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10 Amherst Drive
Hastings on Hudson
N.Y. 10705
January 21, 1975

Dr. Alan Paton
% Charles Scribners
New York



Dear Dr. Paton,

This is to discharge, in some measure, an immense debt of gratitude owing you for your moving, tender beautiful book, FOR YOU DEPARTED..

Some twenty-one months ago, my beloved wife and partner of more than fifty-one years was called away from ^{me} to eternal life. Some one I believe my younger brother, a psycho-analyst, recommended your book. I found comfort in prayer, in treasured Bible passages, and in the faith, courage, and humble devotion, which are reflected in your writing.

Your autobiographical parts, the biographical parts about your wife, whom you describe so appealingly, that I found myself loving her, your description of the adventure with the boys' reformatary, your unforgettable quoting of the Reverend Mother's prayer, written for your consolation and assurance, the prayers of your own, which you share with us, all this and more have over and over again, helped, challenged, comforted me.

I have discussed, recommended, shared FOR YOU DEPARTED with so many, as a friend, counselor, pastor. Mrs. Helen Searle, widow of the Rev. Dr. Robert Searle, now of ~~Scar-~~borough, near Ossining, N.Y. treasures your friendship, when you lectured at Briarcliff College, some years ago.. Many ^{have} spoken of their debt of gratitude for your earlier books, CRY, THE BELOVED COUNTRY AND TOOLATE THE PHALAROPE. It is announced that you are writing an autobiography. I, with many others, am eagerly awaiting its publication. I am sure your faith and courage will shine from it, as it does from FOR YOU DEPARTED..

Thanks again, Alan Paton, for so generously sharing your love story, and the account of your pilgrimage from cynicism to faith and hope..

Yours faithfully,

A. Reid Bryan

(Rev.) A Reid Bryan