



## We need more radicals

Hitler is dead. Apartheid is dead. And we still have ethnic cleansing in Bosnia, war in Sri Lanka, wanton killing in KwaZulu-Natal and an excess of violent crime in our new democracy in South Africa.

December is the month for Christians to celebrate the birth of Christ and to be reminded of the message of peace and goodwill that He brought.

On returning to live in South Africa, Trevor Huddleston said that the biggest threat to the world of today was fanaticism. People who are prepared like Rabin's assassin to do anything for an ideology are those who threaten the fabric of society. They are perhaps more dangerous than those who do things to obtain and retain mere wealth and power.

People continue to bring to our consulting rooms the symptoms of despair. They come with depression, burn out, chronic fatigue, panic and addiction. We continue to face them with trepidation and poor success.

### S O U T H A F R I C A N FAMILY PRACTICE

So, why am I still an optimist?

Perhaps it is the radical people I still meet. People with the faith that helps them to live by love and hope. This is by no means the same as a blind fanaticism. They are those who:

- carry suffering with hope;
- live integrated and positive lives;
- see the best in others;
- laugh as they move on the street with friends;
- care for their neighbour who is ill;
- are building houses, factories and practices;
- are putting every effort into rebuilding our health services; and
- those who still make me feel human by loving me in spite of my shortcomings.

These are the people that help me to continue living in the hope that the life and death of Christ was not in vain.

Without hope the culture of despair expressed as illness is likely to grow unchecked. All of us at SA Family Practice wish you well as we pass together into 1996 and try together to stem this epidemic by bringing even small doses of hope and healing to turn the tide on pessimism and despair. After all, how many people in the history of mankind have had the opportunity to live, as ourselves, in a place and time when our aim is to reconstruct and develop our own society?