

MY MISSIONS TRIP TO NAMIBIA

MAY 2011



By: Bishop Warwick Cole-Edwardes

BACKGROUND

Bishop Bradley asked me to first go up to ONDANGWA in 1980 so for many years I have known Rev. Denys Nandi, a very dear man. I received this letter from him, which will give you the background to my visit.

Dear Bishop

I hope you are well. I am well but the heavy rains and the flood waters from Angola is cause very much disturbance and a feeling of insecure to the people especially around the towns and also in the rural areas. People are moving to the higher grounds and the government and the municipalities are accommodating them in tents.

We are still expecting your visit in May. When you will be arriving in Ondangwa? I talked to George and Timothy regarding the ordination. It sounds as they are not yet ready for it yet. With regard to myself, I think I would serve in this same capacity because my health is gradually giving in.

The water situation is hindering Ms Tish's work because she is no longer able to move freely. I hope that she has notified you about the situation that she happens to find herself in.

The old building at Omungwelume has totally collapsed and they have no place to hold their service. The new church building that has to be put up is still at the foundation level. The builders who were contracted are so unreliable. They only laid the foundation and disappeared up to date. They kept promising that they were coming, but they never did. The foundation is even under water; therefore, nothing can be done at the moment until such time that it has stopped raining.

Rev. Jeremiah at Ohangwena is not easy to contact. His phone is always off and one wonders if it is still functioning. It is probable that the church service there has also been effected because he has to cross through large stretches of water between his dwelling place and the church.

At Indangungu, Rev. Albino has also to go through water to reach the church, but services are held regularly by Modestus, the lay leader. He is easy to contact over the phone.

At Onamambili, the water is also high but the lay leaders there are quite active and Rev. Ben Paulus visit the place regularly. They are also easy to contact by phone.

In Ondangwa services are reasonably attended especially by the young people, but the elderly people find it sometimes uncomfortable to wade through the water and at the same time to get wet from the rain. This year is quite strange because in my lifetime I cannot remember any year that has had rain for three months nonstop. This year it started raining from January up to now. We hope the situation may improve towards April. We are looking forward to your arrival.

Thank you

Yours sincerely

Rev. Denys K. Nandi.

FIRST AN UPDATE ON NAMIBIA FROM OPERATION WORLD

Challenges for Prayer

1. **Namibia is a stable country** rich in natural resources, but there is significant risk of strife and collapse if able government and communal harmony do not prevail. Pray that the nation's leaders would address the issues of poverty, land ownership and AIDS with wisdom and determination.
2. **German and Finnish Lutheran and then Anglican missionaries** gave birth to large denominations in the 19th Century. Liberal theology and syncretistic Afro-Spiritism eroded that spiritual heritage, and now many self-styled Christians are either nominal or incorporate unbiblical practices into their faith. Reformation is greatly needed, but first there needs to be an opening of hearts to the Spirit. Pray for a biblical faith to be restored throughout Namibia's many churches.
3. **New life in the churches** has come recently through new mission activity by **SIM/AIM, YWAM** as well as Reformed, Baptist and Pentecostal groups, particularly to under-reached areas and peoples. Charismatic fellowships - both independent and within many denominations, including the mainline groups - bring new life and fervour. Several strategic groups formed to see Namibia transformed for Christ, the Evangelical Fellowship most notable

among these. Pray for all to hear the gospel once again and many to turn back to Christ, and pray for unity and cooperation among all groups seeking to uplift Christ in this nation.

4. **Spiritual leaders.** Pray for current and future pastors and leaders to be trained and formed to God's standards. Crucial to biblical formation are Namibia Evangelical Theological Seminary in Windhoek (**SIM/AIM, NGK**), the Namibia Ministry Training Institute (Pentecostal) and **YWAM's** training bases. TEE plays an important role, especially in the north, through the NETS distance education programme. Pray also that the mainline training institutes would capture a love and respect for God's Word.
5. **Major social issues loom ominously** over Namibia's future. Averting disaster requires appropriate government action, but more so a mobilization of the Church.
 - **Poverty.** A dangerous gap separates the rich and poor. Over 35% are unemployed. Ovamboland in the north is most acutely affected. Migration to the cities to find work creates shantytowns.

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I am looking forward so much to visiting this country again but especially to spending some time at OLUKONDA and the Evangelical Finnish Mission station.

I always bring you up to date with books I have read, so here are 7 you may find interesting. With the journal, I will do something new and draw to your attention to some books on AFRICA but which are not Christian. Enjoy this....



BOOKS READ IN PREPARATION FOR THIS TRIP

While in Lubumbashi I started an amazing book called

1. **GOD'S STUMP** by Nigel Measures

This was a fantastic book for me. When one seeks to deal with the question of non-racialism, multiculturalism, and other isms that accompany this, given the history of division and apartheid in South Africa and the world over, one is amazed at the resourcefulness of the church. Like it or not, life is diverse. Yet wherever people dwell the division of colour, wealth and culture keep them apart. God calls the

church to cross those divides and show another way. What can I do you may ask? This book shows us how, and is the story of how Nigel Measures left England and came with his wife and 2 small children to live in one of Cape Town's townships, KYALITSHA and built a church. It is an incredible story, so now listen to some amazing quotes through the book, they are very challenging.

JOHN
PIPER

"as different peoples of the world unite in worship to God the beauty of this praise will echo the depth and greatness of God's beauty far more exceedingly than if the redeemed were from only a few different people groups."

DAVID
DEVENISH

"God's purpose in making so many different nations was to fill the earth with people who reflect Him in every way, bring praise to His name, love for His glory and establish His rule and kingdoms throughout the earth."

DUANE
ELMER

"If embraced, diversity is a beautiful path leading us to new heights and depths in our exploration of God and one another. God, who authored human diversity, calls us to deal with cultural diversity, see it as good, and honour it as the handiwork of the wise and sovereign Creator."

NIGEL
MEASURES

"There are many excuses that the world would use to avoid crossing racial and cultural boundaries, but there is no place for such excuses in the church. All Christians of all countries of all ages and all sexes are called to cross the dividing walls that separate the many fields in front of our eyes that are ripe unto harvest."

JOHN
PIPER

"As long as there is time, and as long as there are nations to reach, Jesus' demand to go and make disciples is valid."

NIGEL
MEASURES

"Any burden we may have for specific nations, sociological groups or peoples of this earth that does not spread and reach out to other nations as well, is no true prophetic burden from the Lord. We serve the individual 'peoples' of this world by helping them to understand God's heart for the nations around us. We serve the nations of this world by bringing them into contact and fellowship not only with God, but one another. Failure to do so is a compromise on the very heart of the gospel."

This is what we need today - a radical sense of Christian community where Jesus' message of the kingdom is more than an idea. A community open to all, where people are no longer divided into Jew and Gentile, slave and free, male and female, but

where rich and poor, black and white, educated and uneducated, young and old are reconciled together in Christ working out their freedom as one new person in Christ. Listen to some incredible insights especially from John Stott:

JOHN
STOTT

"there has been considerable debate in recent years whether a local church could or should ever be culturally homogenous. A consultation on this issue concluded that no church should ever acquiesce in such a condition ... every homogenous unit church must take active steps to broaden its fellowship in order to demonstrate visibly the unity and the variety of Christ's Church."

NIGEL
MEASURERS

"Theology must influence all that we do. We need to be theologically convinced in the area of God's heart for diversity as we are with our theology of the Holy Spirit or the person of Christ. A strong theology of diversity, grounded in vision and rooted in faith will help us push through the hard times and lead God's people into His purposes for the Church."

So much discussion is around culture, listen to John Stott again, he is brilliant:

JOHN
STOTT

'Culture is ambiguous because man is ambiguous. Man is both noble (because made in God's image) and ignoble (because fallen and sinful). And his culture faithfully reflects these two aspects.'

'Each of us is a cultural creature. We have drunk in our cultural inheritance with our mother's milk. The way we think, we walk, talk, dress, work, play, the way we do everything is conditioned by our cultural inheritance. Culture is a man made structure...It's the glue, if you like, that keeps any society together. Nature is what God gives us; culture is what we do with it ..'

On the topic of RACIAL PREJUDICE this was a sobering thought for me:

JOHN
PIPER

"the issue of racial prejudice and snubbing and suspicion and mistreatment is NOT a social issue, it is a blood-of-Jesus issue."

TATUM

"unchallenged personal, cultural and institutional racism results in loss of human potential, lowered productivity, and a rising tide of fear and violence in our society. Individually, racism stifles our own growth and development. It clouds our vision and distorts our perceptions. It alienates us not only from others but also from ourselves and our own experience."

This book I should have read years ago, it was brilliant and practical.

SOMETHING NEW ... I WILL REVIEW A FEW BOOKS EACH TRIP

2. BOOKS ON AFRICA

As you know I have a great love for Africa and thought you may be interested in the following books which I read recently, not Christian books, but books on Africa. I will do this in the future; pass on good titles on Africa for you to read.

1) **DANCES WITH DEVILS** by Jacques Pauw

Nelson Mandela said this book promises to become one of the most important documents in the history of this country. For more than 20 years, Jacques Pauw has traveled Africa in pursuit of warlords and drug traffickers, child soldiers and charlatans, adventure and anarchy. What he found was a rich array of personalities and stories, ranging from the profoundly tragic to the intensely personal. His accounts range from South Africa to Rwanda, from Sierra Leone and the Sudan to Nigeria and Mozambique. With compassion, humour and occasional cynicism, he takes readers behind the scenes of sensational news reports and finds fresh ways to present time-honoured tales of love, life, misery and mortality, proving that something new always comes out of Africa.

2) **MIRIAM'S SONG** by Miriam Mathabane

This is the gripping and true story of Miriam, a woman representative of an entire generation who came of age amid the violence and rebellion of the 1980's and finally saw the destruction of apartheid and the birth of a new, democratic South Africa. This memoir of growing up in South Africa during apartheid is alternately evocative and wrenching, but always inspiring, and it captures both the brutality and beauty of her childhood as she grew up in Alexandria. I found this memoir very moving.

3) **MUKIWA** - by Peter Godwin

This brilliantly written memoir of a colonial upbringing sheds its stain and emerges as a compelling account of life and death in the bush by one of Ian Smith's soldiers. Growing up in Rhodesia in the 1960's, Peter Godwin inhabited a magical and frightening world of leopard-hunting, lepers, witch doctors, snakes and forest fires. As an adolescent, he became a conscript caught in the middle of a vicious civil war. And as an adult, he returned to Zimbabwe as a journalist to cover the bloody transition to majority black rule, discovering a land stalked by death and danger. A

book that goes to the heart of the white experience in the long death-throes of Rhodesia - remarkable book.

4) **DIAMONDS, GOLD AND WAR** by Martin Meredith

Providence decided to place most of the world's diamonds and gold beneath the bush and desert south of the Tropic of Capricorn. How this changed the whole course of South Africa - and to no small extent world-history is the enthralling story of this book. It really is thrilling, enlightening reading for anyone seeking an understanding not just of the history of South Africa but also of the modern world.

5) **BLESS ME FATHER** by Mario D'Offizi

This is the true story of an incredible South African life. Born into a violent and broken family, and growing up in a variety of institutions, Cape Town based poet and author Mario D'Offizi tells his remarkable, often shocking and ultimately inspiring life adventure - one that spans several decades in a country undergoing radical change. From his tough days at Boys Town to wild years in the advertising world, a stint in the restaurant business and a sharp edged journalist adventure in the D.R.C., he tells his critically acclaimed story with the unfailing sensitivity and warmth of a true poet. Ben Trovato said of this book "I am not easily moved by memoirs, but D'Offizi's story left me reeling on more than one occasion."

6) **THE DEVIL THAT DANCED ON WATER** by Aminatta Forna

This is an African Memoir to stand alongside WILD SWANS. It is the story of modern Africa. Of the men and woman like Mohammed Forna who believed in an idea of Africa and the capacity of its societies to uplift peoples lives. They were outmanoeuvred and outgunned by the greedy and power hungry and they paid with their lives for their innocence. A brave and credible account of the squalid machinery of lies which functions at the core of all dictatorships. However, she is optimistic that out of the wreckage and the destitute amputees of Freetown, things may look up for Sierra Leone after the mess that Stevens and the greed driven mediocrities that followed him left behind. So she writes this intensely personal history which is a passionate and vivid account of an African childhood, of an idyll which became the stuff of nightmares. As a child, she witnessed the upheavals of post-colonial Africa, danger, flight, the bitterness of exile in London and the terrible consequences of her dissident father's stand against tyranny. Forna has written a book that is impossible to forget ...

These were all brilliant but at times heart-wrenching books on Africa Now for my diary ...enjoy the read.

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MY DIARY

THURSDAY, 5 MAY

It is another beautiful morning in KZN, winter has arrived, and we are enjoying such glorious weather. What a privilege to wake up every morning and begin the day with God by reading His Word and spending time in prayer, especially in intercession for our world. My readings this morning were all from Numbers, Psalms, Isaiah and Hebrews. My reading ends always with Oswald Chambers in "My Utmost for His Highest" which made this telling thought this morning:

"complete weakness and dependence will always be the occasion for the Spirit of God to manifest His power."

This morning was particularly precious to me because today marks the anniversary when I was converted, 5 May 1967 exactly 44 years ago. How can I ever thank the Lord enough for saving my life by His precious blood. Amazing that after all these years of preparation I now am getting ready to become a missionary to Africa.

How's this for an amazing thought:

"to develop a broader vision we must be willing to forsake our narrower vision. In the short run, it is more comfortable not to do this - to stay where we are, to keep using the same microcosmic map, to avoid suffering the death of cherished notions. The road of growth, however, lies in the opposite direction.

Scott Peck

For me the broader vision is becoming a reality, scary but so incredibly exciting.

Mary took me to the Pietermaritzburg airport from where I flew up to Johannesburg. While I was there, I began to read one of the books I had brought with me, THE MISSIONARY MOVEMENT IN CHRISTIAN HISTORY by Andrew Walls. In this book, Andrew Walls writes with a charming gentleness and yet very persuasive erudition about the thrilling story of the spread of Christianity. This book brings together lectures and articles by this renowned historian of world Christianity, making them available, many for the first time, to scholars and students of world mission. He himself was a missionary to Sierra Leone so he writes from a vast experience from the field. Listen now to some interesting quotes from this book:

IMPACT OF
REVIVAL

"the modern missionary movement is an autumnal child of the Evangelical Revival. Fifty years separate the great events of Northampton and Cambaslang from the formation of the earliest of the voluntary societies to promote Christian activity in the non-Christian world, yet without the revival, the societies would have been inconceivable."

AFRICA

'the most remarkable feature of this transformation has been in the African continent, minimal in Christian profession when the missionary movement began, but now, when so much of the West is in the post-Christian period, moving to the position where it may have more professing Christians than any other continent.'

THE COST

"meanwhile the London Missionary Society had made its start and a small operation was mounted in Sierra Leone, but the main thrust was to be the Pacific Islands and in 1796 a party of 30 missionaries, plus wives and children set out. Four of them were ministers; the others included 6 carpenters, 2 weavers, 2 tailors, 2 bricklayers, 2 shoemakers, a gardener, a potter, a shopkeeper, a surgeon and others. The first casualty was at Portsmouth, one of the wives was so seasick as to be unable to face another 27,000 miles of it and her husband left too. The rest of the party made the passage and distributed themselves between Tahiti, Tonga and the Marquesas Islands. At the first sign of violence, 11 others left and quickly the 30 was reduced to 15. Three of the men were murdered and 4 went back after only a few years service. Three married local women and settled down, 2 of them giving up all profession of Christianity Only a little handful were left after 5 years, the rest had collapsed under the strains, physical, mental, spiritual ... "

What a cost they paid to bring the Gospel to our lost world, willing to give their all. I am enjoying this book a lot!

I am now about to board for Windhoek from where I will catch another flight up to Ondangwa arriving there at 7pm. Had an excellent flight and found a delightful taxi driver, Martin, who took me to EROS AIRPORT at the set charge of R280. Had an hour to spare so what better than to read, listen to what Walls wrote on Henry Nott, one of the 5 who made it to the end:

HENRY
NOTT

*"the outstanding figure among them is Henry Nott. He became leader among them by sheer decision of character; he acquired the greatest mastery of the language, was the first to preach in the vernacular, and worked solidly for 27 years at the translation of the Bible without leaving the island (save for a few months to get married), learning Hebrew and Greek to make himself a better translator. After 27 years, and not before, he returned to Britain to see the Bible through the press; having done this, he returned to Tahiti and worked there, with only one sole break until his death in 1844 a period of nearly 50 years in all. **YET** Nott was a bricklayer by trade, had little formal education and when the party sailed he was only 22 years of age."*

Today in many circles NOTT would have been rejected for the ministry, rejected at some Bible Colleges, only a bricklayer ...but what a hero ...what an example of what God can do through a man totally abandoned to Him.

Anyhow, had another good flight and arrived safely in Ondangwa at 6:30pm, exactly



12 hours since leaving Pietermaritzburg. It is wonderful to be back for my 5th visit and what a wonderful surprise Denys and Chicken gave me by booking me into a very comfortable bed and breakfast.



Namibia is an amazing country, situated along the south/western coast of the African continent. With a land surface of 824,269 square kilometers, it is nearly 4 times the size of Great Britain. But despite its size, it is one of the most sparsely populated countries in Africa with an estimated population of only 2.5 million.

After a magnificent ox-tail supper, I spent the whole evening reading and going over my talks for tomorrow. I really learnt a lot from "The Missionary Movement in Christian History" but now I can begin a new book 'GOD'S GENERALS' by Robert Liardon. This Volume 2 will focus on the REFORMERS so tonight I managed to read about the first general JOHN WYCLIFFE. Listen to some of his teachings:

ON
CONFESSION

'it is not confession to man but to God, who is the true Priest of souls that is the great need of sinful man. Trust wholly in Christ ... beware of seeking to be justified in any other way than by His righteousness. Faith in our Lord Jesus Christ is sufficient for salvation.'

ON
PREACHING

"the highest service to which man may attain on earth is to preach the law of God. This duty falls particularly to priests, in order that they may produce children of God. And for this cause Jesus Christ left other works, and occupied Himself mostly in preaching, and thus did the apostles ..."

THE
BIBLE

"Forasmuch as the Bible contains Christ, that is all that is necessary for salvation, it is necessary for all men, not for priests alone. The Bible alone is the supreme law that is to rule church, state and Christian life, without human traditions and statutes."

It is now late; my eyes are red and tired so I'm off to bed. The Lord gave me 3 great flights and I read a fantastic book. But the joy of coming to Namibia again is overwhelming; it is wonderful to be teaching the Bible in Africa, another great day draws to a close.

FRIDAY, 6 MAY

Another beautiful day dawns as I woke up to spend time with God. My daily readings continued with Numbers, Psalms, Isaiah and Hebrews and then enjoyed Oswald Chambers who wrote today from Galatians 6:1.

"don't get impatient; remember how God dealt with you with patience and with gentleness; but never water down the truth of God. Jesus said go and make disciples, NOT ... make converts to your opinion."

I then started the second general JOHN HUS. His story is one of heartbreaking betrayal and two-faced fraud. Reading about his love of and stand for truth, witnessing his impeccable character, and then reliving the betrayal involved in his death will bring you to tears. Listen to some things he said between 1372-1415.

LOVE OF
MONEY

"anyone in the ministry for the sake of money, worldly possessions, or dominance was guilty of simony. There is no state in Christendom"

more liable to fall ...therefore everyone who runs after and strives for that dignity on account of money or worldly eminence is guilty of simony.

**HIS
DEATH**

'once at the meadow, Hus again fell on his knees to pray. He was stripped of all his clothing, except for a thin shirt and then tied to a stake by a rope and an old rusty chain. They stacked bundles of wood mixed with straw up to his chin. Before the fire was set, he was approached one last time and asked to recant. A hush fell over the crowd as he said, "God is my witness, the principal intention of my preaching and all my other acts or writings was solely that I might turn men from sin. And in that truth of the Gospel that I wrote taught and preached ... I am willing gladly to die today."

I am now ready for an exciting day ahead ... had a great shower and breakfast .. so will be ready when they fetch me at 8. As part of the cycle of life, earth is plagued by natural disaster. Even though Namibia has mostly been spared in this respect, this primarily arid country did have a taste of climatic extremes this year with the highest figures EVER. In the north, where I am, almost 1000mm has fallen in the rainy season. Besides the accompanying thunder and magnificent shows of lightening, masses of water poured down from the heavens by the barrel load. The regions of Ondangwa, Ongwedieva, Oshakati, were badly affected with almost 60,000 people displaced, 62 lives lost with a large number of roads being badly damaged.

We headed off to OMUNGWELUME where we have a Church, ST. LUKES'. They are in the process of building a little church for themselves and it is now up to roof height which is a wonderful effort.



The African custom is that we meet to talk, discuss problems, pray, sing, and then turn to the Bible. It is such a privilege for me going to these poor, out of

the way places and then to teach them from Romans 1:1. We went in a wreck of a car returning at 1pm for a little refreshment. Along the road, you could see the effects of the flooding and the many tents which have been erected for those who lost their homes. It was also such a joy to give them all a hymn book and a copy of Morning Prayer for which they were so grateful. On a personal level, I also gave

Denys Nandi a new ESV Study Bible which was so meaningful to me because I have known and worked with him for over 30 years.

I was collected at 2pm and went to Christ Church Ondangwa to meet with some of the Church leaders from the different churches. Again, after listening to them I was privileged to teach them from Romans 1:1-7 after which we found our way home. It's now 4pm in the afternoon, time for some tea and then I can read until my eyes won't stay open ...wow...what a joy! These trips are an enormous blessing to me especially after some of the big decisions I have made recently.



Just before I left Pietermaritzburg, I was browsing through a second-hand bookshop which has just opened and found a fantastic biography on TREVOR HUDDLESTON by Robin Denniston. I so admire these men like Frank Chicane, Desmond Tutu, Trevor Huddleston, Nelson Mandela, Oliver Tambo, Joe Slovo who fought against the evil of apartheid when sadly I did so very little. So this biography has been a huge challenge to me personally. Trevor Huddleston was perhaps the last great missionary to Africa whose self-discovery in Sophiatown, the largest of Johannesburg's black townships, saw him emerge as one of the post-colonial heroes in the evolution of African nationalism. The story of those years between 1943 and 1956, told in his memoir NAUGHT FOR YOUR COMFORT found readers across the world who recognized in Huddleston an icon at once inspiring and inspired. He was a priest, prophet, pastor they could admire, a human being they could love, whose convictions they could share, whose example some followed, whose attitudes to racial and economic repression bridged a gulf between post-war Western social democracy and the darker, infinitely more exciting, world that evolved during the war in the shanty towns around Johannesburg. His active work was made possible by his vows of chastity, poverty and obedience together with a daily life of worship, prayer and intercession, maintained in the most extreme circumstances. Let me take you through some of the aspects of his life.

HIS
CONFIRMATION

"My confirmation was the beginning of what I can only describe as my REAL life. And it came to me through the Church. I learned to worship and to pray. I learned to know myself and be penitent, I learned horribly slowly, a little more of the demands of Christian love and Christian compassion..."

And then in February 1944, Huddleston left the security of England and was inducted into his new parish by Bishop Clayton. No. 73, Meyer Street, Sophiatown now was his new home. He was almost the only person with a white skin in that Township of 70,000 people, and he remained there until 1953. Listen to how he describes his early years in Sophiatown:

SOPHIATOWN

"the overcrowded rooms in which whole families must sleep and must perform all their human functions as best they may ... again and again hearing confession, I have asked myself how can I advise these children, how warn them, how comfort them when they have fallen ..."

Later Jonathan Graham wrote:

"in Sophiatown he lived and learned in the heart of an African Township and with immense thoroughness set himself to know, love and serve the underprivileged. Not just to love and serve them, but to know deeply and in detail the life of an African. Though one may first be struck by his affection for Africans and go on to marvel at his unsparing work of service to them, it is not long before one meets evidence of a profound and detailed, if lightly worn, knowledge which lies behind them both ... he is whole-hearted and single minded and uncomplicated to a degree which is the envy of lesser men ... the whole man is there at everyone's disposal."

By 1955, police followed him everywhere but he championed against apartheid laws, the Bantu Education laws, the Immorality Act, the Group Areas act ... and some even said the later destruction of Sophiatown by the Government was accelerated just to spite him. And then inexplicably his superiors called him back to England, for no other reason than their jealousy of what he was doing. Listen ...

AFTER
SOPHIATOWN

"his future was bleak but surprising for by 1956 he had become a famous author, his face the most photographed of any Christian except the Pope, his stand on racial equality admired by millions ... but something in him died ... 'AFRICA was his love' ..."

He then became the bishop of Tanzania, then suffragan bishop of Stepney and finally the bishop of Mauritius and archbishop of the Indian Ocean. He returned to London in 1983 to lead the Anti-Apartheid Movement where he continued the world crusade against the South African regime. In summarizing his life, this is what people remember him for:

1. the primacy of his PRAYER life - however early the novice got down to prepare the mass in Chapel, Huddleston was always there first. However late he came home, and most nights he was very late and tired, he went into the Chapel and prayed.

2. his HUMILITY.
3. his gift for being right in the SITUATION of the moment.
4. PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS - he had a great depth of relationship with people, especially with Oliver Tambo, Nelson Mandela and Julius Nyerere.
5. a MAN OF GOD.

While differing much with his theology, I found this biography on his life a challenge and a blessing and I remember going to his memorial while in BEDFORD last year.

Great supper so can now read all night so let me share some thoughts from our next general MARTIN LUTHER ... listen to two great quotes:

**HIS
CONVERSION**

"at last, meditating day and night and by the mercy of God, I began to understand that the righteous live by a gift of God, namely by faith ... here I felt as if I were utterly born again and had entered paradise itself through gates that had been flung open"

What a privilege I had to visit Germany and go to WORMS where Luther made this famous statement:

**HERE I
STAND**

In reply to the request that he recant of what he had written, Luther replied "unless I can be instructed and convinced with evidence from the Holy Scriptures or with open, clear and distinct grounds of reasoning ... then I cannot and will not recant, because it is neither safe nor wise to act against conscience. Here I stand, I can do no other - God help me. Amen."

It has been another great day teaching the Bible, visiting our churches, encouraging the leaders, spending time on my own reading. It is now very late, off to sleep so grateful that the Lord sent me on this mission to Namibia.

SATURDAY, 7 MAY

Another beautiful morning in Ondangwa. My Bible readings again were from Numbers, Psalms, Isaiah and Hebrews, followed by Oswald Chambers who wrote this morning:

"Our Lord implies that the only men and women He will use in His building enterprises are those who love Him personally, passionately and devotedly beyond

any of the closest ties on earth. The conditions are stern but they are glorious. Jesus takes us over for His enterprises, His building schemes entirely, and no soul has any right to claim where he shall be put."

Time for the next general in this excellent book, JOHN CALVIN. (1509-1564)
Soon after his conversion, he wrote these challenging words:

HIS CONVERSION

"when I consider that I am not in my own power, I offer my heart a slain victim for a sacrifice to the Lord, I yield my soul chained and bound unto obedience to the Lord ... God drew me from obscure and lowly beginnings and conferred on me that most honourable office of preacher and minister of the Gospel. What happened first was that by an unexpected conversion He tamed to teachableness, a mind too stubborn for its years, for I was strongly devoted to the superstitions of the Papacy that nothing less could draw me from such depths of mire. And so this mere taste of true godliness that I received set me on fire with such a desire to progress that I pursued the rest of my studies more coolly, although I did not give them up altogether. Before a year had slipped by, anybody who longed for purer doctrine kept coming to learn from me, still a beginner and a raw recruit."

HIS BUSY LIFESTYLE

His home was also the centre of church activity; many refugees ran to it as a haven from the world. One visitor wrote of Calvin's busy lifestyle in this way:

"I do not believe there can be found his like. For who could recount his ordinary and extraordinary labours? I doubt if any man in our time has had more to listen to, to reply to, to write, or things of greater importance. The multitude and quality alone of his writings is enough to astonish everyone who looks at them, and even more those who read them ... he never stopped working, day and night in the service of the Lord, and heard most unwillingly the prayers and expectations of his friends addressed to him every day to give himself some rest."

HIS DEATH

His close friend BEZA said this when Calvin died:

"on that day, with the setting sun, the brightest light that was in the world for the guidance of God's Church, was taken back to heaven. I have been a witness of him for 16 years and I think that I am fully entitled to say that in this man there was exhibited to all an example of the life and death of a Christian, such as it will not be easy to depreciate, and it will be difficult to imitate."

One of my greatest joys was to visit GENEVA and go to the Church where he preached, see the Academy he founded to train men for the ministry and then walk to the Reformation Monument erected to his honour. Memories which will never leave me.

Denys collected me at 9am and took me to Christ church in Ondangwa for our two sessions. The first one was with all those being confirmed, about 50 of them. For an hour I went over the Gospel to try and make sure they fully understood what it means to be a Christian and from there I explained how they could grow as a new believer ... it was a very profitable time. The second session was to the members and I went through the 4 marks of a church from Acts 2:42. I think both sessions went down well.

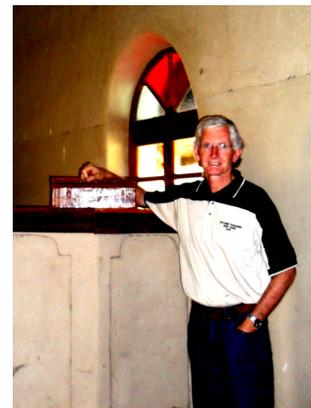
From there Chicken and George took me to OLUKONDO where I wanted to go and see the very first mission station established in Ovamboland in 1870 by the Evangelical Finnish Mission. I love it ...



there was no one else there so I looked over the wagon which brought them up from the Cape, the graves of REV. MARTIN RAUKENEW and his family and then over the church he built. It was locked but I managed to find a broken window and got through that window into the old building.



It was amazing to see the little altar and the simple pulpit, so after some photographs I climbed through the window and looked over the station. These early missionaries were phenomenal, coming out to Africa to preach the Gospel and lay down their lives for Africa. I loved this visit immensely.



It's now 3pm so I can read until supper at 6. Listen to our final general, JOHN KNOX the Scottish Reformer (1514-1522). While in Geneva, he was disciplined and trained by John Calvin. Calvin placed Knox as the pastor of the English-speaking refugee church in Geneva. When the time came for Knox to return to Scotland, he did so having been groomed and trained by Calvin. Those efforts and the call of God upon his life caused Knox to become a renowned reformer in Scotland. There he

established a national Church that was patterned after Calvin's church in Geneva. Knox boasted of Calvin's Academy and said not since the days of the apostles was there ever a finer school for Christ. Listen now to his prayer which he prayed just before his death in 1572:

PRAYER

"Lord grant faithful pastors, men who will preach and teach, in season and out of season. Lord, give us men who would gladly preach their next sermon even if it meant going to the stake for it. Lord give us men who will hate all falsehood and lies, whether in the church or out of it. Lord, grant to your struggling church men who fear you above all."

What a prayer even for Africa today. I will never forget visiting Edinburgh and walking down the Royal Mile just to see the house where John Knox lived and then into St. Giles Church from where he preached. Wonderful memories for me.

What a great book on God's Generals. I really enjoyed reading again of Wycliffe, Hus, Calvin, Luther and Knox. It has been a wonderful day for me, teaching the Bible, visiting that old mission station, and now finishing my 3rd book on this trip. So very blessed indeed. Now time for supper.

I brought with me a smaller book which I first read in 1967 soon after my conversion. It is entitled 'CONGO SAGA' and is an authentic record of the heroes of the Cross, the many missionaries who were killed by the Simbas during the uprising in the Congo between 1964-1968. Having just returned from the Congo I wanted to re-read this heart-rendering book. In this book, David Truby has gathered together much valuable material and given us an overall picture of what happened in the North Eastern part of the Congo. This book reminds us that it is a costly business to follow the Lord Jesus Christ. Listen to one story of what happened.

CONGO
MARTYRS

"when it was known that the mercenaries were on their way to Buta, the Simbas ordered the massacre of 31 missionaries about 11 in the morning a mob of Simbas arrived armed with spears, shouting and yelling, and their intentions were obvious. The men were taken and brutally beaten and then they were given the special Simba torture. Their arms were crossed behind their backs and tied at the elbows. Similarly, the legs were crossed and tied at the ankles and knees. Then a rope was passed around the elbows and ankles forcing the body into a backward arch, into an extremely painful position ... some of the men cried in agony ... another Simba stood at the door where the women were held and gave a running commentary. Then the men were attacked with machetes, killed, and thrown into the river. The Simba guard passed one of the mutilated legs around and forced everyone to handle it. One of the children asked what sort of

animal it was. Her mother replied she did not know ... just something out of the forest."

These amazing missionaries gave their all for Jesus. For those not raped, beaten, or killed they lost everything. They had nothing except the clothes in which they stood. Their homes, baggage, equipment and money were all left behind, together with the work that they had poured out their lives to establish. Thirty years of hard work and prayer was now left under the paw of the lion and yet they knew that the gates of hell could not prevail against the church which had been established.

SUNDAY, 8 MAY

What a beautiful morning, made a cup of coffee and set about with my daily readings and prayer. McCheyne's readings continued with Numbers, Psalms, Isaiah and James. Oswald Chambers then encouraged us from Revelation 3:10:

"a saint's life is in the hands of God like a bow and arrow in the hands of the archer. God is aiming at something the saint cannot see, and He stretches and strains, and every now and again, the saint says - I cannot stand anymore. God does not heed, He goes on stretching until His purpose is in sight then He lets fly"

This morning is mother's day and I so missed not being able to phone my Mom. She has now been with Jesus for just over 1 year and I miss her. I remember so clearly the day she and my Dad were wonderfully converted and how they served Jesus so tirelessly for many years right up to the time of their deaths. I sometimes imagine my Mom and Dad together with my sister Bev in heaven ... what a hope we have, I love you all dearly.

For the time before breakfast I finished this missionary paperback 'CONGO SAGA' and was again deeply moved by Dr. Paul Carlson's death. He too was shot and one of the other missionaries saw his body with a label tied around his neck lying at the side of the road awaiting burial. Much later as the coffin was unloaded from the place a man cried out "he saved my life", and many Africans crowded alongside just to get a glimpse of the one who had served them so faithfully ... what a story...

After breakfast, my friend Chicken came to fetch me at 9am and took me to Christ Church in Ondangwa. What a fantastic day I had ...



45 Confirmees were confirmed in a packed Church. Denys Nandi led the service which lasted almost 3 hours including 3

beautiful choirs. I preached from 2 Peter 3:18 on how to grow as a Christian and it seemed to be well understood.



Afterwards we were invited to MARY KALUNGULA'S home for the most wonderful lunch after which she



sang so beautifully for us. We wound up at 4 and then headed off to George's home for a second lunch finishing there just around 7. What a fantastic day ... I think the people love me visiting them and an excellent relationship has now been established for the future. Slowly we made our way home ... exhausted ...

Made myself a cup of coffee and after a short rest packed all my stuff because I must leave early tomorrow morning for the Ondangwa Airport. Again my books are all read, they were really excellent and a huge blessing to me, my airtime is now finished so I am ready to go home now after one of my most enjoyable visits into Africa. A book I have looked all over for I found at Oliver Tambo Airport, entitled KING LEOPOLD'S GHOST, perhaps the best book on the Congo ever written. I will dip into it tonight before going to sleep.

MONDAY, 9 MAY

I set the alarm a little early giving me time for my Bible readings and prayer. My readings were from Numbers, Psalms, Isaiah and we started with James. Oswald Chambers always as a challenge afterwards, listen to what he asked:

"is there a freshness and vigour in our spiritual outlook?"

That is always the challenge to me, stay fresh ... Leonard Ravenhill once wrote

"there is nothing worse than a half filled Christian trying to overflow."

Chicken again took me to the airport, he really is a very special brother, and there was Denys Nandi coming all the way from Oshikati to say goodbye. After prayer, I enjoyed an excellent flight down to EROS Airport where Martin was waiting for me in order to transport me to the main Windhoek Airport from where I catch my second flight to Johannesburg.



Another two brilliant flights brought me safely back to Pietermaritzburg. This has been one of the most enjoyable of my 20 visits into Africa, things went so well, and a lovely relationship has been established with our churches up there. I also loved visiting that mission station in OLUKONDO, I so admire these amazing people who gave up everything to come and bring the Gospel to Africa.

Tomorrow I have 10 lectures to bring and 2 meetings ... so life goes on at a hectic pace. What an incredible privilege...

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS



1. NAMIBIA:

On the plane up here, the Namibian Tourist Board described Namibia as a gem worth investing in, because it has rich natural resources, breath taking landscapes, abundant wildlife, enormous investment and business opportunities, first class transport and communications infrastructure, political stability, lucrative regional and multilateral trading and market access opportunities. This was my 5th visit and it always is a great joy to return to this beautiful country. I felt that this was my best visit to them and a lovely bond between us has been established.

2. OUR CHURCH:

Since Peter Kalungula started our work with Bishop Bradley about 35 years ago, the work has struggled. We have an excellent building in Ondangwa but the other 4 buildings need work and money. Our 3 ministers are all over 80 so the situation is desperate. But in the goodness of God, Tish Hanekom is now working up here as a missionary and the yearly trip up from Cape Town is doing great work. The greatest need is for godly pastors to come in and begin to teach the Bible. Let us pray for the Lord to send up a pastor with a heart for God, the situation here is crying out for a full-time pastor/missionary. But it is more encouraging than ever before.

3. AFRICA:

This year I have now been up to Zambia, the Congo, Namibia and next month I have the joy of going to Malawi, then to Mozambique in September and Rwanda in November. Never did I ever dream that the Lord would allow this to happen to me, it is unbelievable and an absolute dream come true. As Don McClure said:

"I am filled with an undying ambition to do something worthwhile in the great land of AFRICA."

Whenever one goes, the need is the same ... Bible teaching and training ... this is beyond any doubt the number one priority. Next year I am going fulltime to my College which I launched in 1987 for the purpose of training pastors and

missionaries for Africa. Our students are now planting churches in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Congo, Kenya, Madagascar, Rwanda, Burundi, Ethiopia, Pakistan, Indonesia and England. Please pray that many more will be sent to us to train for Africa. The need is huge and these trips are such an encouragement to those already in the field.

4. LAUNCH OF NEW DIPLOMA IN MISSIONS

Just before I left I received an e-mail from a student in the Congo who I met last month. He wrote:

"Dear Be Shop Warwick, you are happy because you are chosen to train some people ether wise, the people of God may perish with out knowledge. It's true the students from CMBI from Likasi line behind you, Rev. Mukombo and Rev. Kabange, hope to see their institution reach the same level which is most famous of the DRC."

Next year, together with WEC I am to launch a new 1-year Diploma in Missions which will cut out most of the expenses and allow the student to stay with their family, only coming to KMBC for 2 terms. There has been a lot of interest. A pastor from BURUNDI came to see me last week and wants us to train all their men for the ministry. When I go to Rwanda, he and his executive will meet with me. The doors are wide open for us into Africa; please pray for me, it is all so very encouraging.

5. MY OWN FUTURE:

Jon Long sent me this quote:

"when making a decision of minor importance, I have always found it advantageous to consider all the pros and cons. In vital matters, however, the decision should come from the unconscious, from somewhere within ourselves. In the important decisions of life, we should be governed, I think, by the deep inner needs of our nature."

S. Freud

In my 60th year, I will be standing down as the Area Bishop of KZN, a position I would have held for 12 years as well as the position of Rector of Christ Church Pinetown, a positions I would have had for 6 years. This now sets me free to go flat out at KMBC and to train pastors and missionaries for Africa. Together with Footprints into Africa our new missions diploma will be launched in January.

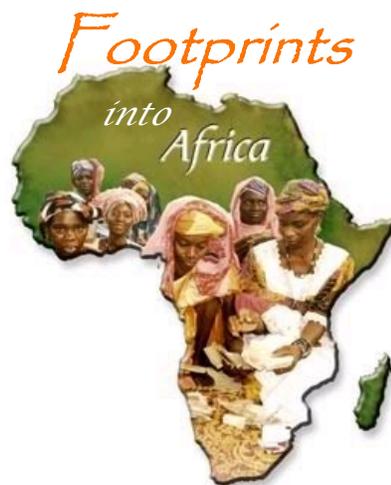
In the goodness of God, I have been offered an office at E.S.S.A. which will be adequate to house all my books and provide a base for Footprints into Africa. An appointment has been set up with the Principal as soon as I return and maybe they will wave the rental and ask me to lecture one or two subjects for them as well. Exciting times for me as the doors slowly open.

It has been an excellent visit, my 20th trip into Africa and another footprint into Africa has been left so how better to end than by quoting that amazing poem dedicated to the Congo martyrs:

*Dare we forget the martyrs' heavy toll
when, by their blood, Christ's banner they unroll?
Romes' sands, for pleasure soaked in sacred red,
That o'er the world the Light of Christ be shed.*

*Has His dear Church no tears that she can shed
That she no little values gems of the martyred dead?
His Word - the Lamp and Guide of many weary feet
Today despised, as if t'was written to deceive and cheat.*

*Oh for the joy when worlds', now wrecked with sin
No more shall shed the life blood of our kith and kin
When God and saints, one family complete,
Shall know the names of those who laid
their lives at His dear feet."*



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