

## NAMIBIA PEACE CENTER: BULLETIN #1

### One Life, One Struggle, One Victory

The Namibia Peace Center is a group of people working toward a just and peaceful end to the illegal South African occupation of Namibia. We take our motto from Colin Winter, Bishop-in-Exile of Damaraland. His visit awakened us to our unity, through faith, with brothers and sisters suffering for their desire for freedom from apartheid in Namibia (Southwest Africa) and of our obligation to share in their struggle for freedom and dignity.

We seek your involvement in the following areas:

1. Prayer: "If the Lord does not build the house, in vain do His servants labor." We act in response to God's call to "do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God." Our work needs the prayers of every member of the parish. Please make the Namibia Collect written by Frs. Fred, Kevin, and Steve a part of your regular devotions, and pray specifically for the needs of Namibia and the Peace Center as you become aware of them. This week pray especially for the recovery of Bishop Winter and the continuance of his work, and for the development of the Peace Center at St. Augustine's. To participate in a prayer circle that includes prayers for Namibia, contact Edna Armitage at 395-4182.
  2. Education and information development: This bulletin and the book table where you probably picked it up are the beginnings of our attempts to learn about Namibia. The more we know, the more effective our prayers and actions can become. Please read, ask questions, and share what you learn. Clip news items for display at the book table bulletin board, pass along the names of good books for inclusion in the newsletter. Two books to begin with are Namibia, Bishop Winter's description of the struggle for justice for the Namibian people, and his resultant expulsion from the country, and Southwest Africa, a good background history of the entire region by Ruth First and published by Penguin. It is available at Martindale's, along with other books in Penguin's African Library series.
- STUDY GROUP: For a quickie course in the history of Namibia and some good suggestions on how you can become involved in changing that history, participate in the Namibia study group beginning Sunday, April 17, in the church at 9:15 a.m. There will be six sessions, the first three devoted to the development of the present situation in Namibia, and the last three to ways of changing that situation.
3. Political Action: At present Namibia is under martial law, a black African may be imprisoned for travelling to visit relatives without a special pass, and any meeting of blacks, including worship services, may be forcibly broken up by the South African military. The salary of black workers is less than a quarter of that of whites doing the same work. Our long-range goal is freedom for the people of Namibia, black and white, to worship without harassment, to determine their mode of government and to participate in all decisions made about the economic and social development of their country. You can express your support for this goal by writing letters to Cyrus Vance, State Department, Washington, D.C. and President Jimmy Carter, The White House, Washington, D.C. 20501. These letters should support United Nations sanctions of Namibia and South Africa but disapprove of the Constitutional talks where the Namibian people are represented by henchmen chosen by the South African regime.



4. Financial: We are looking into a number of ways to raise money. Among those are benefit concerts, hunger dinners, and projects of organizations within the parish. To contribute time or suggestions, contact Kay Coulson or Fr. Steve. Financial contributions can go to:

The Diocese of Damaraland (Bishop Winter's diocese in Namibia, for church and relief work there).

The Namibia Peace Center (for support of Bishop Winter's work and of Namibian students who are in exile and seeking further education).

The American Committee on Africa (for relief work among people who have fled the South African regime).

Others?

5. Skills pool: If you have an aptitude or inclination that you could give to our work, sign up at the book table or contact Fr. Steve or Kay Coulson. We need artists, P.R. people, fund-raisers, writers, typers, organizers, librarians, teachers, public speakers, administrators, and do-anything people. Help!

OUR OWN NAMIBIAS      OUR OWN NAMIBIAS      OUR OWN NAMIBIAS      OUR OWN NAMIBIAS

Bishop Winter reminded us that conditions in Namibia are not unique, and that God calls us to take action against human suffering wherever we may find it. While working towards peace and justice in Africa, we cannot ignore our own Namibias. Coming up are:

CROP Walk - May 1

Los Ninos Tortilla Marathon - June 17 to 26th - the walkers will be spending the night of June 18 at St. Augustine's.

UPDATE    UPDATE    UPDATE    UPDATE    UPDATE    UPDATE    UPDATE    UPDATE

Bishop Winter is recovering slowly from the heart failure he suffered while visiting his niece and her husband in New Hampshire. Doctors expect him to be in convalescence for six to nine months. Cards and messages can be sent c/o Dr. and Ms. Dennis Hughes, 99 Twiss Lane, Hollis, N.H. 03049.

CONTACTS      CONTACTS      CONTACTS      CONTACTS      CONTACTS      CONTACTS

The Episcopal Churchmen for South Africa (ECSA), 14 West 11th St., New York, N.Y. 10011, publishes a regular newsbulletin with articles and information about current conditions in South Africa and Namibia. Fr. Steve has a copy, or you can write for a subscription.

Reprints of pertinent articles on southern Africa can be ordered through the Africa Fund, 305 East 46th St., N.Y., N.Y. 10017. Their bibliography and order form is available at the book table.

LATE NEWS!      LATE NEWS!      LATE NEWS!      LATE NEWS!

On Thursday, April 14, Fr. Steve spoke with Bishop Winter. The Bishop sent his love and thanks to the parish family. He also reported that Holy Spirit Mission in Oshandi (Ovamboland) had been recently destroyed by South African troops.