

Praise poem for Ivan, David, Charles & Saul

Praise for the conscientious objector! Praise!
Praise for the conscientious objector! Praise!

Sons of Botha!
Children of Malan!
Guardians of the laws
of oppression!
Look at the conscientious objector and tremble!
Lay down your weapons
and your ignorance and run!
Because your victor is here
and he laughs at your gun!

Praise for the conscientious objector! Praise!
Praise for the conscientious objector! Praise!

Soldiers van nie kerk!
Masters of the lock!
Blind sheep and violent goats
of the devil's own Vlok!
Look to the conscientious objector and tremble!
Abandon your post! Flee!
Apply (in triplicate) for help from above!
For in the battle of truth
You are vanquished by love!

Praise for the conscientious objector! Praise!
Praise for the conscientious objector! Praise!

by Andrew Buckland

David: One down, 5 to go

JULY 1989 marks one year for David Bruce behind bars. It was on the 25 July 1988 that sentence of six years in jail was imposed on him for refusing to serve in the SADF.

Although this first year has represented a very difficult period of adjustment for David, he is now beginning to settle down into prison routine and make the best of a deplorable situation.

This artificially-imposed social isolation is very painful for Dave

and he is always eager for local news. Yet, one year on, he remains without regret and strong in the conviction that his course of action was the right one.

On 1 August Dave received upgrading to Category 4 prisoner status.

This is the highest category. David now has more privileges, including contact visits and his own cell.

Recent visitors report that he is in very good spirits.

Solidarity service for David Bruce

ON Sunday 30 July about 130 people packed into one of the rooms at Temple Emanuel Synagogue in Johannesburg to mark the first anniversary of the start of Dave's six-year prison sentence.

The programme was fairly informal. Highlights included Andrew Buckland's declamation of his praise-poem (published elsewhere in *The Objector*) and guitar music by Steve Newman, as well as a candle lighting ceremony in which many people participated.

It was heart-warming to see how well Dave is remembered, but heart-breaking too — with the principal character missing — still behind bars in Pretoria Central.

Poem for David Bruce

(Sentenced to six years imprisonment for refusing to serve in the SADF)

In this land of civil war
and walls set out between our
hearts
no one is free
but some dream of freedom
while others build fortresses.

Those who sent for you
and sentenced you
choose their own particular
ghettos of pigment and fear
but they are prisoners too.

David Bruce
you kicked out your own brick
in the fortifications
(for that they lock you away)
but you let a shaft of future in
a glimpse of days still to break
break, break the walls down

Peter Rule