

PC/11119/22
ALAN PATON CENTRE
1922-1944
P. O. ANERLEY,
South Coast,
Natal,
South Africa.

11th May, 1949.

Mrs. R. J. Wright,
14377 Glastonbury Road,
DETROIT 23,
Michigan.

Dear Mrs. Wright,

Thank you very much for your letter of February 22 which was forwarded to me by sea mail. I am no longer at the Diepkloof Reformatory but am living at a little place on the south coast of Natal. A few miles from us there is a struggling school for native children. It is held in a church built of split poles and hardly able to contain the fifty to sixty children who attend the school. The teacher is a young girl who herself has only passed Standard VII, and, to get the school started, a native evangelist, who himself got next to nothing, paid her out of his own pocket. The school is very poorly equipped and I am sending you a list of the kind of things that could be used.

Colour books and crayons: plasticine(modelling clay): scrap books and pictures: scripture books and pictures: any Froebel equipment: skipping ropes: balls: beads: thin wire for bead work: sewing silks, cotton and needles: canvas or linen material: large cutting-out scissors: 6" scissors for individual work: exercise books, single- double- lined and square: notebooks: jotters: pencils: rulers: rubbers: chalks, coloured and white.

I think you will see from my letter that this is one of the most primitive of schools and that "Readers' Digests, Coronet" and other magazines will be too advanced, but any simple reading material would be welcome. These children range in age from 6 to 14 or 15, but the school as yet does not go beyond Standard IV, that is, it offers six years of instruction.

/It.....

It has now got another teacher, however, and once it has been recognised by the authorities, it will probably be able to get more equipment than it has now. I can assure you though, that it will be a long time before it needs no assistance.

In regard to jewelry and trinkets, I am going to speak to the teacher first, and I shall let you know what she has to say.

Thank you very much for your message of appreciation of my book, but in particular do I thank you for your offer of practical assistance. I have perhaps sent rather a long list to you, but I thought it wise to offer several ideas from which you could choose.

Yours very sincerely,

The Alan Paton Centre
& Struggle Archives

