

19 Bosch Street.

Paarl, Cape

28th Oct 1959

Dear L. H.,

It is no use speculating who this possibly may be until your curiosity gets the overhand and you look at the signature. Yes, it is Ferreira, who at some time in the life of you and Freda, shared your experience while we were together foundation = laying of Fort Hare in the Twenties.

The Good Lord be praised we did not build in vain because the work that was done has been done on the ridge under the slope of Sandile's Kop (Am I right? or have I forgotten?) - the work in the nature of men and women has made an indelible impression on the continent of Africa, with echoes in many far-flung parts of the world.

Now it is to be no more. But is it? Can such work ever be re-directed? This is the test that our Alma Mater has had to face at some time. I am confident that Fort Hare will arise out of the ash purified and prepared for the second phase of her destiny to play her part in the blossoming of our new continent.

We have been following with bated breath the ramifications through which our country is passing just now, and in particular how our educational institutions are being remodelled. It is the culmination of the series of events of these latter years.

You and others have to make tremendous decisions. We, your fellow Fort Harians, honour you. You are in the forefront of the battle. It is indeed the future that demands of us decisions toward which we can look back and say thank God, at that time I took the right course. I counted the cost and because of it I choose. What I am saying to you can in no way convey to you and your wife and family what your decision means to us fellow-Fort Harians. Fort Hare was established years ago for this day, and the men and women undergoing the supreme test of our age are not found wanting. Let me unburden myself just this once. I shall be silent hereafter. You will however know what your comrades of yesterday regard the situation at Fort Hare now.

I have been with the MRA Force in the States and Europe for the last two years.

I am now on pension. Our family still consists of a son, who will be completing his music degree in Cape Town University this year, and a daughter, who is completing her 1st year nursing in one of the hospitals near London in England. So I am just engaged in Moral Re-orientation work. O, for a change in the hearts of men! To assist this Lois and I began with ourselves. We are confident that under God South Africa is meant to be a pattern of racial unity.

It is, it can be, it has been such in the East have I knew years ago. - The institution to which you have been attached so intimately for so many years. Without this spirit of mutual understanding and cooperative dedication nothing but evil days will be our lot in this fair land.

We shall not despair. So reminding of the football club in Livedale of my time, "Never Despair" was the inspiration of Livedale. even though it very rarely supplied representative players for the great Livedale Football teams.

My personal, Sir, kindest regards to Ireda and family and all Dr Kerr from Lois and myself.

Ever yours Alfred Ferreira.