

10/11/18

St Augustine's Rectory,
46 Green St.
Kimberley.

4.1.71.

Dear Mr Paton,

Thank you for your letter of the 24th. It is a great thrill to be in correspondance with one whom I have long considered to be outstandingly relevant both as a writer and a thinker.

All Saint's Mission is three miles out of the village of Engcobo on the Queenstown - Umtata road. I haven't seen it for 10 years but I gather that today it is mostly Hospital. In my day it was a combination of three lines of activity - the centre and mother church of an area of pastoral mission to the ama-Qwati people - a Xhosa speaking stem of the Xesibe nation. We normally carried a staff of four or five priests and served a district of about 2500 square miles with some forty outstation churches and schools. Also at All Saints was a considerable educational work - a Training College for girl teachers - primary school, a girls secondary school, and various specialist courses (we had the original 'Jeanes teacher' courses) while across the valley in decent segregation we had a boys secondary and primary school run as an agricultural project with its own Boarding establishments. These were not enormous establishments - we had I suppose about 150 girl boarders and perhaps 100 boy boarders, but they imposed their own atmosphere of 'educational mission' on the Mission itself. The girl's department especially had a staff of very dedicated English missionary ladies with a

ernest if perhaps rather middle class liberalism of the New Statesman early 1930's variety. But they were a nice crowd and they did run a very efficient training school. The Hostels were run by a small House of the Sisters of the Church while the Secondary School Principal was one of the first African girls to be appointed to such a post - a delightful creature called Lorna ~~Xxxx~~ Mnini. I was there from 1940 till 1952 and it was a wonderful period. It is all gone now of course. Bantu Education closed down the training College and the post primary departments; and the boys section as far as I know has dropped down to become an ordinary primary school only. The big mission area has quite rightly been broken up into a number of small pastoral charges each under its own African priest in charge. But at All Saints itself as I say I gather that the Hospital which in my day was fairly small - perhaps 100 beds - has now sprawled over the greater part of the former school buildings, and is quite a place: while I gather that the local church around the mission is very flourishing. A nice chap called Alf Beresford who is a Natalian is the priest in charge.

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I cannot really remember what Geoffrey said to Bill Reynolds but imagine it was something in the "you clumsy great oaf" variety. But it reduced poor Bill who in those days was a very enthusiastic young man to a state of quivering shock for the rest of Geoffrey's visit.

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I did know Peacey but not very well and can not help you about the Krugersdorp affair. Gonville French Beytagh might be able

