

## **PREFACE**

It is with the assistance of Jackie (Ujala) Sewpersad and Viroshen Chetty that this collection of short stories, makes its appearance. So aim your brickbats at all three.

Hitherto, I have been the architect of the errors in my publications. At 82, a pensioner, the exorbitant fees of editors are beyond my purse, not to mention the mind-boggling recession that has made our country having the largest divide between rich and poor in the whole world.

I want to put into the tapestry called the STRUGGLE a few more names in this issue of ENDURING FOOTSTEPS. I have planned not to tell the stories that the media tell of our icons. These are known! I want to tell of the thousands you don't know. Maybe I might manage a few!

Some worked in the underground at great cost to themselves, their families and friends, and naturally they were not public property. You may have known them, worked with them but did not know of their underground political work.

In this regard I want to recommend for your reading Raymond Suttner's book – 'The ANC underground in South Africa.'

Look at Willy Leslie's account under Kgoti, in this book, where he tells he did not know that his political work in the country was in the underground. Thousands can tell similar stories!

Call it what you will – freedom, democracy - was hard fought for and not the subscription you pay today (R12.00 per annum). Today you cannot do anything, and I mean anything, without a sponsor. **The struggle was not sponsored.** We won solidarity all over the world by our integrity and hard work. Study carefully in this collection Helen McCue of Oz! She tells that story most eloquently.

We have dedicated this issue to our children, our future. We trust you will emulate the lives of the heroes in these stories as best you can. Temper your lives with the pain of theirs. Laugh with them if need be, but mainly enjoy them. You might find so much in their lives that is new to you. Possibly they are much older and lived in a different and difficult period. But read them and stop depending on your clever mobiles and the TV box.

## *Footprints*

My stories include Kgoti, Willy Leslie, Mosala Mosegomi, Sizakele Dlamini, Helen McCue, Professor Albino, Sister Christine, Yogan Moodley, Mrs Sheila Hooper, Rev Charles Hooper, Solomon Sokupa, Dr Richard Dudley, David Webster, Monty Moodley, Simon David, Mogam Moodliar, Anton Xaba, Bishop Hurley, President Cheddi Jagan, Dennis Brutus, Rick Andrew and last but not least, our Children.

Many more comrades feature in each of the stories. Perhaps you should put a cloth, a metre square, in a frame, pin it to a wall and write the names of persons you enjoyed in this book and you can repeat these stories in a class. It will be your own story in time and you will assist others to read these and other stories.

We have been pained with the story of a parent who had a design agency prepare an assignment for her child with pictures and diagrams to present to the teacher. A real professional job! The scholar had no hand in the preparation of the assignment, so, has the child learnt anything?

All these 'loving parents' have not assisted their children – what future does the child have in this competitive world?

Who is the parent assisting - her child or her inflated ego?

Phyllis Naidoo  
Durban  
31 October 2009.



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