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The Rev. Dr. Robert Moss
1922 - 1976

Somewhere

In the moving midst

Of the faceless, nameless crowd,

One face looks up,

catching from the corner of his eye

The faint glimmer of a bright new star.

Another face joins him,

And still another,

And another;

And raised hands

Faces, eyes, fingers and arms

Pointed toward the shining source of identity,

Oriented and guided.

Shining smiles, sparkling tears of joy;

Finding meaning,

Knowing that the star reflected an even brighter
presence than itself.

But,

Too soon,

The light fades,

AN URGENT PLEA FOR PRAYER AND ACTION

* EDITOR'S NOTE: The regular text of this article is taken from the newsletter of Episcopal Churchmen for South Africa, 14 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y., 10011, dated October 12, 1976. The group is actively seeking freedom for the oppressed peoples of South Africa.

To: Seminary Community
From: Loyde H. Hartley
Re: South Africa

The attached sheet tells the story of Lekgau Macaulay Mathabathe, a close personal friend of June Chabaku, an LTS student. We ask for your prayers and action as suggested on this form.

"Lekgau Macaulay Mathabathe is the principal of the Morris Isaacson High School in Soweto, South Africa.

He was detained by the security branch of the South African police on the 18th August 1976, and has been held incommunicado ever since.

Word has been received that Mr. Mathabathe has been severely beaten and is suffering from a possible brain concussion and other major injuries which he sustained while in the hands of the security police. There is a more recent report that he may be dead.

The RAND DAILY MAIL of Johannesburg writes that security police General Michael Geldenhuys declared that Mr. Mathabathe is 'alive and well.' Ms. Mathabathe twice on 8 October was refused permission to see her husband when she went to John Vorster Square police headquarters in Johannesburg.

Many of the leaders of the student uprising which began in Soweto on 16 June attended Morris Isaacson. As principal of this showplace high school, Mr. Mathabathe was suspect in the eyes of a fearful and vengful Pretoria regime. The DAILY MAIL says that several days before his detention, Mr. Mathabathe revealed the police were asking him of the whereabouts of the 19-year-old president of the Students Representative Council of Soweto, Tsietsi Mashinini. Mr. Mashinini eluded the South African Police for months before leaving the country. He is now in London - after having had difficulty with the British government which at first refused him entry. He should shortly come to the United States, though similar problems with the American government will doubtless arise.

The South African security police are in charge of interrogating political prisoners. Electric shock treatment, excruciatingly painful trussing up, water torture, constant questioning, prolonged and ingenious beatings, enforced sleeplessness are their standard methods. South African laws - the Terrorism Act, the Internal Security Act and others - protect the police from any access to prisoners by the courts, attorneys, the clergy and the families and friends. Countless South Africans and people of Namibia - the United Nations territory illegally occupied by the Pretoria regime - bear witness - and scars - of their time at the hands of the security police.

Mr. Mathabathe is 51 years old, and he and his wife have six children - five daughters ages 10 to 22, and a 16-year-old son. He is chairman of the Soweto High Schools Principals Union and an executive member of the African Teachers Association of South Africa. He is associated with many civic and educational organizations, and is chairman of a committee planning for a school for physically handicapped young people in Soweto. He is a member of the Anglican Church.

Mr. Mathabathe toured the USA in April and May of 1975 as a guest of the American government under its International Visitors program.

(continued)

- WHAT YOU CAN DO -

- Demand that Secretary of State Henry Kissinger confront South African Prime Minister Balthazar Johannes Vorster on Mr. Mathabathe and all those in detention. (phone: 202-655-4000; Washington, D.C., 20520)
- Contact your Senators. (phone: 202-224-3121; Washington, D.C., 20510)
- Contact your Congresspeople. (phone: 202-224-3121; Washington, D.C., 20515)

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OUR LOVE IS WITH YOU...

Last Saturday, Dr. Englert's father died. Let us remember "Doc" and his family in our prayers and with our love and support during this time of personal loss. God bless you, Dr. Englert.

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