

NATAL ANGLICAN NEWS

A NEWSPAPER FOR THE DIOCESE OF NATAL
IPHEPHA LESIFUNDAMBISHOBI SASENATAL

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Natal Priest represents CPSA at United Nations

Anglican Statement on Status of Women

The Revd Beverley Haddad of the Diocese of Natal who was appointed by the Archbishop to represent the CPSA at a United Nations Commission meeting, has brought back the following statement from the Anglican delegates:

The Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) delegation to the 48th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) meeting in New York, 1-12 March 2004 examined two themes from the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action: "Men and boys in gender equity, and "Women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management, resolution and post-conflict peace building".

The delegation comprising members from 11 provinces claimed the Anglican Communion as an unbreakable bond. The 55 Anglican delegates experienced communion as the reality of women working together for justice and peace in the name and power of Jesus Christ. Women rejoice in God's gift of the Anglican Communion and claim their call to strengthen that Communion.

We are convinced that women hold society together during times of natural disaster, illness and war. Women's experience of holding, healing and

sustaining families and communities will not be relegated to the private sphere but will become a public voice heard and acted on in places of power and decision-making in the Church and around the world. Just as the United Nations calls for women's presence in all processes of conflict-resolution and peace building, so should the Church seek women's participation at every level.

We were proud to participate under the auspices of the Anglican Observer to the United Nations and are privileged to carry forth the work of the ACC and its commitment to preventing and eradicating HIV/AIDS (Resolution 2 of ACC 12). The ACC delegation hosted a public forum on "The Cross-Generational sprwad of HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa and its Effect on Girls", recognizing the feminization of the disease in the faces of the your girl, the wife and the widow.

Therefore:

*We call on the Anglican Consultative Council to continue the affirmation of

the International Anglican Women's Network and we challenge the ACC to adopt the goal of a 30% representation of women in all decision-making bodies in our Anglican Communion.

*We commit ourselves to communicating with women at the grass roots level, the empowering learning of this gathering established in the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

*We embrace and work to implement those goals particularly 3: "Promote Gender Equality and empower women."

*We deplore all forms of violence against women, and commit ourselves to expose and correct these violations of human rights: war, sexual abuse, poverty and trafficking.

*We invite men and boys to join us in this critical work.

*We commend those provinces who sent delegates to the 48th Session and challenge all 36 provinces to send

delegates to the 49th Session of the CSW meeting in March 2005 where we will join with women of faith to be an even stronger voice for women's empowerment.

*We affirm our love and passion for the work of Jesus Christ and invite our sisters and brothers to a life of mission in Jesus' name. 'Glory to God whose power, working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine'. (Ephesians 3.20)





After almost two decades without a full holiday, Bishop Rubin and Rose have been on sabbatical leave, part of which was spent in the UK where they were hosted by the Bishop of Southwell.

Anglicans and Muslims to meet for dialogue in Cairo

THE THIRD MEETING of the al-Azhar al-Sharif - Anglican Communion Dialogue is to take place in Cairo, Egypt 8-9 September 2004. A team of scholars and churchpeople, nominated by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd Rowan Williams, will be meeting with key representatives of al-Azhar al-Sharif in Cairo – the leading religious institution in the Sunni Muslim world.

The dialogue is part of a process which provides a means for the Anglican Communion to develop and foster positive relationships of trust and co-operation with Muslim communities. The Anglican Communion's contribution to the dialogue is administered on behalf of Archbishop Rowan by NIFCON, the Anglican Communion's Inter-Faith Network.

At a time of continuing world tension, finding opportunities for leading Christians and Muslims to meet and talk about their faiths, what they share in common – as well as their differences – has proved rewarding for both faiths. It is hoped that the meeting in Cairo will build on good existing relationships and further deepen understanding about each other's faith.

It is also anticipated that the ongoing process will consider the experience both of Christians who live in predominantly Muslim contexts and of Muslims living in predominantly Christian contexts.

After the formal meeting of the dialogue concludes, Archbishop Rowan will be travelling to Cairo to deliver a lecture in al-Azhar al-Sharif on 11 September 2004, and to visit a social and development project which has been established largely because of the good relationships between personnel at al-Azhar al-Sharif and the Anglican (Episcopal) Diocese of Egypt and North Africa.

Provincial Secretaries Conference in JHB

ARCHBISHOP Desmond Tutu was once asked what holds the Anglican Communion together. "We meet," he replied.

And while they represent provinces that may disagree with one another on specific issues, 33 of the Anglican Communion's 38 provincial secretaries are meeting August 26-September 2 in Johannesburg, to share stories, information and resources, and to help one another understand those differences.

The conference constitutes one of the Anglican Communion's many informal and unofficial networks.

Neighbouring Elections

THE first Elective Assembly of the newly created Diocese of Mpumalanga to elect their first Bishop takes place on the 14th September, at the Church of St Michael and All Angels, Nelspruit. The Reverend Mark Rennie Durward Long, Chaplain to Uplands College, White River, Mpumalanga, and The Very Reverend Leslie Walker Dean of Pretoria have been nominated as candidates.

And in the Diocese of Zululand The Very Reverend Dino Gabriel, Dean of the Cathedral of St Michael and All Angels, Eshowe, and The Venerable Archdeacon Dr H C Nkosinathi Ndwandwe, Rector of St Margaret's Parish, Nongoma, have been nominated for the election on September 7th to choose a successor for Bishop Anthony Mdletshe who retires in October.

Theological prize

THE Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd Dr Rowan Williams, has launched a bid to identify and encourage the most promising theological writers of the current age.

The Michael Ramsey Prize, which is being sponsored by the Lambeth Fund and administered by SPCK, commemorates the centenary of the birth of Michael Ramsey, the 100th Archbishop of Canterbury. The £15,000 award will recognise a published new work which, in the opinion of the judges, is saying "something new and compelling at the cutting edge of Christian thinking and that will make a serious contribution to the faith and life of the Church". Dr Williams will serve as one of the judges.

The first award will be presented in the summer of 05 and will be made to the author of a work written (or appearing in translation) in English, and which has been published between January 00 and June 04.

Dr Williams said that he was delighted by the enthusiasm which had greeted this proposal: "I have been clear since I came into office that a real priority had to be the encouragement of excellence in the field of theological education. The opportunity to combine this with honouring Michael Ramsey, one of the great theological writers and thinkers of the Anglican church in living memory, was simply too good to ignore. I hope that writers and researchers will be encouraged and that the church will realise the great debt that we owe to those whose work is to deepen our understanding and strengthen our faith."

ACNS

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If you find your church has copies left over in church please let us know so we can allocate them to other parishes where demand exceeds supply.

Urgency:

It is thanks to you, the readers, that *Anglican News* is becoming so newsworthy. The present issue, however, has been delayed by reports having come in so late that we are already finalizing material for the next issue. Do please send in your news as promptly as possible.

More than a thousand used old-fashioned Matt Brown Marseilles roof tiles are available at Chapter Close in Pietermaritzburg for free, although of course a donation to the Diocese would not be refused! First-come-first-served. Phone 033-342 2060 to make arrangements.

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New Executive Director for Diakonia



BISHOP RUBIN has announced, "with great pleasure" the appointment to the post of Executive Director of the Diakonia Council of Churches of Ms Nomabelu Mvambo-Dandala.

"Ms Mvambo-Dandala, a prominent lay leader in the Methodist Church, has been working for Diakonia for the last twenty years in varied capacities which have given her a deep understanding of the churches and the society which Diakonia seeks to serve. Since August 03, she has been Acting Director of the organisation, a position which she has filled with competence, sensitivity and care.

"She was a union organizer with the Commercial, Catering & Allied Workers' Union for two years before being selected by the Methodist Church of Southern Africa to be part of a diverse team of five young people giving a year of their lives - 1983 - to travelling throughout the Church running education and awareness-raising programmes. Part of the preparation was through the National Youth Leadership Training Programme, the prestigious ecumenical training programme that produced so many of those in leadership positions in South Africa today.

"Joining Diakonia in 1984, Ms Mvambo-Dandala has worked in the Church & Industry Programme, the Labour Programme, as Coordinator of the Reconstruction & Democracy Team, Manager of the Economic Empowerment & AIDS Team and Deputy Director - giving her a deep and wide experience of the issues confronting society and effective strategies with which the churches can deal with them.

"In her own denomination, the Methodist Church of Southern Africa, Ms Mvambo-Dandala is held in great respect as an acknowledged leader in many fields. Among these has been her work at Connexional and District levels in the then-Christian Citizenship Department on justice and peace issues, and her participation as an elected member to the Connexional Conference. A strong promoter of the struggle to eliminate discrimination in any form, Ms Mvambo-Dandala was pivotal in the setting up of the Methodist Women's Network in the 1980s, bringing women together across racial boundaries.

"She has long and varied experience as a trainer, including being part of a joint team training South African and Swedish peace monitors in Sweden, and training a large number of people locally and nationally through the project Empowering for Reconciliation with Justice (ERJ),

in the preparations for the new South Africa. She has had considerable experience travelling internationally, including a sabbatical with grassroots organizations in the Philippines and joint conferences at our German partners, the Evangelische Akademie Bad Boll.

"Ms Mvambo-Dandala is married to Methodist minister, the Revd Vakele Dandala, and has four children, three boys and a girl".

Bishop Rubin says "Ms Mvambo-Dandala's life is an exemplary model of a person with strong grassroots connections who has, through years of wide exposure, experience and training, developed into a fine leader in church and society. She has the rare gift of being committed to developing skills through constant disciplined reflection on her own experience and that of others.

"To the leadership of this fine organization, with its illustrious history, Ms Mvambo-Dandala brings not only her personal qualities and skills but also a deep commitment to the growth and development of people, be they staff, church members, or those in society most needing the care of the church and its prophetic ministry on their behalf.

"Recently-retired director Mr Paddy Kearney was the pioneer of this ecumenical church agency committed to justice, reconciliation, democracy and peace in society. I have every confidence that Ms Mvambo-Dandala will be a worthy successor, and will take the organisation forward into the next phase of its development with skill, energy and commitment. The Council and staff commend her to your prayers."

Pastoral visit to Diocese of Swaziland

Michael Craske

THE Bishop of Swaziland, the Rt Revd Meshack Mabuza, has expressed great thanks for the visit to his diocese of a delegation from the worldwide Anglican Communion.

In a letter to the delegation leader - the Primate of the Church of the Province of Southern Africa (CPSA) the Most Revd Njongonkulu Ndungane - the Bishop said that the diocese, which covers all of Swaziland, was greatly encouraged by the magnitude of support that the delegation represented. "The Church of Swaziland is not alone in its struggles for justice," he said, "but it is supported by the worldwide Communion...and that a concern in one part of the Communion is a concern for the whole communion." Bishop Mabuza added that the press coverage of the visit throughout Swaziland and Southern Africa had highlighted the country's plight and raised awareness of its many problems.

Swaziland has currently the highest HIV infection rate in the world at 40% of the population with the national life expectancy to fall to just 27 by 2010. About seven out of ten of the Swazi population also live on less than US\$1 a day.

"The Anglican Communion has an interest in what is happening in Swaziland," continued Bishop Mabuza, adding that the delegation had achieved its purpose in showing that "...not only are we being prayed for, but the scope is there for internationalising our struggle and getting support from a much wider circle than has ever been conceived before."

The visit to Swaziland took place between 8-10 July and was organised in response to a request from Bishop Mabuza. The delegation met with church and civic leaders, the head of state, the prime minister, the Queen Mother, and various ambassadors to Swaziland to discuss the socio-economic situation and the country's ongoing constitutional development. A service was held in the Anglican Cathedral Church of All Saints in Mbabane on 10 July.

Archbishop Ndungane was accompanied by the Bishop of Lebombo in Mozambique,

the Rt Revd Dinis Sengulane; the Bishop of the Highveld and Dean of the Province, the Rt Revd David Beetge; the Episcopal Bishop of Washington, the Rt Revd John Chane; the Bishop of Edinburgh and representative of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Rt Revd Brian Smith; the Reverend Canon John L. Peterson, the Secretary General of the worldwide Anglican Communion; and Canon James Rosenthal, who is Director of Communications for the worldwide Anglican Communion.

The diocese has 21 parishes, 30 clergy, and 82 congregations. The Anglican Church in Swaziland was founded in 1871 and until 1986 was incorporated as the Diocese of Zululand and Swaziland.

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Photo: Anglican World/Rosenthal

The Right Revd Meshack Mabuza, Bishop of Swaziland, with the Revd Ooma Marumbela at her Chapel and Centre at St Margaret's Church - one of the first ordained women of the Diocese.

Neville Greenham, past Diocesan Secretary, writes to say: *As an Anglican member of the Bible Society I have for some years been disappointed to see that it receives financial support from so few parishes in the Diocese. Some other denominations are far more supportive. I was thrilled, therefore, to find that my own parish, St Martin-in-the-Fields, Durban North was making a special effort to raise funds to celebrate "200 Years of Bible Society." This took the form of a "Potjie Pots on the*



Patio Party" with a competition to encourage aspirant cooks putting their skills to the test. The Revd Dr James Elias from the Bible Society also gave a short talk. R2000 was raised from this fellowship evening, so come on other parishes - see what you can do to raise



The Church of the Ascension, Hilton, have written to say:

"We would like to extend our thanks to you as editor and to all those involved in producing our Anglican News.

Particular thanks for the exposure you gave us in the last edition concerning the Centenary Auction and the other article by Joan Hoole. We enclose a cheque for R250 as a small token of our appreciation".

Inanda Seminary

135 years of educating South African women

INANDA Seminary, 25 kms north-west of Durban, was founded by American missionaries in 1869. Under the auspices of the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa (UCCSA) and a member of ISASA (Independent Schools of Southern Africa) it aims to provide an educational programme based on Christian values and philosophies and embracing African tradition and heritage.

This Natal institution is a leading independent black boarding school for girls in southern Africa. Dr Manto Tshabalala Msimang (Minister of Health), Ms Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge (Deputy Minister of Defence), Ms Baleka Mbete-Kgotlisisile (former Deputy Speaker of Parliament), Barbara Masakela (Ambassador to USA), Cecelia Khuzwayo (former acting CEO of the SABC) and Thandi Orleyn (former chairperson of the CCMA) are among the many high profile successful women who were educated there.

The school is housed in beautiful old historic buildings – the earliest of which dates back to 1858 and is now a national monument.



Melvin Peters, who has been appointed as the new musical director at St Paul's in Durban, began playing at the age of 7. Thereafter he embarked on a series of Classical Piano examinations through London Trinity College, Royal School of Music, and Unisa. He gave his first public recital at the age of 14, at the Springfield College of Education. He holds a

University Masters degree in Music Education. In 1991 he was a full time music lecturer at the former University of Durban Westville. He has been an organist at Christ Church Overport for 28 years. He is presently a part-time lecturer at the University of Pretoria.

Flowers in Umhlali

ALL SOULS' Church, Umhlali will be holding another Flower Festival from 22 - 24 October, the 6th Festival held in recent years at All Souls', and once again co-ordinated by Mrs. Rosemary Ladlau.

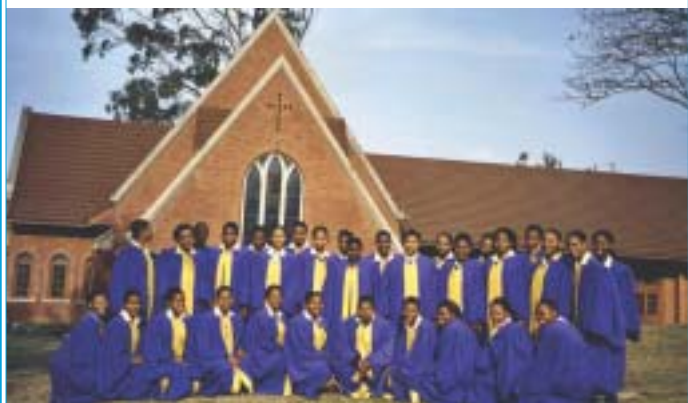
Rosemary Ladlau is one of South Africa's foremost flower arrangers, and is a former President of the World Association of Flower Arrangers. She has arranged flowers all over the world, including at Canterbury Cathedral. She was also responsible for arranging the flowers for the visit to Durban a few years back by Queen Elizabeth.

The theme this year will be "Verses from the Canticles", and a number of well-known North Coast Floral artists will be participating and assisting Rosemary. Sewing ladies from the Parish, led by Mrs. Jane Peattie, will also be making banners to supplement the floral exhibits. Tea and cake will be served, and there will be craft tables for local crafters to exhibit and sell their work.

There is no charge for entrance to the festival, but donations will be appreciated. For further information, please phone the Parish Office at 032 9472001.



Mrs Rosemary Ladlau with one of her arrangements.



St Augustine's, Queensburgh, with The Revd Terry Hayward, adjusted the timetable very effectively so as to fit in the various themes of the Charter syllabus to coincide with the ongoing parish calendar. They felt the imaginative artistic displays by Charys Berwick, the floral arrangements and the symbolic processions were particularly informative.



Confirmation Photo from St. Mary's Parish, 11 July 2004. Six Candidates, with two Layministers, Rector: Revd. Roger Sparks and Bishop Elijah Thwala.



Bishop Funginkosi Mbhele recently opened the Memorial Garden at St James Church Greytown.

Hosting Children from St. Monica's

PERSONS interested in hosting children from St. Monica's Home have to complete a "Hosting Application" form, available from the Social Worker or the Secretary which must be handed to the Social Worker on completion who together with the Principal and relevant Child Care Worker, will decide which children are best suited to the family making the application.



The Social Worker then forwards the prospective family's details to the child's reunification Social Worker so that they can be screened and their suitability assessed.

The child concerned will be allowed to visit the host family on one weekend of the month, which may be extended to the school holidays as well.

Children helping children

ST NICHOLAS School puts their money where their mouth is. Serving the broader community is part of their mission and on Saturday the 14th August they hosted a 'Children helping Children' party at the school where they fed and entertained 400 orphans and caregivers from orphanages for children affected or infected with HIV/Aids. St John's Diocesan School helped with the party packets. Merchiston Prep School, Pelham Primary and Caluza Primary donated party pack items. The St Nicholas Steel Drum Band and their choir entertained the children.



Yvonne Spain, Director of CINDI (Children in Distress) getting into the spirit of things by having her face painted by Masindi Mkhize, a pupil at St Nicholas school.

Who says a Headmaster's job is stressful? Headmaster, Mike Ford, trying out the Ball Pond before the children arrive to see how safe it is.



Thando Nkosi singing to the children with the St Nicholas Choir in the background.



Rector and Churchwardens celebrate Sydenham's 130th Birthday.



Children and Aids – the Church Responds Creatively

THE Vuleka Trust Children's Art Project, initiated two years ago, provides an opportunity for churches to engage in ministry to children affected by/infected with HIV + AIDS.

Vuleka Trust, a church-based organisation with Trustees drawn from the Anglican, Methodist and Roman Catholic Churches, arranges a monthly holistic morning of activities for HIV + AIDS affected/infected children. One Saturday morning a month children from Makaphutu Children's Village in the Valley of a 1000 Hills are brought to Vuleka Trust's spacious Koinonia Conference Centre, situated in Botha's Hill between Durban and Pietermaritzburg.

Time is spent in playing fun, cooperative and getting-to-know-you games, craft making, free art expression, singing, enjoying the beautiful grounds of Koinonia, playing ball games and board games and enjoying tea. The emphasis is on building trust relationships in a fun, accepting and affirming environment.

The aim is to contribute towards the healing of these children's trauma as a result of the HIV + AIDS pandemic. Vuleka Trust is grateful to the volunteers that are committed to and involved in this project.

If you would like to support this project or start a similar project please contact Alison Warmback, Vuleka Trust Programme Organiser on 'phone: 031 208 4367 or email: vulekat@iafrica.com or Denise Marescia, Koinonia Conference Centre Director on 'phone: 031 777 1446 or email: koinonia@iafrica.com

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*
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at 3 p.m. on the Sunday



According to Rector James Wyllie, the Parish of Greenwood Park saw the Parish Charter exercise as having given "enthusiastic momentum to an ongoing process of introspection and appropriate remediation and development".



A multi-coloured Candle" was built up each Sunday in the Cathedral to mark the progress of the Parish Charter Process.



The Revd Margi Silva appreciated the material from the Diocese and the fact that it gave opportunity for flexibility which could be adapted to their special needs. The parish was particularly excited about the interaction stimulated by the wide age range of the study group in Bergville,.

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“Sisters never retire”

In a letter to the Editor Sister Margaret Anne SSJD writes:

“The Sisters of the Society of St John the Divine were rather startled to read in the Anglican News that they have “retired” to the Umdoni Retirement Village. No Sister ever retires from the life of prayer.

We worship in the village Chapel on sundays and assist with the services. If you have some need for which you would like us to pray write to us at Cottage 252, Umdoni Village, PO Box 300 Pennington, or phone 039-975 3194 or email us on.

And Sister Hilary writes:

“I read in your May edition of Anglican News in the “Around the Diocese” section the following sentence appeared ‘The Sisters of the Society of St John the Divine have retired to the Umdoni Park Retirement Village on the South Coast.’ This may be true of Sisters Margaret Anne, Mary Evelyn and Sophia, but as the fourth and youngest member of the Community not old enough to live with my Sisters at Umdoni I am, in case the Diocese are interested in knowing this, working as Parish Secretary to the Revd. Mervyn Singh of St Mary’s Church, Greyville and a second job three afternoons a week plus Saturday mornings as Sacristan at St Thomas’ on the Berea, of which I am a parishioner. It gives the Diocese the impression that I either don’t exist or am in my dotage. I’d just like to set the record straight.”

Ordination of Women Assessment

NEARLY 30 years ago, on July 29, 1974, 11 women were ordained to the Episcopal priesthood in rites termed irregular? in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. On September 7, 1975, four more were ordained in Washington, D.C. And on September 16, 1976, General Convention approved the ordination of women.

Hailed by some, resisted by others, the ordinations brought far-reaching change to the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion.

Plans are being made across the church to commemorate the anniversary. For instance, the Episcopal Church's Office of Women's Ministries website offers "Thirty Ways to Celebrate Thirty Years of Women's Ordained Ministry," to be used between July 29, 04 and September 16, 06.

Women are now priests in all but 12 of the Communion's 38 provinces. Eleven provinces have no canonical bar to a woman bishop, though none are ordained yet. Three provinces—the USA, Canada, and Aotearoa/New Zealand—have had women bishops since Barbara Harris' consecration as suffragan of Massachusetts in 1989.

Although women's ordination is widely accepted, in some ways the controversy over women clergy continues to simmer and occasionally boil over—even as newer issues such as the place of lesbians and gay men in the church and the rise of a strongly evangelical Anglicanism in the Global South hold the spotlight.

What the 1997 Eames Commission report on women's ordination termed a "process of reception" continues to meet resistance, even as the notion of "reception" is lifted as a model in submissions to the current Lambeth Commission on Communion as it contemplates how Anglicans can disagree and remain together.

The Episcopal News Service is seeking your comments and observations on how women's ordination has been and continues to be received where you are – and what the implications of that may be for the future of other changes in the Anglican Communion.

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CPSA Layworkers Pension Fund Attention pensioners and ex members

According to notices in the national press there could be a possible payout eventually due to you from an allocation of surplus funds if you are a pensioner or former member of the fund, and you need to register your contact details in order to be advised in due course of any surplus that may be due to you.

The following details are required: Full names and surname; maiden name or previous surname; address and contact details; Identity Number; date of birth and gender; name of the fund you belonged to (i.e. CPSA Layworkers Pension Fund); date of joining and of leaving the fund; employee number; reason for leaving the fund; pensionable salary at the time of leaving; amount paid to you on leaving; if available an correspondence you received at the date of leaving the fund

These particulars must be sent before 25 December 2004 to :

Surplus Team,

Liberty Corporation Benefits,
PO Box 2094 Johannesburg 2000,

Fax (011) 408-4623, E-mail: .

Call Centre: 0860-100-388 (Queries only).

Tribute to Alan Paton

Bishop Michael Nuttall, an old boy of the school, gave this Blessing Prayer at the Dedication of the Alan Paton Memorial Hall at Maritzburg College:

"Most gracious and merciful God,
in your holy and glorious Name we bless and dedicate this Hall,
in glad and thankful memory of Alan Paton, your good and
courageous servant,
member of this school, teacher, prison reformer,
artist with words both simple and profound,
seeker after justice, dignity and peace and the integrity of your
creation,
Thandabantu, devout follower of Christ and his Saints.

Grant that all who use this Hall may be similarly inspired by your
divine compassion,
and may we also in these coming days do some work of peace for
you.

In the faith of Jesus Christ,
who himself learnt in the school at Nazareth and sat with the elders
in Jerusalem,
we bless and dedicate this Memorial Hall. Amen"

Future of the Earth

A Book Review by Philip Watson of Thomas Berry's "The Great Work - Our way into the Future"

Berry is a cultural historian who has taught at American Universities and written books on religion and on environmental matters. This book is concerned with the transition humans should make from plundering the planet to being a benign presence on Earth.

The author dips into many subjects, including geology, ecology and geography but it is not a science textbook. Neither is it a book on theology, though spiritual forces are given some prominence. The emphasis is on changing from a human-centred to an Earth-centred norm of reality and value. Significantly, a God-centred norm of reality and value is not mentioned.

One of the major problems described is that our industrial economy is willing to wreck the planet for financial gain and so-called improvement in the human condition. So there is tension between developers and ecologists.

The term sustainable "development" is now fashionable and appears to offer a compromise but exploitation of the Earth has reached the point where development is no longer sustainable. What is needed is a sustainable way of life for a sustainable future. Berry is hopeful that the distorted dream of an industrial technological paradise that is now producing a wasteland can be replaced by a more visible dream of a mutually enhancing human presence within an ever-renewing Earth community. He believes that we have the resources of wisdom, inspiration, energy and will for the task. He warns, though, that the transformation must take place soon.



The text is short on the practical details of how we can become a benign presence on Earth, but it gives some pointers, including rights, limits and scale.

The deepest cause of the present devastation of the Earth is that only humans have rights and the rest of nature has no rights. Though we are now beginning to confer rights on nature with national parks being one example. Then there is the question of limits/ Other species are limited by opposing species or conditions so that no one species can overwhelm the others. Only humans have exceeded their limits by means of the power bestowed by science and technology. We must therefore exercise self-restraint or self-limit. On the matter of scale, large corporations favour large-scale projects, whereas the ecologist sees small as beautiful. Individuals should develop an intimate relationship with their local region so that they can protect it from exploitation.

In conclusion, the text is somewhat pedantic and repetitive but it is easy to follow with the exception of a small part of chapter three on "our basic sense of reality" which I will leave to the dear reader to explore. The text is also padded with more cultural history than is strictly necessary. Nevertheless, putting aside these minor criticisms I strongly recommend the book to all those who believe that without the birds, great forests and sparkling streams we will become impoverished in all that makes us human.

Philip Watson

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