

~~Melville~~
National Council
of

Social Services Association of South Africa

(Reg. No. W.O./313)

Telephone 20844

14112127

Telegrams: "FELLOWSHIP"

National Organiser:
Miss Thekla Hall

30 Colonization Chambers,

West Street,

DURBAN.

15th April 1955.

The Director,
The S.A. Institute of Race Relations,
P.O. Box 97 .. Johannesburg.

Dear Mr. Quinton Whyte:

It would be much appreciated by my Council if reference to the 1955 observance of the DAY OF PRAYER FOR PRISONERS could be made in the appropriate issue of Race Relations News.

Yours truly:

Thekla R. Hall-
National Organizer

1) E.G. Knauf, act.

receipt in Mr. Whyte's absence & say you will publish in (?) RRN.

2) Mr. Whyte

3) Mr. G.

Mr. Whyte
Mr. G.
Mr. G.
Mr. G.
Mr. G.
Mr. G.

Nasionale Raad
van
Maatskaplike Dienste-Vereniging van Suid-Afrika
(Gereg. No. W.O./313)

Telefoon: 20844

Telegrafiese Adres: „FELLOWSHIP”

Nasionale Organiseerder:

Mej. Thekla Hall

Colonization Chambers 30,
Weststraat,
DURBAN.

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of
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A/B/14/1

Telephone 20844

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National Organiser:
Miss Thekla Hall

30 Colonization Chambers,

West Street,

DURBAN.

6th July 1955.

JULY 8 1955

Dear Miss Glynn:

What a surprise to see your signature on a Race Relations letter! You seem to have found your niche: I wish it had been with us!

Yes, I would like a copy of your Council material for my National Council files. I always try to keep up to date in this changing world!

Mrs. Brown is on vacation but I am sure she would wish to join with me in sending best wishes for your happiness, health and success.

Yours sincerely:

*Thekla Hall -
National Organizer*

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Maatskaplike Dienste-Vereniging van Suid-Afrika
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THE ANNUAL DAY OF UNITED PRAYER FOR PRISONERS

will be held on

SUNDAY, 7th AUGUST

SOCIAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA, the accredited Prisoners' Aid Society of the Union of South Africa, has been very deeply concerned for many years over the growing incidence of crime and delinquency. Ever since 1905 the Association has been helping discharged prisoners along the steep and rugged path of rehabilitation, giving moral and material support to the maximum of its ability, but never able to catch up with the growing problem.

Social Services recognizes, and publicly acknowledges, that rehabilitation without reformation is neither genuine nor lasting. That is the principle on which the Association was built fifty years ago—and on which it stands today.

RADIO TALK

*The National Council of Social Services Association of South Africa will be giving a talk on prisoners' aid work over all transmitters of the S.A.B.C. immediately following the 6 p.m. News on Sunday
31st July 1955*

In 1952 we decided to appeal to churches and missions of all denominations to unite in prayer for men and women of all races, who fill our prisons, gaols and special institutions—for those struggling along the difficult road to rehabilitation in a world that seems to have no niche for them to fill—and for those whose life work is their spiritual, moral and physical welfare.

Thousands of churches and missions responded to our appeal. Prison chaplains gave full support to the observance. The Radio and Press took it into the homes of the people. Through the active co-operation of the Director of Prisons we were able to let prisoners know that the prayers of the people as a whole were with them that day.

Thus was born the first day of United Prayer for Prisoners ever to be observed on this Continent.

On SUNDAY, 7th AUGUST your prayers are asked on behalf of:

those in our land who are subject to special temptations—the poor, the homeless, the ignorant, the unbeliever, the unbalanced, those who have lost the Faith they had, the disillusioned, those fighting against great odds (especially in our large cities), youth with its great opportunities and temptations;

those in prison, that their hearts and minds may be opened to the message of Hope which Christ brought to suffering and sinful human beings such as they; their families who carry a burden of shame and anxiety which God alone sees—and which He alone can alleviate; the children who wait for the parent who doesn't come home; and especially for the older children who face their world of young people with a brave heart to hide a load of embarrassment and grief;

those awaiting execution—and all who minister to their spiritual and physical needs, that passing through the valley of the shadow of death they may fear no evil thing, knowing that Love is with them in time and in eternity; the relatives and friends of all condemned persons, that they may be succoured in their hour of anguish and that they may be inspired to see their loved ones not as "condemned sinners" but as members of God's perfect family "without spot or blemish";

those in specialized institutions, such as work colonies, retreats, reformatories, special schools, etc.—that they may benefit by the opportunities which wise legislators have put at their disposal, so that they be given every encouragement and incentive to forsake crime and delinquency in favour of an independent, self-respecting way of life;

those who have been discharged from our penal institutions, many of whom find themselves in a world they have forgotten and which has forgotten them—a world in which there seems to be no niche for them to fill; for public understanding, sympathy and practical assistance at this difficult and critical hour, that those who have paid the full price of their past misdeeds be given an opportunity to become what they were created capable of being; those employed in the administration of the law—judges, magistrates, prosecutors and court officials—for wisdom, understanding and justice tempered with mercy; for the police in their difficult and dangerous duties—that they may never lose sight of the true ends of justice and may always uphold the highest traditions of their calling;

those employed in our prisons and other institutions, from the highest to the most junior official, that they may have the necessary patience in their dealings with difficult men and women; that theirs will be a truly noble example of service utterly devoid of malice, self-pity or bitterness; and that,

despite provocation, they will be imbued with true vision—the ability to see through the ugly human crust to the divine spark which ever glows in even the lowest, most sunken individual in their charge;

those who are responsible for legislation, that the laws of this land may be framed in the spirit of the greatest of all Lawmakers, so that true reformation and reclamation will be assured;

those who are given the great opportunity to offer spiritual manna to the hungry—the prison chaplains—that they may be receptive to the Message that will fill the present need of each listener;

those social workers whose life work is the spiritual, moral and physical welfare of life's outcasts, whether they are in prison or back again in the ordinary life of the community—that they may be guided aright and have the courage to follow the Light they see; and that their faith in humanity fail not.

Typical of last year's response to this call for prayer is the following letter received from a small town in the Transvaal:

"All the various church denominations here observed the Day of United Prayer for Prisoners on 1st August, 1954. Over three hundred men, women and children crowded the Dutch Reformed Church hall in response to the call for united prayer." Then followed a list of churches and missions who participated at that service.

A prison chaplain who ministers to long-term Native prisoners wrote that the message was eagerly received by them all. A young bed-ridden woman wrote to say that she joined in the radio Divine Services that day.

Social Services is indeed very grateful to the churches for this wonderful example of unity of purpose—and would warmly welcome a letter from a minister or from a prison chaplain after the holding of the 1955 observance.

Each year a few churches and missions have sent us the proceeds of church collections taken on the Day of Prayer for Prisoners. That money has not been (and never will be) retained by Social Services for its own use. *We are extremely anxious that you should realize that it is your PRAYERS, and your prayers only*, that we solicit. However, any amount received from the churches is sent by us to the Director of Prisons who, in consultation with ourselves, spends it on some much-needed educational or recreational facility. For instance, 66 per cent. of last year's church donations was spent on the purchase of library books for non-European prisoners, whilst the balance went into the purchase of library books for European prisoners.

DID YOU KNOW?

that in 1954 our social workers, specially trained in prisoners' aid work—

interviewed 22,384 awaiting-trial prisoners;
interviewed 7,193 men and women in prison;
had 2,303 families of prisoners in their care;
assisted 3,240 ex-prisoners to re-establish themselves;

and the timely aid of our Prisoners' Friends saved most of the 51,532 petty offenders whom they assisted from having to enter the prison gates.

If you would like to hear more about this work, please address your request for an Annual Report to

THEKLA A. HALL
(National Organizer)

Social Services Association of South Africa
30 COLONIZATION CHAMBERS
WEST STREET . DURBAN . NATAL

DIE JAARLIKSE DAG VAN VERENIGDE GEBED VIR GEVANGENES

sal gehou word op

SONDAG 7 AUGUSTUS

MAATSKAPLIKE DIENSTE-VERENIGING VAN SUID-AFRIKA, die algemeen erkende Hulp-Vereniging vir Gevangenes in Suid-Afrika, is reeds sedert baie jare ernstig besorg oor die toename van misdaad en oortreding. Reeds vanaf 1905 is die Vereniging besig om vrygestelde gevangenes te help langs die steile en ongelyke weg na rehabilitasie; om tot die uiterste van sy vermoë, morele en materiële hulp te verskaf, maar dis nooit moontlik om die agterstand in te haal by hierdie groeiende probleem nie.

Maatskaplike Dienste herken, en erken openlik dat rehabilitasie sonder hervervorming nog eg, nog duursaam is. Dis op hierdie beginsel dat die Vereniging vyftig jaar gelede gebou is—en waarop dit vandag staan.

RADIOOPRAATJIE

Op Sondag, 31 Julie 1955, onmiddellik na die sesuur muusdiens, sal daar oor alle senders van die S.A.U.K. 'n praatjie oor die werk van die Nasionale Raad van Maatskaplike Dienste-Vereniging van Suid-Afrika uitgesaai word

In 1952 het ons besluit om 'n beroep te doen op alle kerke en sendinggenootskappe om hulle in die gebed te verenig vir mans en vrouens van alle rasse in ons gevangenis en spesiale inrigtings—vir diegene wat sukkel op die moeilike weg van rehabilitasie in 'n samelewing wat skynbaar geen plek vir hulle het nie—en vir diegene wie se lewenstaak die geestelike, morele en liggaaamlike welvaart van diesulkes is.

Duisende kerke en sendinggenootskappe het aan ons oproep gehoor gegee. Predikers in gevangenis het die saak heelhartig ondersteun. Die Radio en die Pers het dit aan die mense in hulle huise gebring. Deur die aktiewe samewerking van die Direkteur van Gevangenis was dit vir ons moontlik om gevangenes te laat weet dat die gebede van die gemeenskap as geheel daardie dag met hulle was.

Op hierdie wyse is daar in die lewe geroep die eerste Dag van Verenigde Gebed vir Gevangenes wat nog ooit op hierdie Vasteland gebou is.

Op SONDAG, 7 AUGUSTUS ... word u gevra om te bid vir:

diegene in ons land wat onderworpe is aan besondere versoekinge—die armes, die dakloses, die onkundiges, die ongelowiges, die onnewigtinges, diegene wat die Geloof verloor het wat hulle vroëer besit het, diegene wat teen 'n oormag veg (veral in ons groot stede), die jeug met sy groot geleenthede en versoekinge;

diegene in die gevangenis, opdat hul hart en gemoed kan oopgaan vir die boodskap van Hoop wat Christus bring het aan lydende en sondige kreature soos hulle; hul gesinne wat die las van skande en kommer dra wat alleen God sien—en wat alleen Hy kan verlig; die kindertjies wat wag op die ouer wat nie huis toe kom nie; en veral vir die ouer kinders wat hul wêrld van jong mense tegemoet moet gaan met 'n moedige hart om die las van verleentheid en verdriet te bedek;

diegene wat teregstelling awag—en almal wat sorg vir hul geestelike en liggaaamlike behoeftes, opdat hulle geen kwaad vrees wanneer hulle deur die skaduwee van die dood gaan nie en weet dat die Liefde in tyd en ewigheid by hulle is; die bloedverwante en vriende van alle veroordeelde persone, opdat hulle vertroosting ontvang in hul uur van smart en hulle die besieling verleen mag word om hul geliefdes te sien, nie as „veroordeelde sondaars” nie, maar as lede van God se volmaakte gesin „sonder smet of blaam”;

diegene in bepaalde inrigtings, soos werkkolonies, afsonderingspase, verbetergestigte, spesiale skole, ens.—opdat hulle baat vind by die geleenthede wat wyse wetgewers tot hul beskikking gestel het ten einde hulle alle aanmoediging en aansporing te gee om misdaad en oortreding te versakaar ter wille van 'n selfstandige, selfrespekterende leefwyse;

diegene wat uit ons strafinrigtings ontslaan is—van wie baie hulle in 'n wêrld bevind wat deur hulle vergeet is en wat hulle vergeet het—'n wêrld waarin daar geen plekkie skyn te wees wat hulle kan volstaan nie; vir begryping, simpatie en daadwerklike hulp in hierdie moeilike en kritiese uur, opdat diegene wat die volle prys betaal het vir hul vergrypte van die verlede, die geleentheid vergun word om te wees waarvoor hulle geskape is;

diegene wat wie se taak dit is om die wet toe te pas: regters, magistrate, aanklaers en hofbeamptes—vir wysheid, begryping en geregtigheid wat deur genade versag word; vir die polisie in hul moeilike en geværlike pligte—opdat hulle nooit die ware doeleindes van die geregt uit die oog verloor nie en steeds die hoogste tradisies van hul roeping handhaaf; diegene wat diens doen in one gevangenisse en ander inrigtings, van die hoogste tot die geringste amptenaar, opdat hulle die nodige geduld ontvang

in hul betrekkinge met moeilike manne en vroue; dat hulle 'n waarlik edele voorbeeld mag gee van diens sonder 'n sweem van kwaadwilligheid, selfbejammering of bitterheid; en dat, ten spyte van uittarting, hulle met die egte visie bedeel word, die vermoë om deur die afsigtelike menslike korsheen te sien tot by die goddelike vonk wat steeds gloei in selfs die laagste, die diepsgesonkene persoon onder hul toesig;

diegene wat verantwoordelik is vir die wetgewing, opdat die wette van hierdie land opgestel word in die gees van die grootste van alle Wetgewers, opdat ware hervorming en redding verseker kan wees;

diegene aan wie die groot geleenthed vergun is om geestelike manna aan te bied aan die hongeriges—die gevangeniskapelane—opdat hulle ontvanklik is vir die Boodskap wat sal voorsien in die teenswoordige behoefté van elke toehoorder;

daardie maatskaplike werkers wie se lewenstaak die geestelike, morele en liggaamlike welsyn is van die uitgeworpenes van die lewe, of hulle in die gevvangenis is of weer terug in die alledaage bestaan van die gemeenskap—opdat hulle reg gelei word en die moed ontvang om die Lig te volg wat hulle sien, en opdat hul vertroue in die mensheid nie faal nie.

Die onderstaande brief uit 'n klein dorpie in Transvaal, is kenmerkend van die reaksie wat uitgelok is as gevolg van hierdie oproep tot gebed:

„Al die plaaslike kerkgenootskappe het die Biddag vir Gevangenes op 1 Augustus 1954 waargeneem. Meer as driehonderd mans, vrouens en kinders het die Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerksaal gevul in antwoord op die oproep vir verenigde gebed.” Dan volg 'n lys van die kerke en sendinggenootskappe wat aan die diens deelgeneem het.

'n Gevangenis-prediker wat langtermyn Naturelle gevangenes bearbei, skryf dat die boodskap gretiglik deur almal ontvang is. 'n Jong bedlêende vrou skryf dat sy daardie dag meegedaan het aan die Radio-dienste.

Maatskaplike Dienste is werklik besonder dankbaar teenoor die kerke vir hierdie wonderlike voorbeeld van eensgesindheid—en sal 'n brief van 'n predikant of van 'n gevangenis-prediker na die 1955 deelname hartlik verwelkom.

Elke jaar het enkele kerke en sendinggenootskappe ons die opbrengs van die kollektes gestuur wat op die Biddag vir Gevangenes gehou is. Sulke gelde is nie (en sal nooit nie) deur Maatskaplike Dienste vir eie gebruik gehou word nie. *Ons wil besonder graag bē dat u moet besef dat ons u gebede, en alleen u gebede, verlang.* Nietemin, word enige bedrag deur ons van kerke ontvang, oorhandig aan die Direkteur van Gevangenis, en hy bestee dit dan, in oorlegpleging met ons, aan een of ander opvoedkundige of ontspanningsdooleinde. Verlede jaar is daar byvoorbeeld, 66 persent van die skenkings gebruik vir die aankoop van biblioteekboeke vir nie-blanke gevangenes. Die balans is aangewend vir dieselfde doel vir blanke gevangenes.

HET U GEWEET?

dat, in 1954, ons maatskaplike workers, spesiaal opgelei vir werk onder gevangenes, die volgende presteer het:

- hulle het onderhoude gevoer met 22,384 gevangenes wat op verhoor wag;
- hulle het onderhoude gevoer met 7,193 mans en vrouens in die gevvangenis;
- hulle het 2,303 families van gevangenes onder hulle sorg gehad;
- hulle het 3,240 gewese gevangenes gehelp om weer op die been te kom;

en die tydige hulp van ons Prisoniersvriende het verhoed dat meeste van die 51,532 persone wat kleiner oortredings begaan het, in die gevvangenis beland het.

Indien u meer van hierdie werk te wete wil kom, vra asseblief 'n Jaarrapport aan by

THEKLA A. HALL

(Nasionale Organiseerster)

Maatskaplike Dienste-Vereniging van Suid-Afrika
COLONIZATION CHAMBERS 30
WESTSTRAAT . DURBAN . NATAL

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

(THE HONOURABLE J. G. STRIJDOM)

"I READILY ACCEDE to the request by the National Council of Social Services Association of South Africa to support it in its appeal that Sunday, 7th August, 1955, be observed as

A DAY OF UNITED PRAYER FOR PRISONERS.

I trust that churches of all denominations will devote this day to those who are at present in penal institutions as well as those who have already been discharged.

On a day such as this the alarming increase in the incidence of crime is brought home to us as a Christian community and we then realize that it is our duty not only to combat this evil but also to assist those who have transgressed in their efforts to rehabilitate themselves.

The large number of workers who either voluntarily or through their Associations help our prisoners so untiringly along the road of rehabilitation, as well as prison officials and others whose work is directly concerned with prisoners, also need and deserve our support and prayers."

(Signed) J. G. STRIJDOM

In a letter conveying this Message, the Private Secretary emphasises the Prime Minister's support of this call for prayer in these words:

"Mr. Strijdom trusts that the necessary support and co-operation will be forthcoming. He wishes your Council every success in its great task."

BOODSKAP VAN DIE EERSTE MINISTER

(SY EDELE J. G. STRIJDOM)

„EK VOLDOEN graag aan die versoek van die Nasionale Raad van Maatskaplike Dienste van Suid-Afrika om die oproep tot

'N DAG VAN GESAMENTLIKE GEBED VIR GEVANGENES

op Sondag, 7 Augustus 1955 te steun. Ek vertrou dat alle kerke op hierdie dag in die besonder sal kan dink aan die gevangenes wat hulle in gevangenissoe of verbeteringsgestigte bevind of aan diogene wat ontslaan is.

Ons as Christenvolk kan nie anders as om 'n dag soos hierdie onder die diepe indruk te kom van die verontrustende toename in misdaad nie en terselfdertyd ons plig te besef om hierdie kwaad te bestry en om die wat geval het te probeer ophelp om hul pad as nuttige burgers te vind.

Die groot skaar opofferende werkers wat deur verenigings of op hul eie in die gevangenissoe optree en die gevallen om weer nuttige burgers te word, die bewaarders en almal wat in verband met ons gevangenes werk, verdien ons ondersteuning en voorbidding.”

(Geteken) J. G. STRIJDOM

In 'n skrywe wat die boodskap van die Eerste Minister vergesel, benadruk die Privaat Sekretaris die ondersteuning van die Eerste Minister vir hierdie oproep tot gebed, met hierdie woorde:

„Mnr. Strijdom vertrou dat die nodige ondersteuning en samewerking gevind sal word. Hy wens u Raad alle sukses toe op die groot onderneming.”

21st June, 1955.

The National Organiser,
National Council of Social Services
Association of South Africa,
30 Colonization Chambers,
West Street,
DURBAN

Dear Miss Hall,

Thank you for your letter of 16th June giving the names of your representatives appointed to serve on our Council for the coming year.

We have advised our Regional offices of the change.

Would you please let us know whether you, as National Organiser of the Association, would also like to receive for information, copies of our Council material?

Kindest regards to Mrs. Brown and yourself,

Yours sincerely,

K. Glynn (Miss),
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

*Phil. with
7 KG*

National Council
of

Social Services Association of South Africa

(Registered under the Welfare Organisations Act—W.O. 313.)

President : His Excellency the Governor-General

Telephone 20844 (Durban)
Telegrams : "FELLOWSHIP"

Vice President : The Hon. the Chief Justice

Chairman : The Rev. Donald McRae 16th June 1955.

30 Colonization Chambers,
West Street,
DURBAN.

National Organiser : Miss Thekla Hall

The Director,
S.A. Institute of Race Relations,
P.O. Box 97,
Johannesburg.

JUNE 20 1955

Dear Sir:

This is to advise that at our Annual General Meeting held on 28th April 1955, the following members were elected to serve on the Council of the S.A. Institute of Race Relations for the coming year:

✓ Mrs. J.M. Cope of Port Elizabeth (unchanged)
✓ Mr. D. Grice of Durban in place of the Rev. Cowdry of C.T.

The address of Mr. D. Grice is: c/o Messrs. Shepstone & Wylie, 42 Acutt Street, Durban.

* Please advise your Regional Committees at Durban and P.E. of these elections.

Yours very truly:

Thekla P. Hall
National Organizer

Miss Glynn

- (1) Please ack. & thank.
- (2) Please do. *
- (3) Please ensure that there are our
Comme hosts & that they
receive our material. Also that
the National Organise herself
receive a set.

*Thank you
J.W.
20/6/55*

Nasionale Raad
— van —
Maatskaplike Dienste-Vereniging Van Suid-Afrika

(Geregistreer in terme van die Wet op Welsynsorganisasies—W.O. 313)

President : Sy Eksellensie die
Gouewerneur - Generaal

Telefoon : 20844 (Durban)
Telegrafiese Adres : „FELLOWSHIP”

Vise-President : Sy Weledele
Hoofregter

Voorsitter : Sy Eerwaarde
Donald McRae

Colonization Chambers 30,
Weststraat,
DURBAN.

Nasionale
Organiseerder : Mej. Thekla Hall

- molt u daarby,

Collection Number: AD1715

SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS (SAIRR), 1892-1974

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