

From: E. FOGHARD,
108 Maria Court,
Second Avenue,
Killesnoy,
DUBLIN,
11th December, 1963.

Mr. Robert H. Schuler,
c/o Officer Commanding,
Robben Island Gul.,
ROBBER ISLAND.
Cape Town.

My dear Bob,

As always, your letter, which arrived last week, gave us great joy. In our concern for you we were glad to see that your letter reflected a spirit as cheerful and courageous as ever.

With your wife with you at the moment, I have no doubt that you are even happier. I am only sorry that it was not possible for her to spend more time with you. I had a note from Mrs. Stott yesterday saying that your wife and children were well settled in Cape Town and that they had not felt it necessary to take up the hotel accommodation which Mrs. Stott and I had arranged. I am looking forward to seeing your wife as soon as she returns, to have first-hand news of you and to learn whether there is anything we can do for you.

Your wife, by the way, worries me. Despite my urgings, she so seldom asks for any assistance! My worry stems from my fear that she might be reluctant to ask. If you know of any such reluctance on her part, I do hope you will tell her not to hesitate to approach me at any time.

By now all the various papers should be reaching you and I trust they are a pleasurable means of whiling away the hours. Don't worry about getting the "Mail", "Times" and "Express" - they will be ordered for you all the same. Last week I sent you a copy of a booklet containing the series of articles on the Church which the Mail published. After reading your kind words of praise about the series, I just had to send you the booklet! I cannot answer your question about the little boy - perhaps because I am too colour blind and only see him as a little boy.

In regard to your University studies, why not send me a list of the books you need? I might be able to obtain at least some of them from friends and save you the expense of buying them. Also there is a government library at Pretoria which lends books to students and send the books through the post. I know of this because some while ago I wrote a story about some prisoners who were studying in goal, and the library contacted me to advise me of the facilities they offered. If you are interested in finding out whether the library has the books you require, let me know and I will get the names for you.

As I have previously told you, I shall be in Cape Town in January, working in local libraries etc., for my research project. I plan then to see you on a purely personal basis, as a friend. But, if possible, I would also like to be able to spend additional time with you discussing my research project which, as I think I have mentioned, is a study of Communist influence in Non-White politics. I have made tentative enquiries in Pretoria and believe that any formal application which I might make to the authorities for a formal interview with you for my research might be favourably considered. But before I make any such application, I obviously must first know if it meets with your approval. If you approve, I would be in Cape Town on January 15. Could you let me have your views on this as soon as possible so that, if necessary, I can arrange for travelling and accommodation?

Little else to tell you at the moment. I am fully immersed in my work and know little (and care less) of what goes on in the world around me. Sef has not been too well lately, but you will have seen reports about this in the newspapers.

Warmest good wishes to you from Astrid.

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