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UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF FORT HARE
P.O. Fort Hare, Cape Province.
SOUTH AFRICA
10th February, 1956.

Dr John A. Reuling,
A.B.C.F.M.,
8 Beacon Street,
Boston, Mass.,
U. S. A.

Dear Dr Reuling,

We were glad to receive your letter and to learn from it that you were still going strong. We are back at Fort Hare after a brief vacation part of which we spent in Durban where we saw all our old friends. We did not manage to get to Adams but we saw many of the Adams people especially during the meetings of the Council of the South African Institute of Race Relations which were held in Durban early in January.

I had to return to Fort Hare early in January to take over the duties of Acting Principal. Arising out of the trouble we had here last year Professor Dent asked the Council to allow him to retire on grounds of ill-health, and I was invited to act until a new Principal is appointed. The Council has appointed a Committee to advise on the appointment of a new Principal and we are now looking out for a good man to take over. Among the people we have had under consideration is Douglas Steere of Haverford, Pa., but it is doubtful whether the Friends would be willing to release him even for a short period. As you well know the position of Principal of Fort Hare is a very important one, requiring a man of vision and courage, to handle the difficult problems which are apt to arise in a country like South Africa.

Our new term begins on March 2, and we are now busy with admissions. Our numbers are going to be down because of the heavy crop of failures in the Matric exams last year. Anyway having smaller numbers may have its advantages.

Our children are all going to be away from home this year, so that Frieda and I will be all alone. Joseph as you know is articulated to a legal firm in Port Elizabeth. He completes his articles in June. He had a big fight with the Cape Law Society about his articles. You can read about it in the February number of the S.A. Outlook. Happily he won his case. Shena is married and lives in Umtata. John Knox and Frieda (junior) are both at the Medical School in Durban and Ethel Pulane (our youngest) has gone to Healdtown to do her Matric there, now that Lovedale has been converted into a Boys' School by the Native Affairs Department.

If you do manage to come to Africa, I hope you will find it possible to visit Fort Hare. The Ngcobo's are doing well and we are expecting Mtinkulu from Ohlange to join us in July as Senior Lecturer in Education.

With kindest regards,
Yours sincerely,

[Z. K. Matthews]