

Q: What is it that allows blacks like yourself and others to have such a reserve of goodwill? I mean people might say that after all that's happened how could you even think that you have anything like that left to give to whites?

A: Well my theory is that blacks are not horrible people. They are like any other human being. In actual fact it is still surprising that they have not crossed the board. I mean that you actually find people still acting in a human way, still loving, still considerate. It's still surprising. I've said in public meetings that I'm surprised that people have not resorted to desperate methods up to now because of the oppressive nature of the system. But black people are not necessarily horrible people. They are not violent by nature as some other people want to depict them. They are human, actually, they are extra-human in the sense that they are not even saying whites should leave this country. They are saying that this country belongs to all of us and we should share together and live together. What they are demanding is just justice, equalisation of humanity in this country. It demands of course, a lot of courage, a lot of love, to continue with the mission we are involved in, and a lot of realistic approach. For me, of course, it becomes a commitment beyond an ordinary commitment that I have a calling, a Christian commitment, to love the enemy, and my duty is to help even the enemy to change and give that enemy a chance to change before it is actually late.)

Q: (What if someone who is very black consciousness-supporting said to you, "O, please, I can't understand how you think that way." Tell me, what is .. how can you think there is a role of whites?" (How would you explain to them that you think there is a role of whites?)

A: (Well, I understand why they have to feel the way they are feeling. I have gone through the experience myself) at a certain stage in my life (in the middle seventies. I had actually put up a set of white people I still believed were committed, and at one stage I had an empty set because everybody else disappointed me, and you go through that type of frustration in your development. But later, you become more like I've explained, more understanding, in the sense that you understand that these people are also victims of apartheid, as I am a victim of apartheid, and all of us are battling to come out of that apartheid system, and therefore it is important to make allow those people, not because I put a lot of trust on them or because I put my whole life on them, but I accept that they are human and that they can make a contribution. They may betray you like any other black person can betray you. They may collaborate with the system like any other black person can do, that. (The fact is I am making allowing, this is a matter of grace) - I am allowing that possibility (because I believe that human beings can change.)

What would you counsel a white person who wanted to get involved politically?

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Q: And if you were to speak to a white person who said they wanted to be involved, they wanted to join UDF, or they wanted to do this or that, how would you explain to them how you see the role of white people?

A: (I think I would make them aware of the situation that apartheid has created - the tensions that are there, the difficulties, the fact that that person is a privileged person) - the fact that you come being (privileged, you have more education, you've all sorts of possibilities that are over and above the other people.) Not because they are not able, but because the other person is more privileged, and (therefore) that person has to be humble enough to also accept and understand the positions of the others, (and also accept that they will be suspicious and also accept that they might not trust that person. It will demand a lot of committment over a long period to convince a lot of people) who are committed to what you are actually saying you are committed to. So you must be prepared for insults at times, you must be prepared for hard words against you, but that person must also be conscious that you can easily dominate and irritate people because of your privileges, and therefore you need to be conscious of it) and when you act you are able to relate to people in a human way.)

Q: Just one last question. When I interviewed Terror(?), I said was there any incident, was there any turning point, because you know there was a big SASO trial and then he came out and changed and he pointed to the fact that when he was on trial there was a white and a black tried together, Holiday Mashabela, and the white wouldn't turn State witness and the black did and he said that had a big ..Is there any anecdote or is there any personal experience you have that was an encouraging thing about your understanding of the role of white people? (What do you think have been the factors in your personal experience that have influenced your commitment to non-racialism)

A: (I think my experience has been based particularly on my faith.) You know (in terms of my struggle to understand my faith and interpret my relationship with God and other people etcetera. It is that struggle that has pushed me into) a level of (trying to understand what it means to love an enemy.) So that you need to be able to actually love an enemy and you are forced to go into social analysis to try to understand a human being and what happens to a human being, social factors that affect that person and therefore I would not see a person in terms of their colour, although you are biased because of the apartheid situation, (in that I came to expect) those people to act horribly. They have been trained in that way, and I am cautious of it, but the real thing that has happened to me is that even through the period of my black consciousness experience - it wasn't the type of experience that was overboard. And that's why as early as 1973 I could talk about you know, (Black Consciousness and Christianity, their compatibilities and their incompatibilities) of (that type of theory) - (that it is) -> do p. 4

Did you go through a period of supporting Black Consciousness?



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Acont: that it is (necessary for blacks to actually assert themselves.) That they are human beings - it is a necessary stage in their development, but they do not exert it by dehumanising other human beings. Then it becomes against my understanding of my faith, and that has been my struggle in terms of my faith.)

Q: OK, thanks.. When were you born, what year?

A: In 1951, January.

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