed except the U.S. and Cuba, all of NATO has signed except the U.S. and Turkey, and the entire European Union has signed with the exception of Finland.

However, in a recent development the White House announced in May that the U.S. would sign the Ottawa Treaty to ban antipersonnel landmines if suitable alternatives could be found. The Pentagon has pledged to search aggressively for alternatives in order to make it possible for the U.S. to sign by 2006, the target date set by the Administration.

Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT), the Senate's leading advocate for a global ban on anti-personnel mines and other ban advocates will continue to urge the Administration to sign sooner. Sen. Leahy is now working to codify the Administration's policy announcement into U.S. law, and to press the Pentagon to make good on the promise to search for alternatives. He will be offering an amendment on the Defense Authorization bill which would state that the U.S. Government will sign the Ottawa Landmine Convention as soon as possible and would authorize

\$25 million for developing alternatives to anti-personnel landmines compatible with the Convention. The Leahy amendment would also require the Defense Department to report on its progress in the development of alternatives.



Action Request

Urge your Senators to support the Leahy Landmines Amendment when he offers it on the Defense Authorization bill. Consider the following points:

- This amendment will make it harder for future presidents to overturn President Clinton's announced intention to sign the Ottawa Treaty.
- It helps promote a solution to the single impediment to the United States' signing of the Ottawa Treaty by earmarking \$25 million for development of alternatives to landmines.
- The Leahy amendment would help make it possible for the U.S. to sign the Ottawa Landmine Treaty earlier than the announced target date of 2006.

Please call upon your Representatives and Senators to contact the White House and urge the President to sign the treaty without delay. Also, urge your Representatives and Senators to support authorization for \$100 million for humanitarian demining for fiscal year 1999 and \$15 million in assistance for landmine survivors.

Churches Call for Improvements in Africa Legislation

Background

On March 11, the House of Representatives adopted the "Africa Growth and Opportunity Act" (HR 1432), a bill to stimulate economic development and investment in sub-Saharan Africa. Senator Richard Lugar (R-IN) introduced a companion bill (S 778) in the Senate. The Lutheran Office of Governmental Affairs (LOGA) and other church bodies have called on the Senate to amend the bill so that it would: promote participatory governance and sustainable development; enhance benefits for Africa's poorest and most vulnerable people; and promote respect for labor rights and the environment. It would also include the provisions of the "Africa: Seeds of Hope Act of 1998" (HR 3636), which is the focus of Bread for the World's "Africa: Seeds of Hope" campaign. This campaign seeks to promote policies that address the needs of African women, small farmers, small entrepreneurs, rural workers and communities; support participation in decision making by affected people; and strengthen Africans' abilities to plan and implement programs.

Action Request

Urge your Senators and Representatives to support debt relief and people-centered development in Sub-Saharan Africa.



There are an estimated 100 million landmines laid in 68 countries, mostly developing nations. Every 22 minutes another man, woman or child somewhere in the world will become the victim of a landmine. There will be 70 casualties today, 500 this week, more than 2,000 this month, and over 26,000 this year. The victims are overwhelmingly civilian.

SOUTHERN AFRICA NEWS BRIEFS



AIDS rife in Africa

The World Health Organization (WHO) says the rate of people dying of AIDS is high in Africa, despite continued attempts to fight the virus. WHO Regional Director for Africa, Dr Ebrahim Sambaa, says that Africa has 70 percent of the nearly 21 million AIDS and HIV cases worldwide, with African countries reporting about 7,500 cases daily out of the global total of 16,000 daily infections. According to Sambaa, about 9 million adults and 1.5 million children born with the virus had developed the full-blown disease by the end of 1997 in Africa alone.

(Mail and Guardian 6/17/98)

De-mining partnerships, assistance

Zambia and Angola have agreed to work together to remove landmines from their 1,200 mile common border. The two countries also agreed to rehabilitate the Benguela railway to enhance economic co-operation and trade. Meanwhile, the United States has donated a further \$1.5 million to clear landmines in Mozambique. The Clinton administration has donated \$14.5 million since 1993, allowing more than 1,200 miles of roads to be cleared of anti-personnel mines in the central provinces of Manica, Sofala and Zambesia. The U.S. has also provided equipment and funds to two non-governmental organizations -- the Norwegian People's Aid and Britain's Halo Trust -- which have already removed more than 15,000 landmines.

(Mail and Guardian 6/17/98)

Machel hearing begins

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) has begun a closed hearing into the 1986 air crash in which Mozambican president Samora Machel was killed. The TRC has indicated that there was evidence linking the crash to activities of the former South African Defense Force. Several witnesses, including members of former South African military intelligence, will testify before the commission's investigative unit. The head of the investigation had declined to identify witnesses because of fears for their safety. When the plane in which Machel was traveling from Malawi to Mozambique strayed and crashed in South Africa, an investigation at the time gave the cause as pilot error. Russian investigators, however, said that the plane had gone down due to a decoy which was stronger than the regular signal at Maputo airport.

(Mail and Guardian 6/4/98)

UNITA goes back to war

Angola's Unita rebel movement has seized the small town of Piri which lies north-east of the capital, Luanda, raising the specter of renewed civil war. The government estimates that 10 districts and several towns have been taken by the rebels since mid-May, reversing what should be a process of surrendering Unita districts to government authority. Troops are reported to be massing in the north. Unita was supposed to have demobilized and surrendered all 300 districts originally under its control by March, the deadline set in peace accords signed in Lusaka in 1994. But after the deadline passed, Unita still held some 50 areas, including several major strongholds. These events have occurred despite Unita leader Jonas Savimbi having agreed with United Nations that the handover of Unita areas would continue.

(Mail and Guardian 6/17/98)

United Nations loses grip in Angola

There are signs that the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola is struggling to meet its international obligations as military attacks by the rebel movement UNITA increase. The United Nations Security Council decided in April to cut the size of UN troops by over half by the end of June. This has reduced the ability of the UN Observer Mission to verify government allegations of UNITA attacks at a time when the incidence of attacks are rising in the country.

(Angola Peace Monitor 6/98)

Lesotho on edge as election results are disputed

Following its landslide victory in Lesotho's May general elections, the ruling Lesotho Congress for Democracy (LCD), has been accused of massive electoral fraud. These accusations by opposition parties, the Basotho National Party and the Basotholand Congress Party, followed revelations of inaccuracies, discrepancies and errors. Despite declarations by groups of international observers that the elections were in fact fair, the opposition parties will be taking their objections to court.

(Editors' Note)

World Bank loans to Africa

The World Bank has approved interest-free loans to five African countries, totaling \$243 million. The recipients are Benin, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Senegal and Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe's \$67 million loan aims to upgrade national park infrastructure and protect wildlife. The World Bank has also granted a \$5 million loan to Angola for the removal of landmines.

(Mail and Guardian 6/4/98, Angola Peace Monitor 6/98)



Mozambique-South Africa corridor: salvation or marginalization?

The multi-billion dollar Maputo Development Corridor, a toll-road linking Johannesburg with Maputo, has been hailed as everything from the engine that will drive southern Africa into the world economy to the salvation of the region's poor. However, the poorest communities along the corridor have questioned its ability to produce the promised economic growth. A handful of women classified as "previously disadvantaged" have been fighting a year-long battle to sell fruit to highway motorists. The commitment of the corridor's developers to use and develop local labor and business was questioned during the launch of the corridor when local residents were barred by police from the festivities and all labor and supplies were imported from South Africa. Across the border in South Africa, several local communities are fighting the placement of toll-booths as the gates will separate them from their schools, jobs and shopping centers.

(Mail and Guardian 6/15/98)

Chemical and biological weapons destroyed

South Africa's chemical and biological weapons program developed under apartheid has been terminated, and all material which could have been used for offensive purposes destroyed, the government announced recently. Responding to evidence heard at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's hearings into the former government's initiative into a chemical and biological weapons program, a government spokesperson said that all material produced under the program has been destroyed.

(Mail and Guardian 6/15/98)

No 'immigrant' torrent in South Africa, says report

Claims that South Africa is under siege from a torrent of illegal immigrants from neighboring states have been challenged in a new study. In a report on migration in the region, the Institute for Democracy says the government must change its policies toward foreigners. The report says there is dangerous xenophobia, stereotypes, abuse of foreigners' rights, and inappropriate regulations and procedures. The report, compiled by the Southern Africa Migration Project, is based on interviews conducted with more than 2,000 people in Mozambique, Lesotho and Zimbabwe. Most of the people entered South Africa through official border posts. The law controlling immigration is the Aliens Control Act, geared specifically to the apartheid period and criticized as being archaic. Without reform, several human rights groups say they fear foreigners will continue to suffer major and systematic human rights abuses.

(Southern Africa Migration Project)

President Clinton's trip to Africa raises hopes and concerns

In March and April, President Clinton traveled to Africa for the first time, visiting six countries to promote free trade and the African Growth and Opportunity Act as the vehicle for the administration's proposed "economic partnership with Africa." This visit has served as a reminder both of the complexity of American foreign policy and the seriousness of its impact on the development of African countries. Most African leaders regarded the president's visit as a positive indication of a rising awareness of Africa's potential for trade, particularly in the wake of the Asian economic crisis. The visit has also brought American attention to the continuing economic challenges experienced by African countries and many hope that this will help increase U.S. aid to Africa. African leaders have expressed concern, however, about the implications of the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act which range from the potential for the U.S. to exert economic power and influence in the affairs of other countries to the potential for division within Africa if those countries deemed "undemocratic" are isolated.

(Editors' Note)

Should South African Churches give up their land?

A 1997 conference of the South African Council of Churches and the National Land Committee met to discuss ways in which church land may be used to help alleviate poverty. A national survey on church land is planned. The conference drafted and adopted a policy framework for the use of church land in the eradication of poverty and committed itself to a series of provincial plans of action. Speaking at the conference, Dr. Molefe Tsele, Lutheran pastor and Executive Director of the Ecumenical Service for Socio-Economic Transformation (ESSET), said that churches need not give up their land, but instead should use it in the eradication of poverty. "I am aware that I am going against the grain of calls for the churches to redistribute their land. However, this might amount to an abdication of responsibility on the part of the churches."

(Challenge 3/98)

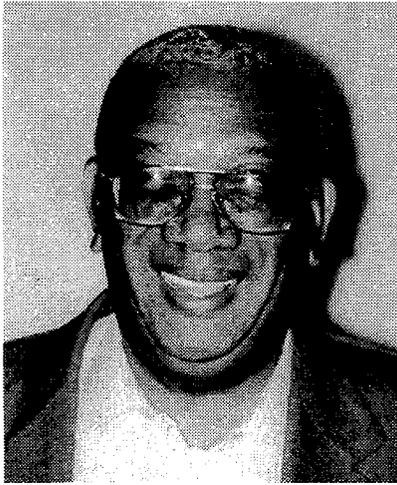
P.W. Botha on trial

P.W. Botha, president of South Africa during apartheid's bloodiest years, has been implicated by members of the former Security Forces as having given direct orders for the elimination of anti-apartheid activists. He refused to respond to a subpoena to appear before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Special Hearing, chaired by Archbishop Desmond Tutu. His trial has been adjourned until August 17. Judgment is expected on August 18.

(Editors' Note)

ACROSS THE CHURCH

South African Lutheran Bishop in Chicago: "Why we didn't go to the TRC"



The 1998 Lutheran Ecumenical Partnership Consultation, an annual meeting of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Southern Africa (ELCSA) with its European and American partners, took place in Chicago in May. Presiding Bishop Fortuin from South Africa was accompanied by the Rev. Thomas Mokgatho, General Secretary and Martin

von Fintel, Acting Treasurer. In addition to being a resource for information on global issues, the partnership also provides opportunities for ecumenical solidarity and sharing in one another's struggles and victories, joys and concerns, fears and faith. Aware of SAN's commitment to similar issues, we share some highlights of the consultation.

In his report on South Africa, Rev. Mokgatho noted some of the challenges facing the country as it approaches its second democratic elections in 1999. Topping his list of concerns: the need for broader participation in democratic processes; increased education about people's rights and their ability to influence policy; crime resulting from high levels of unemployment; and poverty. "The political struggle may be over but the economic struggle still goes on," he said. In this context, the church is being challenged to continue to be "the voice of the voiceless."

On a positive note, Rev. Mokgatho celebrated the demise of apartheid which has restored a sense of dignity to many. Partly as a result of this positive self-image and at the initiative of the Vice President Thabo Mbeki in particular, many people label this time as an "African Renaissance," a reference to a new spirit of renewal and commitment to "African solution to African problems."

Noting that many South African churches - from African Independent Churches to mainstream Protestants - had chosen to appear before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) during a Special Hearing in November 1997 to publicly confess both complicity as well as silence during the period of apartheid, members of the consultation sought clarity on the ELCSA's decision not to appear. Bishop Fortuin cited the Lutheran doctrine of two kingdoms to explain the church's reluctance to "confess" in a secular court. In addition, he referred to the vast political and cultural diversity of the Lutheran church and the view of the Church Council that participation in the TRC would sow division amongst church members. "We are still a young church," he said. "We must remain united."

Companion Synod report

Pastor from Caribbean Synod visits Eastern Diocese

Rev. Martha McCracken from the Companion Synod Committee in Puerto Rico, realized a life-long dream when she visited the Companion Synod of the Eastern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa. The Diocese includes Swaziland and the Eastern Transvaal. She reflects on her experience.

The joy of worship was contagious as we brought our gifts to the altar with singing and dancing in praise and thanksgiving to God. Young and not-so-young as well as babies tied to their mother's backs entered into the procession as we placed our gifts of money on the table. Unaccompanied four-part harmonies resounded out into the hills and valleys surrounding the rural churches.

Every Lutheran Parish in Swaziland has a school with 300 - 600 students. Education is strongly stressed. Since I had been a Lutheran School principal, it was a joy to see that Christian Education is such an important part of the church's ministry.

In addition to visiting schools and participating in worship, I also attended Women's and Men's Conferences and many homes. As I talked with sisters and brothers, we soon realized that we share many of the same concerns: how do we get more members; how do we encourage better stewardship; what are some new methods of evangelism? We also acknowledge how important it is for us to pray for each other and agreed to a Companion Covenant that includes mutual support of sharing resources, prayer concerns and personal visits. As I spoke with and learned from my companions, I was enlightened by their love of God and their witness to God's saving power to me and to those in their communities. Truly, the Light has shined!

Companion Synods of the ELCA and Churches in Southern Africa

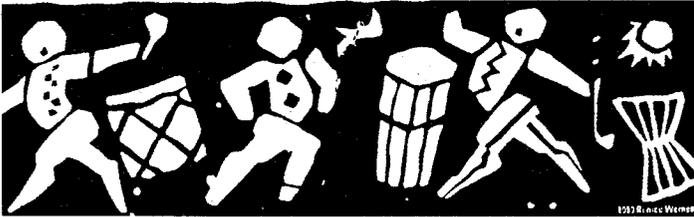
Montana Synod-Cape Orange Diocese ELCSA
Southwestern Minnesota Synod-South Eastern Diocese ELCSA
Metropolitan Chicago Synod-Central Diocese ELCSA
East-Central Synod of Wisconsin-Western Diocese ELCSA
Northeastern Ohio Synod-Northern Diocese ELCSA
Caribbean Synod-Eastern Diocese ELCSA
Northeastern Iowa 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



Teaching and Learning Music in South Africa

(continued from page 1)

What constitutes a person's music? What role does music play in a community that has had limited access to education and the rich resources of the country it calls home? In a land torn by violence and injustice, how has music been a teacher of history, a conveyor of values and a source of hope and faith? How does singing together heal and unite? Can our music reflect and make sense of a world that includes rich and poor, rural and urban, technology and tradition? As I traveled South Africa from Kruger National Park to Capetown, I collected stories, songs, experiences and questions. Music-making, music-teaching and music-learning. Music is a bridge which connects us all.



Hamba Kahle, Bill Johnston

William Johnston, founder and president of Episcopal Churchpeople for a Free Southern Africa, died at his home on June 4 at the age of 77. In the 1950's he was deeply moved by the suffering of the Black majority in South Africa and devoted the rest of his life to the struggle against apartheid and colonialism in southern Africa. In 1956, Bill founded the Episcopal Churchmen for South Africa. He worked tirelessly to educate and mobilize the American people to end white minority rule and legalized racism in southern Africa. Operating on the thinnest of budgets, often without salary or compensation, he published a newsletter that became essential to generations of anti-apartheid and human rights activists around the world. Bill was an indispensable and reliable source of information to first, National Namibia Concerns and later, the Southern Africa Network. His commitment to racial and social justice was not limited to Africa. Over the years he was active in many campaigns for civil rights, fair housing, environmental protection, economic justice and equal opportunity in the U.S. In recognition of his faithfulness to God and his selfless devotion to others, he was awarded the Bishop's Cross by the Episcopal Church in 1986.

Hamba Kahle, Bill. Go well.

The Southern Africa Network of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) is a membership organization of individuals, task forces, congregations, divisions, and commissions of the churchwide office. We are committed to educating ourselves and others about the struggle for justice in southern Africa, understanding the linkages between racism in the US and southern Africa, and deepening relationships with the churches and people of southern Africa.

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)

Organization/Congregation (\$100)

Synodical Group (\$50)

Here is an additional contribution

I would like to share the following comments, vision and hopes for our Southern Africa Network:
(Please feel free to use an additional sheet if necessary)

Name _____ Day Phone _____

Organization _____ Eve. Phone _____

Address _____

City, State _____ Zip _____

Please return to: Southern Africa Network-ELCA, 1507 E. 53rd Street. #674, Chicago, IL 60615
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NETWORK NOTES



The Southern Africa Network -

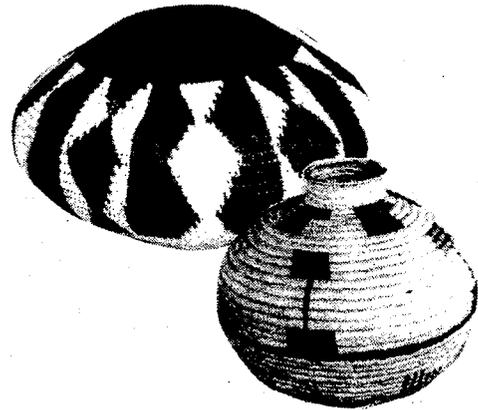
What is your vision?

A SAN Steering Committee meeting held in Chicago on May 11 resolved to devote its September 14 meeting to a discussion of the mission of the network in the light of ongoing changes and challenges in Southern Africa. Members of the committee feel that since its inception and early incarnation as National Namibia Concerns, the Southern Africa Network has played a crucial role in the church as an advocate for an end to oppression and for a peaceful transformation in Namibia and South Africa. In addition, the Network has also taken up issues of international concern such as anti-landmine education and advocacy. While we celebrate these victories, the committee perceives challenges in Southern Africa which continue to call for our support. SAN also recognizes that we have much to learn from our sisters and brothers in the region and across Africa about empowerment, democracy, social change, reconciliation and healing. These changes, challenges and opportunities for learning and relationship are the ground on which we walk and will set the course for the next phase of the Southern Africa Network. Your views, opinions, feedback and hopes for the network are very important. Please send us a note, e-mail message, or call and share your vision with us.

Note the Changes!

Southern Africa Network - ELCA
 Linda and Zolani Noonan-Ngwane, Coordinators
 1507 E. 53rd Street, #674
 Chicago, Illinois 60615

phone: 773.703.4559
 email: zpngwane@midway.uchicago.edu
 (no fax at this time)



The SAN office is in need of a
 single-sheet fax machine.
 If you have one to share or
 would like to contribute toward
 its purchase, let us know!

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