

As a doctor Neil knew that ill health could not be treated in the hospital or clinic alone. He realised that it was the socio-economic conditions existing in our society which caused so much ill health and suffering.

It was because workers were earning a low wage that their children were starving.

"In order to treat the cause that is socio-economic factors, he decided to go into industry where he was able to forward his purpose."

"The only way of expressing his feelings was by organising the workers" .

It was the frustration at work which generated violence amongst workers. The workers were creating the wealth of the country but they were not enjoying the benefits. Neil therefore helped to organise the workers to strengthen their bargaining power. This was the only way they could demand a decent wage and improved working conditions.

"He even went to the industry where he earned nothing to promote his solidarity and came to the hospital one night a week to earn his living."

In the hospital he was very quiet and reserved. He never swore at or became aggressive with patients even though they came in by the hundreds.

"He considered them in their totality and used to look into their social background. He recognised individuals and respected them all."

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\* This article was written by a group of nurses who worked with Neil. The quotations are from a discussion they had before writing the article.

"He respected his patients and in turn they had confidence in him. He had an unusual relationship with patients unlike other black and white doctors."

Many doctors know the cause of the problems but very few have the courage to remedy the situation.

He was humble and soft spoken. Unlike the other doctors he treated the other paramedics as equals.

"He disregarded status and treated all colleagues in a similar way. He was not proud of his status."

At the funeral Neil's loss was deeply felt because there are very few people who sacrifice their lives for the oppressed. There was a feeling of unity at the funeral and memorial service- something Neil died fighting for. This unity was also felt by the nurses. They felt no fear to take part and express their solidarity with him.



"We actually felt that shell falling off and discovered ourselves as people, not merely nurses. We identified with the public who saw us as people and not as Florence Nightingales."

Neil had it all made in South Africa. Not only was he a doctor but he was white. He refused all the benefits that this offered and did what he thought was right.

"It is a pity for us that he didn't organise in the hospital."

George Botha jumped a railing and fell six floors down a stairwell of the security police headquarters in Port Elizabeth.

The pathologist's evidence was that he found skin abrasions on the shoulder, upper chest, right upper arm and armpit which indicate wounds sustained two to six hours before death.

The inquest magistrate said he was not able to judge how these injuries had been sustained as no relevant evidence had been led. He found that Botha had died of a head injury sustained when he fell, and that no-one was to blame for his death.