

PS We drove through mile after  
mile of burnt trees in our travels.  
Very depressing.

20th October 1994

BILL AND SUE SOBEY  
VALLA RD. VIEWMONT  
NSW 2448 (065)695118

Dear Phyllis,

After months of praying for rain we actually got over half an inch today, but it came down at a strong angle, plus large hailstones, and our living room was flooded. It is an extension/afterthought and does this once or twice a year, but we are not sure where it comes in. Only half an hours work now that we have cork tiles, but when we had carpet it took about a week to dry. Anyway, it was lovely to see and will help the grass. We bought some water last week (we are on tanks) as it is getting very short all down the east coast and inland.

It must be very difficult for someone as young as Sha having to take pills every day for the rest of his life, but we are very glad to hear that all is going well with no signs of rejection. Is he able to go back to the things that he was doing before? I hope that you are feeling well yourself and have recovered from the shock and strain. You certainly live a dramatic life!

It was my birthday a couple of weeks ago, and usually we go up the mountains to the National Park and walk among the old trees, but this year the mountains were lost in smoke from all the bushfires so we went down the coast to an old prison. It was built about 1870 and was only used for a few years when single person cells went out of fashion. It was put into use again in 1914 for Germans and their friends. I do not know how only four died as they were collected from tropical islands and stuck in cells that the wind blew straight through on the edge of a cliff. I was cold just visiting. The reason for going was not the prison but the fantastic wild flowers growing along the cliff walk, with several different kinds of orchids growing amongst them. Australian flowers tend to be small and delicate so that you really have to look. The soil was poor and shallow and bone dry and there was an off-sea wind blowing, but the flowers were rampant. Then on Monday we drove further down the coast to visit a friend who is in a nursing home while her husband has a heart operation. Florence has MS and is in a wheel-chair, but she works to help the UN and formed a group including both whites and Aborigines.



Paid

To Phyllis Naidoo

4 Glenoriff

96 Umbilo Road

Durban 4001

Country of Destination RSA

Sender's Name and Address

Postcode

Thinking of You

Seal side flaps first

Seal side flaps first

This is not easy. She has always been a very active woman involved in peace work among many other things. Now she is stuck in a place where half the people are incapable of holding a conversation of any kind, and the others are not interested in the things that interest her. Nothing to do all day except read and listen to the radio - she is going stir crazy, and no wonder. She loves to talk but has already lost her singing voice so does not know for how long she will be able to talk. She is always cheerful and interesting. I can see why the elderly fight to stay in their own house.

I am off to Canberra next week, and Bob is off to Haiti with the Australian police. Far too corrupt a place to make any difference. He applied for Mozambique which would have been interesting & he could have visited you.

Love Susan Sid



15th April 1994

Dear Phyllis,

You are in our thoughts and prayers in these very trying/exciting times. The TV now claims that more people are being killed in Natal than in Bosnia. Violence seems to be everywhere these days. It said on the news this morning that the negotiators have given up and gone home. I cannot see why since Buthelexi does not intend to vote anyway, it can matter to him which day he does not vote on. He has lost many admirers over the last few weeks with his claims for personal power while refusing to face the ballot box. No longer is he seen as reasonable and middle of the road by whites, not that we friends of the ANC ever saw him that way. I agree with Gandhi that killing people is a rotten way to get them to change their minds.

George Ponnen is an amazing man and we read his life story with humility. With such citizens South Africa must have a bright future. If only the Whites had used the many talented people available to them where would the country be now?

I am sorry that you have been ill and hope that you are feeling fit again now. No, we are not going to monitor the elections, but a Quaker friend of ours will be there and he will do it very well. A very difficult task, especially in the country <sup>sick</sup>. We were very lucky and the fires did not come near here, but Alison in Sydney was looking after refugees in the Church Hall. I flew out to Hobart (which was just as well, as the road and railway were both closed) and it was amazing to see so many fires inside the city, not to mention the pall of black smoke and the turbulence. No, for some reason they cannot operate on Sharon's eyes. Alison and I flew to Adelaide for the opening of Jenny's film "Wild Women dont get the Blues". It all went very well and the film was good - it is meant to show girls that they too can climb, dive, canoe and go white water rafting. I was annoyed by South Australia's celebrating 100 years of votes for women. I challenged this and was told the universal suffrage had been introduced



BY AIR MAIL PAR AVION  
AÉROGRAMME

AUSTRALIA



To Phyllis Naidoo  
PO Box 48063  
Qualbert  
Durban 4078  
Country of Destination RSA

Sender's Name and Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Thinking of You

Seal side flaps first

Seal side flaps first

If anything is enclosed  
any tape or sticker attach  
this form must be  
the appropriate postage  
for an air mail letter

100 years ago, but that on one had made any effort to get the Aborigines on the roll or explain things to them, and after a couple of years they just fell off the edge, so in truth they got suffrage for all at the same time as the rest of Australia in 1967. I think that the Womens Movement should do better than that.

After reading how little difference a democratic election made to the people in Cambodia I hope that Mandela can give his followers what so many of them expect. GATT, the World Bank and the IMF are a nasty trio.

Just 5 years today since Sahdhan was killed. Such a waste and such a tragedy. I can remember sitting by the creek & crying when I heard. Lots of LOVE Susan