

5th June 1993

Dear Phyllis,

At long last Bill has convinced me that a typewriter that has to have its ribbon turned by hand is due for replacement, so I have bought an electric one. We are not working as one just yet, but it is nice being able to stand a drink on the table and not have the carriage knock it over.

Many thanks for your book - we enclose the money for it. Bill grabbed it and read it first, but when it came to my turn I was only able to read about one family at a time. We both think that it is very well written and very moving - you certainly have the skill to turn statistics into real people, but we could not think of anyone we could give a copy to who would read it. I cannot say that I blame them as watching the news every night is enough horror for 24 hours. We both found it very interesting and read it from cover to cover, but we are interested in Southern Africa and have met some of the people mentioned. I will lend it to Alison when she comes up next month.

I enclose two articles that I thought that you might be interested in. I had never heard of such a thing until I was sent the paper they are in. It is amazing that so many people should have become involved in it, especially as they did not advertise. In spite of what you hear on the news there are plenty of people of good will in the world, but it is hard to hear their voices over the guns and bombs.

I am glad to hear that they have set an election date for SA but so many things can happen in eleven months. I am sure that there are many good things happening there too, but we do not hear about them. A friend of hours was in one of the townships about two years ago where he taught people how to do simple book-

keeping so that they could run backyard businesses without getting ripped off.

Bill is very pleased with the result of having had a lens transplant, and is looking forward to having the other eye done at the end of the year. He can now see across the valley and watch the cattle egrets on the far side. He did not realise how blurred his vision had become until after the operation. It is a field of medicine that has improved greatly in the last few years.

We had a visit from a delightful woman who knows SA well. We met her through the peace movement, and she was on her way to Queensland in order to look after a house while the owners were away. Complete with her lap top so that she can continue writing her story of her marriage. She says that publishers are not interested, but that just writing it is therapeutic and it will be interesting for the children. They did a lot of sailing around the Pacific together, but for some reason he left her on land while he sailed along the coast of SA in their catamaran which sank. She was left with three children and no money for seven years as there was no body. She is still very interested in boats and full of zest for life, and I am willing to bet that she writes a better book than many that are in the shops today.

I must end this letter as it has turned cold here and I am a long way from the fire here.

Love and best wishes

Sue.