

FROM THE BISHOP OF MATABELELAND

~~(THE RIGHT REVEREND K. J. F. SKELTON)~~



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19th July, 1972.

Mr. Alan Paton,  
P.O. Box 278,  
Hillcrest,  
Natal,  
South Africa.

Dear Mr. Alan Paton,

Thank you for your letter about Geoffrey Clayton's photograph taken on the occasion of Sylvia Larkin's confirmation.

I recall Mrs. Lessing very well and Mrs. Fribeloo too, however, I cannot remember at all the occasion of the confirmation. It was certainly in my time but no details of it stick in my memory. Certainly there was no special relationship between the Bishop and this family. There were very few Anglicans indeed in Wolmaransstad in those days and it may well be that I had told the Bishop that he had to be extra careful to be extra nice to these people in that situation.

My wife, Winifred, of whom the Bishop definitely did approve (you can check this with Dick Yates) says that he was not afraid of women but he "he liked frightening them and if you stood up to him he liked you." "Why then," I asked her, "did he like frightening them? Was it not because he was perhaps frightened of them?" "No", says Winifred, "it was a sort of a sport he had - like slamming doors!" It is certainly true about his slamming doors, at least the doors of the Bishop's house in Johannesburg, but I am not sure of the rest.

You really have taken on a fascinating job, though I imagine it will be difficult sifting through the countless stories and legends about Geoffrey Clayton that must be circulating in South Africa. I often find myself recalling him and his ways, since becoming a Bishop, and using these memories as criteria for my own actions.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

*Mark Mat.*