

20 March 1989

Dear Friends

The purpose of this letter is to update you on plans for the TRAINING PROGRAM FOR TRAINERS IN EFFECTIVE NONVIOLENT ACTION / CONFLICT RESOLUTION, and to ask you to please let me know as soon as possible who you will be sending on the Training Program.

Standing for the truth

The most exciting development is in regard to the theme and context of the Training Program. The theme will be "standing for the truth", and the initial Training Program will be geared toward the context of the State of Emergency and any campaign which might be happening at that time aimed at ending the State of Emergency.

The Training Program has been discussed with the Standing for the Truth Campaign Committee, and has its full support.

Hunger strike

In recent days we have all been challenged by the initiative and courage of the hunger strikers, who have shown us the power of nonviolent action.

The Training Program will be analysing current South African examples of effective nonviolent action such as the hunger strike, consumer and rent boycotts, industrial strikes, conscientious objection etc. Understanding the dynamics of such actions will assist participants in planning and preparing for nonviolent action campaigns.

"If the government does not release all detainees and lift the state of emergency we will, in obedience to the gospel, have no option but to disobey the emergency regulations"

These are the final words of a statement adopted by the church leaders regarding detentions, the hunger strike and the State of Emergency, on 8th March 1989.

The Training Program will help participants gain the type of skills and knowledge which will enable them to assist their organisations in planning and preparing for programs of action such as the one proposed by the church leaders.

Doing an action

The Training Program itself will not develop plans of action, but will train participants in the skills required to do so.

However, the best way to learn is by doing, so one aspect of the Training Program will be the planning, preparation and doing of a small nonviolent action.

Who is the Training Program for?

The Training Program is for people working from a church base on peace and justice issues.

It will provide an opportunity for participants to reflect on their work and develop new skills.

Experience

The agenda is planned in such a way as to draw extensively from the experience of the participants, and encourages their maximum participation. Some outside speakers will be brought in to the Training Program (e.g. Joe Seremane and Fr Chris Langeveldt), but on the whole, the experience and participation of the participants will provide the basis for discussion and training.

A copy of the agenda, travel instructions and other background material will be sent to participants in mid-April.

Dates and venues

7 - 20 May

6 - 11 August (originally was until 12 August)

6 - 11 November (originally was from 5 November)

28 Jan - 3 Feb, 1989

The venues are all in the Witwatersrand area.

PLEASE LET ME KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WHO YOU WILL BE SENDING TO THE TRAINING PROGRAM.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Emma Mashinini