

Building Unity in Bloemfontein

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Not many conferences are challenging and hopegiving! But a conference using the University facilities in Bloemfontein certainly did that. It produced the atmosphere and showed the way to reach its aim "Healing the past, Building the future". It was very well attended by (according to one newspaper) 80 people from abroad and 170 South Africans.

There was a very wide attendance of foreign nations - Brazil, the West Indies, Phillipines, Cameroon, Ghana, Great Britain, the United States, Germany, Checkoslavaki, Nigeria, India, Pakistan and others.

At the opening of the Conference in the University hall, the Premier, Mr Patric Lekota and Rev. M Chabaku, Speaker of the House of Government had warm welcoming and encouraging words.

A general meeting followed, sharing the immediate plans, the needs of the future.

Discussions of past experiences and lessons learned, over meals and at meetings, some in the hall, some in groups in different rooms. A general sense of fellowship was growing all the time.

Some deep experiences were described, by able speakers. Many points came clear of how to build a happy and united country.

One man who had been among the leaders in Somalia described his painful experience of being imprisoned for six years locked in a small cell. He had learned to pray for eight hours on end. Yet he had found victory in his life now.

GOOD ADVICE

Professor Danie Malan gave good advice at one meeting.

He said: "We have heard many remarkable stories while here together. Soon we go back to where we live but must remember that relationships we are growing here (with all different races in one place) but those at home have not had this opportunity. We need to share with those at home these wonderful experiences.

Ours is a remarkable country with a great future. Proceed with forgiveness. Experience rebirth and a new life. How can it become reality - by change of mind and attitude. Here we will find the joy of unity!"

I looked around, I could see miracles had happened. It became fixed in my mind forever at tea time that afternoon when a young Black lady turned to me and said: "Can I get you a cup of tea?"

I was grateful and as she handed me the cup I asked her what her name was and where she came from! "My name is Lydia and I come from the University of Buea in Cameroon". That cup of tea brought the taste of marvelous unity and friendship all

and elsewhere. This inspired initiative of the men and women of Moral Re-Armament will be remembered with much gratitude. It was a demonstration that applied spiritual values can have real and practical results.

by
**Roland
Kingwill**

over Africa!

UNITY

Later that afternoon after some discussion in a big meeting we stood up and together pledged an undertaking to "live in unity".

For me, and many others, colour prejudice had ended, and a hope was born for a great, united and creative South Africa! And a friendship with many nations in Africa