

accumulated many unwithdrawable stocks in the apartheid enterprise, is the time of freedom—freedom to build the new South African heritage.

2. This is even of greater importance because tomorrow you are the ones who will live with the consequences of the actions of today. It is said that the “test of the pudding is in the eating”. You are the ones—of all white South Africans living today—who will truly experience the meaning and implications of the policy of Separate Development—be they good or bad. You will taste its bitterness and its sweetness whatever the case may be. Therefore when people embark on marginal instead of radical solutions to fundamental problems in order to avoid what it costs, those half-solved problems which will have become worse will confront you and you only. Therefore whatever is postponed is postponed for and to you. You must remember that if you do not play your part today your children will curse you for the awful heritage you will have transmitted to them, and if you die before they curse you, they will spit on your grave.

3. There are some encouraging aspects in the present day activities of some University students. You know that there is a need for good will between blacks and whites

in South Africa today. Good will, like love, exists as it is transmitted. What we need in South Africa today are media for channelling goodwill between the races in South Africa during a time when there is so much emphasis on keeping the races apart. I know that you are concerned about this problem too. How will the black man know and believe that the white man has good things up the sleeve for him? How do you enable the black man to have confidence in the white man who makes laws for him? By saying that blacks and whites should not study together, should not eat together, should not meet socially? What a negative method for trying to achieve something positive!

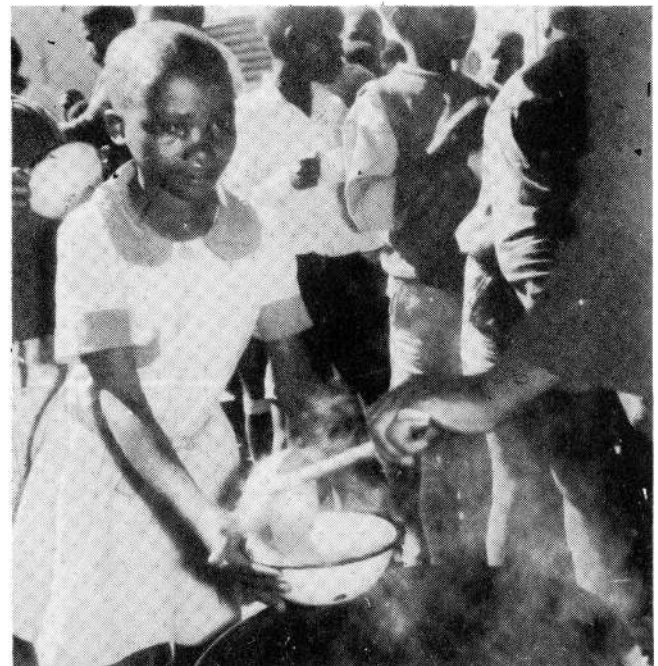
I know that some of your leaders have paid a heavy price for having dared to suggest an alternative to the present South African society. I believe that things like that do not happen in vain. As a result of the banning of your leaders many white people in South Africa were made aware of what banning is. This mass banning was a shock to many white people. Sometimes when words are no longer able to convert people, prophets may be called upon to preach through sacrificing something of their lives. It may very well be that this is the only way in which you can hope to build a heritage for the future.□

THE EMOLWENI SCHOOLS FEEDING SCHEME

by G. de Wet

Approximately twenty-five kilometres from Durban, the villages of Kloof and Hillcrest are sprawled across a narrow plateau which falls away dramatically into the valley of the Umgeni River. The lush vegetation of the plateau rapidly changes to thornbush and scrub, and on these dry, eroded slopes live many of the Africans who work in the neighbouring residential and industrial areas.

One of the features of this valley is the number of simple school buildings scattered along its length and breadth. Each one of these schools is symbolic of triumph over adversity, for education is not a matter of course to these people. School attendance is not compulsory and the schools themselves are not provided by the State. It is the parents who have to take the initiative, who have to raise the funds and erect the first classroom. Only then is there a chance of a second classroom being built by the State.





The working day begins very early in the valley for the men and women who must take the buses to their places of employment. In most instances there is no morning meal for the children who are left behind to make their way to school.

It was in 1962 that the headmaster of the Emolweni Lower Primary School, concerned about the number of children who were fainting from hunger or falling asleep at their desks, appealed for assistance. Mrs Anne Hotchkiss of Kloof and a group of her friends met to tackle the problem and the Emolweni Schools Feeding Scheme was born. Now, twelve years later, more than three-and-a-half thousand children at thirteen schools benefit from a daily high protein meal. The packing and transporting of food for so many children at schools which are scattered over a wide area of difficult terrain involves much planning and effort on the part of a dedicated band of voluntary workers.

The Feeding Scheme "bakkie" is a familiar sight in the valley—almost every schoolday it can be seen making its way along the dusty roads, carrying a weeks' or fortnights' supply of Pronutro, soup powder, fortified biscuits, skim milk powder, wholewheat bread and peanut butter. Distances make it impractical for more than two or three schools to be visited on one day.

The cost of feeding each child for a term is approximately one Rand but this does not include running expenses such as transport and packing materials. Parents contribute forty cents per term for the first child in the family at school,

twenty cents for the second child and any others are fed free. The balance is raised by the Scheme itself through voluntary donations.

Bill Matthews of Cowies Hill, one of the voluntary helpers, soon became aware of the need for first-aid and medical attention at the schools. In 1965, with the help of one trained nurse, he started a first-aid section for the four hundred and fifty children at one of the schools. So poor was the condition of these children that it was necessary for the school to be visited twice a week. Today Bill Matthews has a team consisting of four men and twelve trained nurses; and two thousand, five hundred children at nine schools have access to the Clinic every week. For three days of every week of every term Bill Matthews can be seen in the valley—in nine years he has hardly missed a day—working his way through a long line of patients. Always cheerful and ready for a joke with the children, he is an example to all who come in contact with him.

It became apparent that financial assistance was urgently needed with the building of classrooms and, thanks to the generosity of donors, the Feeding Scheme has been able to finance many classrooms, a hall and the levelling of a playing field.

The Feeding Scheme would not be able to function without the active co-operation of the African principals and teachers who play an important part in the running of the scheme. The health and welfare of the children in the valley is the common goal.□

