

NEWS from NAMIBIA

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OF ENDINGS AND BEGINNINGS.....

"...the end precedes the beginning, And the end and the beginning were always there before the beginning and after the end. And all is always now."

FOUR QUARTETS, T.S. Eliot "Burnt Norton"

"In my beginning is my end...Home is where one starts from...In my end is my beginning." "East Coker"

"There is no end, but addition...Fare forward, voyagers...We are only undefeated because we have gone trying...." "The Dry Salvages"

"...last year's words belong to last year's language And next year's words await another voice..." "...the end is where we start from..." "History is a pattern of timeless moments...History is now..." "We shall not cease from exploration And the end of all our exploring Will be to arrive where we started And know the place for the first time...And all shall be well and All manner of thing shall be well..." "Little Gidding"

Each year we repeat the outward cycle of the calendar year, with its seasons of seedtime and harvest, of lying fallow and waiting for seedtime again. And in our religious calendar, we have the time of waiting and expectation, of birth, of "spreading the word" à la George M. Cohan in "Over There", of inner reflection and preparation for "a death foretold" as García Márquez would say, and then of receiving the comfort and blessing and inspiration of the return of the deceased loved one's spirit. And once again the waiting. Do we know for what we are waiting? It is as old as time and as new and fresh as a newborn infant. One day or one life ends so that a new one may begin afresh, and somewhere in the process is our humanity, waiting to be joined eternally with the divine, and charged in the meantime with "faring forward" in our own journey, from wherever was our beginning to wherever is our end, which in turn is our next beginning.

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BP. JAMES KAULUMA'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR GREETING:

December, 1996

Dear Friends,

The year 1996 is moving towards the end, for which we want to thank God for the goodness he has shown to us all during this passing year. In this News from Namibia we would like to share with you news of our immediate family and of the large family of the Diocese. We will also share with you ways God has blessed us and the Church as a whole.

Sally and I continue to enjoy and benefit from the family fellowship and the strength which God has given us. Sally continues to enjoy teaching at St. George's Diocesan School, directing the household at home and hosting visitors who come and go at different times and who also brought many joyful blessings to our family and home. Since St. George's Cathedral organist and choirmaster left

two years ago, she has been directing the Cathedral music.

Many of you have kindly and generously contributed towards the educational needs of our children and members of the church and community who sought educational opportunity from us. I am sure you will be interested to hear news of them.

Nangado, our 15-year old daughter is still in high school with three or four years to go, depending on her program. Nangula, our elder daughter, has continued her college education at Spelman College in Atlanta, and is now in her second year. If sufficient funds are found, she will complete her degree in 1997 and hopes to pursue her interest in international relations; her studies have introduced her to Swahili and Portuguese. We remain thankful to the friends who have kindly assisted with funds which enabled her to reach this level. We are now encouraged by her progress.

Kafidi has completed his A-level high school education at St. Paul's College in Windhoek, and since then he has been working in a business in Owambo, where he hopes to gain some experience before going on to study architecture next year. We are wishing him success in his search for higher education beyond high school. Shounyuni and Eradius, the two boys who were in the same grade, have just written their final exams of high school, and have already applied for further studies and work/training. We hope that they will complete their education successfully and find good jobs to enable them to assist with the education of the extended family and other members of the society who will benefit from their services and assistance. Ndamona, Eradius' elder sister, has also just completed her high school, and is looking for further education and work/training.

News of Retirement

It was in October, 1977, that the people of this Diocese elected me as Bishop Suffragan, after which I was consecrated on 15 January, 1978 and worked under the late Bishop Colin O'Brien Winter, who was the Diocesan Bishop then. After he stepped down due to ill health, I was elected as Diocesan Bishop of Namibia. For number of years, my work as a Bishop was combined with the work of the Council of Churches in Namibia as President of that ecumenical body, during a difficult time of colonial war, which brought our country to independence. I feel that those combined responsibilities have taken their toll on me physically. I would like to share with you that at the end of 1997, when I shall have reached the age of retirement, I shall have completed twenty years of work as a bishop in this Diocese and Province of Southern Africa. I therefore plan to retire at the end of 1997, though I hope to remain active in the service of the diocese and the country. Much depends on the new diocesan situation and what use there would be for a retired bishop. Sally is likely to continue teaching at St. George's Diocesan School, while our children and extended family continue to pursue education wherever it would be possible. Both Sally and I remain grateful to all friends who have supported us during the past years of ministry, and we request your ongoing prayers for God's direction of our future plans.

As one who is retiring from a diocese which has had no means of preparing housing for clergy retirement, one is faced with the concern of accommodation of the family after retirement. Although we have no funds sufficient to build even a small cottage, we will need some kind of accommodation after we vacate the Bishop's House to make room for the new diocesan bishop. We have thought of two possibilities. One is somehow to buy a small, inexpensive house in Windhoek where Sally is teaching and children are schooling. As we have been looking around, we find that the most modest prices range from N\$ 120,000 (U.S\$ 56,400) to N\$ 250,000 (U.S\$ 117,500). Most of the houses in this range would need some renovation to make them livable. The other pos-

sibility is to build some kind of cottage in the northern archdeaconry in a communal area where land is easy to find. The building of such a cottage is estimated to be about N\$ 50,000 to N\$ 75,000 (US\$ 23,500 - 35,250). Furthermore, related to this matter, I must say that one is thankful to the Province of Southern Africa for providing a pension plan which may assist one to live after retirement. Still, it is somewhat limited in the sense that one cannot think of building or buying a house with it.

While our principal purpose in sharing this information with you is to inform you as friends and to enlist your prayers, we would like to appeal for support and assistance in informing any friends who may be interested in assisting us with this urgent need.

Eenhana Anglican Centre

As we mentioned in a previous newsletter, Eenhana is located in one of our northern archdeaconries under the Ven. Michael Tuyapeni. The area will be declared a new town in the near future. Already water reaches the town by pipeline from Ruacana in the west of Owambo, and electricity and telephone communication lines have been established, and Eenhana can be reached easily by telephone from Windhoek, the capital of Namibia, and other towns in the country. Government administration offices and a new hospital have been established. The town can now be easily reached for services by people from eastern areas such as Okavango, Caprivi and Angola.

For years in that area there has been a congregation which continues to grow in membership. Moreover, now new employment opportunities are being created, the movement of people from the surrounding rural areas is steadily increasing. Thus the opportunity for mission and evangelism is now opening up. It is for this reason that the Diocese recently decided that a new Parish of Eenhana should be created, which will serve different areas, including some parts of southern Angola, because this area is near the border between Namibia and Angola. Although funds have not yet been found to develop the church at Eenhana, the decision has been made to designate this area as an archdeaconry headquarters, moving it from Onangwe, which is located at the edge of this large archdeaconry which includes parts of Angola, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Since the number of priests in Namibia is limited, it has been prayerfully considered that in this needy situation the archdeacon of the area will also be the Rector of the new Parish at Eenhana.

The development of this new parish and mission area will need to include:

- a multi-purpose church, which can be used by the church members and members of the community for worship and for educational and social programs of the parish and community; this should be open during weekdays as well as weekends;
- an archdeaconry and parish office;
- limited accommodation for visitors;
- a kitchenette and lounge; a canteen which can serve hot and cold drinks and snacks;
- a kindergarten to serve children of the local community.

As time goes on, the Parish and the Diocese will re-assess the pastoral and other related needs of the community and attempt to meet them as they arise and are identified and as the means become available.

We hope to share with you about the cost of such a project as soon as the architects have completed their estimate. Meanwhile, we are pleased to invite your prayers and support of this church project in the new town of Eenhana. Should you know anyone who might be interested in assisting with the

need, kindly share the information of this appeal, and if further information is needed, please let us know.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE NORTHEASTERN ARCHDEACONRY

We wish you a happy and blessed Christmas, as well as a prosperous New Year, and we want to share with you our hope and appreciation for God's gift to the world, his Son and our Saviour, Jesus Christ (see Matthew 2: 1-2, 10-11, Isaiah 7:14).

We also want to share with you some information about our mission outreach in our large archdeaconry; to thank you for the support which some of you have shown through prayer and in numerous ways; and to share with you what God, through the gift of the Holy Spirit, has helped us to achieve in serving his purpose--in creating this archdeaconry and in winning for his glory many souls.

The archdeaconry started with few parishes and few clergy; now we have many parishes, with several outstations which are served by catechists and receive occasional visitations from the parish clergy. We have many outstations which need resident clergy, but the problem is the lack of finances for training, as well as paying people after training. The parishes are Onangwe, Ohausholo, Onamishu, Ongula Netanga and Rundu. The soil in the region is very sandy, and the only type of vehicle which can be used here in order to perform archdeaconry duties and mission activities is a four-wheel drive vehicle. Such a vehicle would be a great help to the archdeacon in carrying out the duties and activities demanded by his offices.

Our recent Diocan Synod held at Odibo reached unanimous support for the plan to remove the archdeacon's office from Onangwe and to build up Eenhana as the centre for the archdeaconry. Eenhana is a newly established town, and being located in the centre of the archdeaconry, was seen as an appropriate place for administrative, communications, pastoral and development reasons. The following structures are basic needs: a parish church, an archdeaconry residence, a guest house. At the moment on N\$ 1000 (US\$ 220) has been raised for the church building; this amount is small because of the devastating drought which has haunted the community for three decades. Although people want to raise funds, they are finding it difficult to meet their goals.

I am therefore appealing to all of you Christians of good will to consider supporting us financially in order to bring this plan to reality.

May the Son of the living God, Jesus Christ, be a precious gift to you and be born into your hearts.

The Ven. Michael H. Tuyapeni

GREETINGS FROM ST. MARY'S MISSION AND ODIBO ARCHDEACONRY

We are exactly two weeks before Christmas and twenty days before the new year. The year 1996 is therefore fast handing us over to 1997.

Looking back, we can list some of the highlights of 1996:

This was another year of severe drought which has affected cattle farmers most--many cattle have died. At the time of writing this article, some rain has fallen, but not sufficient to relieve farmers' anxieties.

This was the year in which the AIDS epidemic has claimed more human lives in Namibia generally and in this region in particular. The present statistics for the whole country state that 108,000 people are infected with the HIV virus. In a country of less than two million, this is a very high and frightening figure. As more people are likely to be infected and subsequently die,

the Church needs to re-arm her members with the necessary skills in order to care more effectively for the AIDS sufferers, particularly by changing her members' attitude from that of phariseeism to that of her Lord Jesus Christ who earned for Himself the glorious title of being the friend of sinners and outcasts. I need not restate that the victims of the AIDS epidemic are not outside God's love and care. It is precisely because our God cares that we too should care. Training our parishioners to take care of those who will be dying of AIDS will be a priority for this Archdeaconry in 1997.

This was the year in which our Archdeaconry was honoured for the second time by hosting a Diocesan Synod which met in St. Mary's Church and Mission Centre, Odibo, in August. In my report to the Synod I pointed out the need to improve the facilities in the Mission Centre in order to enable it to play its proper role as a training, fellowship and conference centre for the Diocese.

This was the year in which the Church of the Province of Southern Africa (our province), in its Call to Mission has appealed to every diocese and parish in the Province to support the work of the young Anglican Church in Angola, both by prayers and material support. Angola has been an area of great concern to us, not only because of our common border with that country, but also because a large number of our members live in southern Angola in Cunene Province. The Parish of Odibo, of which I am the Rector, has four outstations in that area; each is headed by a lay person. Angola is a rich field ready for harvesting and for those who are committed to the Lord's Great Commission: to go and preach the Gospel to all nations. Those who want to assist in our work ought not to miss this opportunity to support us who are at the frontline of the mission.

This was the year in which the growth of our parish church, St. Mary's, was most noticeable. Our annual average number of Confirmation candidates has been around 270, but this year the figure jumped to slightly over 500, all confirmed by Bishop Kauluma in a five-hour service on 28 July.

Despite the ups and downs of 1996, Christmas is here again to remind us of one great truth: that God, our God, is not aloof from His creation, nor from human affairs. On the contrary, He is deeply involved, for he has come down to BE with us, and this is why we joyfully celebrate the incarnation. May you all have a happy Christmas and blessed 1997.

The Ven. Shihala N. Hamupembe

NEWS FROM OSHAKATI ARCHDEACONRY

Oshakati Archdeaconry consists of the parishes of Oshakati, Okathitu and Okasheshete, together with Kaokoland, the Western Mission area. Oshakati has been declared a town, and the parish there has found it difficult to meet the new Municipal costs together with other expenses such as vehicle maintenance. The long periods of time when the car cannot be used hamper the archdeacon's visitations to other areas. The Rector's House project is proceeding very slowly. Ten thousand bricks have been bought and others have been made. We are appealing to friends to support this project.

Sad news from Oneheke Congregation on 22 November was the death of Sub-deacon Robert Uaandja. He was one of the lay ministers trained at St. Mary's Theological School in the early 1960's. He founded the congregation at Oneheke, which has grown to 1500 members, and his death has left a great gap there. The congregation has been building a church, which is now almost finished.

In the Cunene Region to the west of Okasheshete mission, work is continuing among the Dimba and Himba groups. As the Himba are nomadic people, Fr. Kashima has to drive over rough roads, up and down mountains to seek his people. For this reason it is not safe to use a car which is not well serviced. Petrol, maintenance and repairs for such extended mission work cannot be afforded by the Okasheshete Parish, and I am appealing to our friends to support this missionary work among the Dimba and Himba. We are grateful to St. George's Cathedral in Windhoek, who have donated N\$ 1000 towards these travelling expenses. Okasheshete Parish is busy building a new church for the Ruacana congregation. Friends in Scotland have supported us and enabled us to buy corrugated iron for the roof. The church will be finished by next year.*(See addendum below)

Mission work is continuing, not only among the Dimba and Himba, but also in southern Angola, where there are three new outstations. People are thirsty for Good News in Angola.

The Ven. Eradius Mwaetako

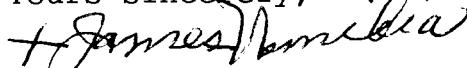
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Please note that for purposes of tax deductions in the U.S.A., we advise that contributions be sent to Mrs. Dolores Goble of SACA, who always forwards funds to us.

"A child is born to us! A son is given to us!
And he will be our ruler.
He will be called 'Wonderful Counsellor',
'Mighty God', 'Eternal Father', 'Prince of Peace'.
His royal power will continue to grow;
his kingdom will always be at peace." (Isaiah 9: 2-7)

Both the immediate family and the larger family of the Diocese join me in wishing you all a joyous Christmas and a blessed 1997.

Yours sincerely,



James H. Kauluma
Anglican Bishop of Namibia

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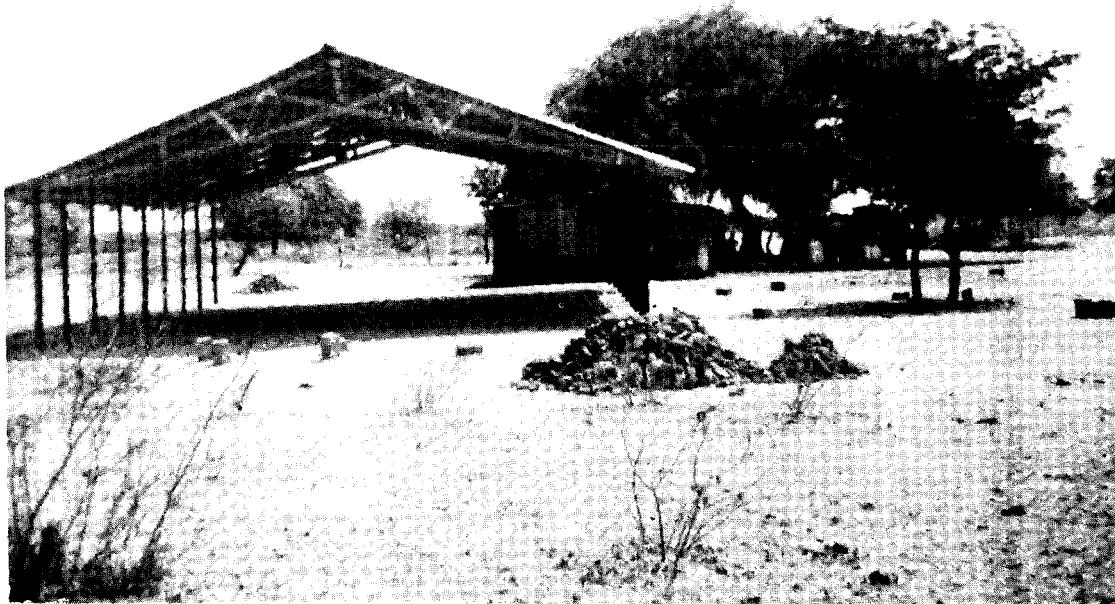
ADDENDUM from the Rev. Philipus Kashima, rector of the Western Mission congregations of Okasheshete and Okathitu, in the Oshakati Archdeaconry. His letter below speaks of the same church mentioned by Archdeacon Eradius:

"At the moment we are suffering from drought. We were expecting the rainfall this month, but nothing happened....Domestic animals are dying daily....Our church is going on well; in our area many of the new churches were recently started. Many of them are growing rapidly. At the moment we are busy building a new church. We have already put up the roof, as you see in the photo I sent. Now we are raising money for the wall and floor. I am appealing for support in this building project from our fellow Anglican churches in the U.S. We tried our best to raise funds in order to finish at the end of this year, but we failed to make it. We would be proud to see our church building finished. Pass our warm greetings to you all and have a blessed Christmas and happy new year.

Ever yours in Christ,

The Rev. Philipus N. Kashima

(See photographs next page)



The new church at Okasheshete with corrugated iron roof only



The same church, with Fr. Philipus Kashima in white robe at left center,
surrounded by members of the congregation

THE RT. REV. ROBERT MIZE, former Bishop of Namibia, recently underwent knee surgery and soon after suffered a broken hip and hand. He is convalescing in a rehabilitation hospital and may receive greetings via his office at the Diocese of San Joaquin, 4159 E. Dakota Ave., Fresno, Ca. 93726.

JULIAN CRANE is still planning a return trip to Namibia for continuing construction work at St. Mary's Mission, Odibo, probably in the summer of 1997. Those interested in the possibility of accompanying him in this volunteer activity may contact him at 119 S. Walnut St., Eldon, Mo. 65026. ALAN and MARILYN BEDWELL have been sent from England by the USPG to serve as missionaries at Odibo for a period of three years. They will assist Archdeacon Shihala in mission management and long range planning....NANCY ROBSON is recuperating from injuries sustained in an automobile accident north of Tsumeb, resulting in orthopedic surgery to insert rods into her spine. NANCY and husband IAN are longtime residents and volunteers at St. Mary's, Odibo, in addition to their professional lives away from the mission. * * * * *

From a Mozambique Christmas program, reprinted from the Nov-Dec. issue of SOUTHERN AFRICA, published by the Southern African Network-ECLA:

"...in the shade of the cashew and mango trees, the children re-enacted the Christmas drama. A very pregnant looking Maria and Josefa made a long hard journey. They stopped along the way to rest and to eat the provisions (fruit, grated cassava and peanuts) which they had brought for the journey, just as Mozambicans commonly do. The census takers were well organized and convincing in their role. The actors were still remembering the way their parents had registered to vote in 1994 and that provided the model for the census of Caesar Augustus. A sheet-wrapped angel with a paper star dangling from a bamboo pole led the wise men to the place where Jesus was born. There they presented their gifts and gave honor to the King born in a stable. The circumstances of Christ's birth somehow makes it good that so many of us in Mozambique worship Christ in reed pole churches and honor him in poverty.

Singing to a King

Now begins our sacrifice
as we celebrate
on the skins of African drums
the hallelujahs of birth
in houses of poverty
the richness of souls
walk beneath the African sun
and beyond the mist

of teargas and tears
slowly rises, the voice of Africa
behind the shields and spears
climbs the voice of Africa
a celebration to a beginning
in Africa
we sing the birth of a king.

...Sandile Dikeni

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