During the recent Namibia Training Event in Denver JeanPaul Prentice of Denver (left) discusses strategies with presentors Usko Shivute (center) from Namibia and Rev. Ndaganeni Phaswana, (right) South African pastor currently serving at Saint Olaf College. A similar event was held in Kansas. See story on page 5.

NEW LEGISLATION ATTACKS BRUTAL APARTHEID SYSTEM

A record number of bills which could radically affect U.S. relations with South Africa are being introduced in Congress currently. In the House of Representatives, no less than 14 different measures have been proposed.

Growing awareness of apartheid’s brutality and escalating American concern about suffering in southern Africa are cited as causes for the new legislation.

While a complete list of pending legislation may be obtained from the Washington Office on Africa (202/546–7981), we call your attention to those bills of special note and urge you to contact your representatives and senators.

A bill introduced in the House (HR 1460) by Representatives Gray, Wolpe, Solarz, and Fauntroy would prohibit: new corporate investment in South Africa; new bank loans to the South African government; the import of Krugerands; the export of computers to the South African government or its agencies.

In the Senate, a bill with similar provisions has bi-partisan sponsorship from Kennedy, Weicker, Proxmire, and Sarbanes.

Write to your senators and representative asking them to "sign on" in support of these measures.

The following states are considered crucial for the Senate legislation: Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Maine, Florida, Indiana, Kansas, and Minnesota.

Since much of the proposed legislation does not mention Namibia, Rep. Pat Schroeder, (D—Colorado), is sponsoring a bill that would require U.S. corporations to comply with U.N. Decree Number 1.

This decree prohibits the exploitation of Namibia's natural resources by banning the export and sale of Namibia's minerals and other resources without the consent of the U.N. Council for Namibia.

Please ask your representative to sign on as a co-sponsor of the Schroeder bill on Namibia!
KAMEETA REPORTS ON NEW EVANGELIST TRAINING PROGRAM

A letter from Pastor Zephania Kameeta reports: "Nine evangelists have been registered with the Theological Education by Extension College.

This project is one of the several projects National Namibia Concerns helps fund. We became involved after Kameeta's visit last fall.

"I feel so encouraged by their joy for being given this precious opportunity to study and so be better equipped to serve God's people," writes Kameeta.

"We are grateful for your assistance in this regard. My dream and prayer is that this education will be extended to the whole church."

Thanks to all who helped with this project! We are still about $600 short of our goal, so if you would like to assist in the training of Namibian evangelists, please let us know.

HISTORY REWRITES ITSELF IN UITENHAGE MASSACRE

By Solveig Kjeseth

As I write, we are observing the 25th anniversary of the Sharpeville Massacre. Today we remember the day in March, 1960, when South African police opened fire on a crowd that had gathered to protest the pass-book laws.

Sixty-nine people died that day, most of them shot in the back as they fled from police bullets.

Today South Africa has also commemorated the Sharpeville Massacre in its own way: by opening fire on a funeral procession.

We don't know how many died today in Uitenhage. The area has been sealed off so the world may not see. Even the hospital is "off limits" so parents and friends do not know if their loved ones are dead or alive.

The response of our government is shocking. We "deplore the deaths, but people should remember that there was violence from both sides."

Does our administration not see that only one side had guns, that only the other side is bleeding and dying?

It is disgraceful to condemn people who, with sticks and stones, seek to fight off the attacks of automatic weapons fired from armored trucks. I am reminded of the Jews in the Warsaw ghetto.

No wonder the world looks critically at our nation—founded on the dream of liberty and justice—as we rush to justify the brutality of South Africa's apartheid system.

At the Denver training seminar, Rev. Phaswana was asked, "Do you see any hope?" His response was two-fold.

"Yes," he said, "as long as there are people, like you gathered here, who are concerned about human suffering, about oppression and persecution, about protecting human rights, then there is hope. We look to you to tell the story, to change the policies of your government."

Secondly, Phaswana said, "Our final hope is the Easter message, the empty tomb, the faith that in Christ victory has been won over the forces of evil in this world."

As we celebrate the Easter story, may it be a call to us to share in the hope of Phaswana and the millions of people he represents. We pray that the families of these latest victims may somehow find comfort and meaning in the deaths of their loved ones.

And we pray that you and I may find the courage and the strength to stand with them and tell their story. But especially we must educate our leaders so that they too will be willing to speak and act against the evil of apartheid.

Frieda Shivute (above) tells of the experience of women under apartheid at the recent training events held in Denver and Lindsborg, Kansas. See story page 5.
MEET A TRUE SOUTH AFRICAN HERO: HELEN JOSEPH

Editor's Note: Helen Joseph, a white South African woman, is a hero in the struggle for justice in South Africa. She was in the center of the women's protest against pass laws, depicted so well in the film, "You Have Struck A Rock." Recently, Bill Johnston wrote the following article about this courageous woman.

By Bill Johnston

"...you are engaged in activities which endanger or are calculated to endanger the maintenance of public order."

This recital from South Africa's Minister of Justice was familiar to Helen Joseph when she was banned again in June, 1980.

EDITED MOVEMENT GAINS MOMENTUM IN UNITED STATES

The divestment movement is spreading.

At this time, some type of divestment legislation has been introduced in the legislatures of more than thirty states and in an equal number of city councils.

Divestment is having an impact on South Africa. This is clear because South Africa is pouring financial resources into an "anti-divestment campaign."

One of the South African allies in this campaign is Steve Bisenius, former head of the American Chamber of Commerce in South Africa (AMCHAM). (See a related article in Namibia Newsletter, October, 1984)

Bisenius, formerly a realtor from Dubuque, Iowa, resigned his AMCHAM post to launch a group called the "New American Association for Trade and Investment" which works to block further divestment legislation.

Branding the divestment movement as "vicious", Bisenius claims the anti-apartheid groups "are funded to the tune of $50,000,000 per year."

It would be wonderful if that were true!

Opposition to divestment legislation is well financed and coordinated, as our friends in Wisconsin discovered. By distributing misleading information warning of the dire consequences of divestment, the anti-apartheid lobby have alarmed large numbers of people who believe their retirement incomes will be in jeopardy should divestment happen.

Enough colleges, religious groups, cities and states have now divested so that we can say with confidence that if divestment is done carefully and creatively, it can be done without risk to the investment portfolio.

Several investment counselors specialize in assisting groups who want socially responsible investments. People do not have to fear the financial consequences of divestment.

DID YOU KNOW...?

Did you know that an average of 500 people have demonstrated at the South African Consulate every day since Thanksgiving?
Wartburg student Philip Wangberg (right) and Rev. Rick Mark ('82) met with Dean Simon Farisani and his wife Regina Farisani (middle) at their home in Venda, South Africa, during a recent ALC tour. Farisani has undergone several tortures at the hands of South African military. See the details of the new film about him on page 6.

RISKY NEWS FROM NAMIBIA GETS TO U.S. SUPPORTERS

Editor's Note: We have just received the following message from one of our friends within Namibia.

"The situation in Namibia is deteriorating rapidly. A unilateral declaration of independence (UDI) will be declared within six weeks, probably with the approval of the Reagan administration. Do not be fooled by this. We need more than ever, your prayers and support."

This was a risky message for our friend to send. That he felt it important enough to take that risk means we must take it seriously.

Declaring a UDI would likely mean that the Administrator General of Namibia would be withdrawn to South Africa. In his place would be persons willing to do the bidding of South Africa while pretending to be an independent government.

Thus a UDI would avoid the free elections under U.N. supervision, would not involve the real representatives of the Namibian people, and would simply perpetuate South African control and the apartheid system.

We must be alert to the danger of our country giving its approval to this attempt to circumvent the provisions of U.N. Resolution 435.

DIVESTMENT LEGISLATION STRUGGLES IN WISCONSIN

By Ted Steege

A Wisconsin bill to divest State of Wisconsin Investment Board funds from firms doing business in or with South Africa, fell victim to multiple compromises, and wound up referred to committee along with several substitute amendments.

The bill, supported strongly by Lutherans and others concerned about freedom in Namibia and South Africa, was referred to the Assembly Ways and Means committee after several hours of intense debate.

Rep. Jeff Neubauer (D—Racine), who chairs the committee, favors some sort of divestment action as a form of economic sanction against the South African apartheid regime.

Many of the Namibia Concerns network had worked diligently on passage of the bill. Ruth Jornby and many others spent great amounts of time and effort organizing support for the bill.

One young teacher from Madison brought students along with her to testify and said, "Teach what we say and do. Teach the rights and the wrongs. It is obvious that Botha is wrong. This is a slave market! We are investing in a blood bath."

It is likely that the bill will get a hearing and floor action some time in the biennium, but timing is uncertain.

Just what form the bill will finally take is uncertain too. Originally, the bill called for divestment of some $2 billion in pension fund holdings.

Intensive lobbying against such measures by the Wisconsin Investment Board and by the Wisconsin Education Association Council began as early as October of 1984.

The Investment Board Executive Director, Kenneth Codlin, visited retired teacher groups to spread the fear that divestment would cost retirees $165 per person.

The result was a barrage of mail and phone calls from worried state employees and pensioners which led some of the 38 Assembly co-authors to ask that their names be removed from the bill.

The Legislative Fiscal Bureau released information that divestment would cost millions now and millions more in the future.

Even though these negative financial projections were brilliantly refuted at an informational hearing March 15 by witnesses from Trans Africa, Lutheran World Ministries, and a Massachusetts investment firm's specialist in socially responsible investment, most legislators did not get the word in time.

Ruth Jornby commented on the long, frustrating process when she said, "It concerns me that we have failed to uphold the progressive traditions of Wisconsin."

"Yet, despite the defeat, we must continue to organize our support for ending racism in South Africa and in this country as well," she said.
TWO TRAINING EVENTS STAGED DURING FEBRUARY

"As long as I reject apartheid I will have to walk the path of stones, hunger, persecution and even death."

"But along this path I will rejoice. I will not give up hope," the Rev. Ndaganeni Phaswana stated as he addressed concerned Christians at Southern Africa Awareness Events staffed by National Namibia Concerns in February.

Phaswana, a pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of South Africa, spoke to over 25 ALCW leaders February 13 and 14 in Lindsborg, Kansas, and to more than eighty-five Denver-area Lutherans February 15 and 16 for a study seminar: "Christians in Namibia and South Africa: the story of suffering and hope."

Highlighting the program were Phaswana and Namibian Lutherans, Frieda and Usko Shivute, who shared first-hand accounts of widespread suffering in southern Africa.

The presence of southern Africans at these seminars helped to authenticate what might otherwise be beyond our imagination.

As one participant put it, "Hearing Frieda tell about what apartheid does to families, how it has caused suffering in her own family, forced me, as a mother, to try to put myself in her place."

Banquet speaker, Dr. Jean Sindab, Executive Director of Washington Office on Africa, put the weekend into perspective with her remarks on "The Free South Africa Movement—its history, hope and promise."

Since the seminar focused on advocacy training and strategies for action, Dr. Sindab called attention to current legislation related to southern Africa and asked for us to participate in the legislative process by contacting our representatives on this issue.

More than seventy letters were mailed from seminar participants; some were letters of support to southern Africans, while others were sent to our State Department and to legislators.

Both of these advocacy training events were sponsored by the Central District ALCW, with help from Lutheran World Ministries, Lutheran Church Women (LCA), the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches, Wartburg Seminary's Denver House of Studies, and National Namibia Concerns.

Usko Shivute (left) and Rev. Red Burchfield (right) discuss Namibia during a break at the training event.

MUJORO LETTER EXPRESSES CONTINUED NEED FOR CONCERN

Recently one of their seminary classmates received a letter from Pastors Emma and Zedekiah Mujoro.

They reported: "We are here in the midst of suffering and uncertainty. So far we are doing fine. We are all in good health.

"Emma and I are teaching at the Paulinum Seminary. Emma is teaching Christian Education while I struggle with systematic, liberation, and African theology.

"I can say we enjoy our jobs indeed! People in Namibia admire the courage of those protesting at embassies in the United States. It is good that our situation is not forgotten."
Namibian Advocacy Resources

THREE NEW MEDIA RESOURCES PROVIDE HELPFUL INSIGHTS

Namibians in Exile: Building for the Future, 1983, 37 minutes, color, video or film.

This resource, produced by the Holland Committee on Southern Africa, shows life in Namibian refugee camps in Angola. It illustrates how SWAPO attempts to provide, food, housing, education, and religious services for 90,000 Namibians.

These are not refugees in the usual sense. These are temporarily displaced people who are training themselves and their children for the day when they will return to assume leadership roles in a free Namibia.

Impressions: Namibia, 1984, 35 minutes, color, video (VHS) or slides. Produced by National Namibia Concerns Boardperson Barbara Fullerton, funded by the World Mission Task Force of the Ohio District (ALC).

This is a report from an ALC Mission Observer team which visited South Africa and Namibia in October, 1984. The visit included conversations with representatives from government, church and SWAPO in Namibia. This report, utilizing slides taken on the trip, "tells it like it is" and provides an excellent discussion starter for congregations.

Torture of a South African Pastor, 1984, 24 minutes, color, video or film.

Produced for the Lutheran World Federation by John Evenson, this resource includes the first-hand account of the torture of T. Simon Farisani. Farisani, a dean of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in South Africa, was tortured while being held without charge by the South African government.

Farisani tells his story with a remarkable lack of bitterness, yet with a determination not to be silenced. The conversation with Mrs. Regina Farisani helps us to imagine the fear and uncertainty felt by his family during these painful months.

WARTBURG NAMIBIA CONCERNS ALIVE AND WELL IN DUBUQUE

With the recent organization of National Namibia Concerns and with the transfer of much of the activity to Denver, what has become of the Namibia work in Dubuque.

Jennifer Jarvis—Schroeder reports that things are moving along well, and that a dedicated crew continues to provide valuable service to the seminary and the mid-west area.

The Namibia office at the seminary still provides information, packets and other printed resources, as well as distribution of films all over the country.

The Namibia office is staffed every day, Monday through Friday from 11 a.m.—12:30 p.m. The number is (319) 589-0326.

All financial support should be sent to the Denver National Namibia Concerns office at 860 Emerson, Denver, CO 80218. The day—time office phone is (303) 830—2774. At other times Solveig may be reached at (303) 832—3229.

TELEPHONE SERVICE PROVIDES CURRENT LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Africa Hotline is a telephone information service of the Washington Office on Africa, funded by Lutheran World Ministries.

Each Friday a new three—minute message is recorded with anti—apartheid news from around the country, as well as information about legislation that is currently being debated in Congress.

The Hotline explains the various bills and gives the names of key persons to contact. It is open 24 hours a day, so by calling at night or on weekends, you receive this information for less than one dollar. Dial 202/546—0408.

CREATIVE USE OF DRAMA ENHANCES NAMIBIAN WORSHIP

While on internship, Jean Kloss, a Wartburg student, helped people in her congregation identify with the church in Namibia through a worship service.

Jean reports: The question seemed to be "how can I make Namibia a real place, an important place to members of this congregation?"

Faced with this question and an upcoming Sunday service scheduled to develop awareness about Namibia, she took a cue from Selma Shejavali, and set the stage for the congregation to move from the comfort of East Koshkonong parish to a church service in Namibia.

In the middle of the opening hymn, the service was interrupted. The question was asked, 'What if armed men came in and removed some of our people?'

Several members left to illustrate the activity of South African Security forces. The service continued with the question, 'Could we go on with our worship?'

In this way, people at the service were invited first to share in the feelings of the people of Namibia, then guided to an understanding of the situation within which these Christians live. Then, hope in the Lord of the Resurrection was acknowledged as a source of the Namibian's strength.
BOOKS FOR PAULINUM

Lord of Life Lutheran Church, the campus congregation at California Lutheran College (CLC), and the associated CLC student body recently bought $750 worth of books to send to Paulinum Seminary in Namibia. Thanks to the students, to campus pastor, Gerry Swanson, and to Fortress Press which packed and shipped the books.

KASSINGA REMEMBERED

The Kassinga Massacre (a raid by South African troops on a Namibian refugee camp in which 800 Namibian people died) occurred on May 4, 1978. This year a number of churches are designating May 5th as Kassinga Massacre Commemoration Sunday. In the Central District (ALC), Bishop Wayne Weissenbuehler is inviting bishops of the United Methodist, Episcopal, Roman Catholic, United Church of Christ, African Methodist Episcopal churches to make this an ecumenical effort.

KANSAS CITY AREA ACTIVE

People in the Kansas City area are invited to call Cathy Dykman—Cunard (642—8412) or Rebecca Wenske (942—9265) for help in planning a program on Namibia. They have offered to be contact persons if you need a film or discussion leader for your group.

Our thanks to Cathy and her father, Loyd Dykman, who arranged a Namibia awareness seminar at Atonement Lutheran in Kansas City on March 9th. Jonathan Hevita, a Namibian pastor at Wartburg Seminary, was present to tell the story of his country. Solveig Kjeseth gave a history of United States involvement, and discussed strategies for action.

Sunday School children at Atonement are collecting money for Lutheran kindergartens in Namibia. Along with their gifts each group will send a class picture so the kids in Namibia can see what their American friends look like.

OREGON DEMONSTRATES

In Portland, Oregon, twice-weekly demonstrations at the office of the Honorary Consul for South Africa, led to 28 arrests. But it also resulted in the resignation of Mr. Calvin Van Pelt.

This is the third such office to be closed in the past few months. Congratulations to: Portlanders Organized for Southern Africa Freedom, the Black United Front, the Rainbow Organizing Committee, and American Friends Service Committee. National Namibia Concerns board member, Elizabeth Groff, was one of the persons instrumental in the organizing of these actions.

DISTRICT RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions of solidarity with the people of Namibia will be introduced in at least two ALC District Conventions this spring. The Task Force on Namibia and South Africa in the South Pacific District (ALC) and the Conference on Inner City Ministries in Detroit took the initiative on these resolutions.

QUOTE TO REMEMBER

"The United States has no credibility if we pretend that we don't see what is happening in South Africa, if we close our eyes to what is going on in that country."

U.S. Rep. Pat Schroeder
ADDRESS
We have just finished re-typing everyone's name for our new computer. Six thousand names has taken many hours! Now we ask you to help us by sending any corrections.

TELEPHONE TREE
Our goal is to be an effective information and action network. To do this we would like to organize "telephone trees" which could be activated in case urgent information must be dispersed. If you would be willing to make eight or ten phone calls in your area on occasion, please indicate this.

SPEAKER'S BUREAU
From time to time we receive requests for persons to show a film and/or lead a discussion. If this is something you could do, please let us know.

Name__________________________
Street_________________________________
City________________________State_________Zip________

Speaker's Bureau
Willing to serve in a "Speaker's Bureau? YES NO

Phone Tree
Willing to be part of a phone tree? YES NO

National Namibia Concerns
860 Emerson
Denver, CO 80218

Address Correction Requested