

At the same time our lives are becoming ever more complicated and we no longer seem able to cope with the conditions we ourselves have created. On every hand we see chaotic conditions and the decay of moral values. Self-denial and simple living, sacrifice and service, have little meaning for most of us and those of us who still have ideals are constantly made aware of the lack of the simple virtues of honesty, decency and consideration for others.

The striving onward and upward, the blood, the toil, the sweat and the tears of centuries, the glory and the wonder of life, the dream and the vision — what meaning have these things for us today? Those things that tended to inspire and uplift, to enrich and ennoble other generations we have scorned and derided and we have lost them.

There is nothing left — nothing but our possessions to which we cling and of which we grant to the African only a bare minimum. That is all we now have to give him!

The lesson that History teaches us is that because of human imperfections every great civilisation carries within itself the seeds of its own destruction. Our way of life, too, is failing and will have to be replaced by something nobler, more just and more true. And this for us has become a matter of urgent necessity.

Too long we have refused to face the realities of our existence. Now Time is not on our side any longer. History will not wait upon us and in this respect even Africa has a message for us, a message that is being urgently impressed upon our minds by recent events, and that message is, that we must share what we have or lose everything.

Many possessions lead to brute selfishness but sharing comes easily to those whose needs are few and who have a simple way of living. Our way of life is *not* the way of life for the African.

He must never lose his simplicity and his readiness to share with his fellowmen.

Somewhere between our many possessions and his simple way of living there must be found a new way of life for both the African and the European. That is the Challenge of Life with which we are now faced.

There was a time when the Europeans would proudly say: "In God we trust!" But we have lost our spiritual values and have put our trust in armaments. Year by year we think only to arm ourselves the more completely against our enemies with ever more powerful weapons and in doing so we are wasting resources that could transform the lives of those among us who live in poverty and want. Yet we are not entirely to blame. The Contamination of Weapons has spread to every part of the earth and we suffer from a World Malady.

It seems to me that our paramount need today is to find a new way of life for ourselves that will meet several essential requirements and to my mind these are that it must give a meaning and purpose to our lives that the African will understand and that will bring to us the goodwill of all the African peoples; it must give to us a secure place in Africa for centuries to come; it must gain for us the approval and cooperation of the leading North-Western European peoples; and in the practical and economic field of endeavour it must again make South Africa a place that will attract capital from overseas.

We must have a change of heart, which lies in our thinking. Our thoughts have hemmed us in and are making us prisoners in our own land. We must have wider horizons and the first essential is that we should end our isolation and begin to think of the needs of Africa as a whole. The time has come to set aside all thoughts of domination, of arrogance and violence and to revise our attitude toward all the African peoples.

**B**ORDER REGION reports with deep and shocked regret the untimely death of TUZETTE DUNCAN-BROWN — on December 31, 1976.

She was a foundation member of the Sash, served many years on the Border Committee, once as Vice-Chairman, but she shunned the limelight, preferring always to be part of the dependable solid core working in the background. She loathed having to demonstrate but never refused to do so.

Her quiet, gentle dignity, her scrupulous honesty, her strong sense of duty, her beautiful charm and her unwavering convictions made her one of the most outstanding women we have ever known. It was our privilege to know and love her. It is difficult to foresee how the Region will operate without her.

We offer sincere sympathy to her husband and family and renew our resolution to continue the works she served so devotedly.

**Deena Streek**