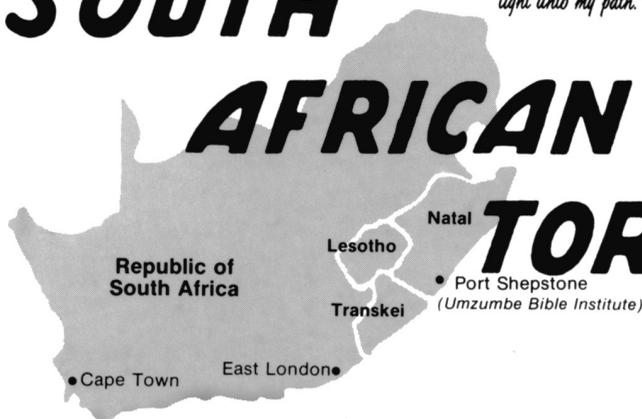


SOUTH

AFRICAN

TORCH



"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." -- Psalms 119:105



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KwaZulu Natal Youth Camp Goes North

By Michael Stanley

Youth Camp is always a priority for me. This year Caryl did not go with me as she wanted to be present for the birth of our fifth grandchild. As things worked out the baby came only after I returned.

Often camp is held in the southern half of KwaZulu Natal, but this year it went to Ingwavuma which is as far north as you can go in our province. Arrangements were made by the local church and they were well-prepared. As usual the venue was a school, but this one was better maintained than some we have used. There were only a few broken windows and the toilets were well-maintained.

I stayed in the same home that Caryl and I had stayed

in when the Easter services were held in that area. I was told that when Mrs. Nyawo learned that I had come to the camp she insisted that I stay with her. The result was that the same girl (now about 10 years old) called me each morning to say a basin of hot water was ready so I could wash. Breakfast was excessively generous every morning and it was beyond the call of duty since breakfast was provided at the camp.

As usual there was only loose adherence to the printed schedule so I was kept guessing as to when I would teach and preach. One camper surprised me by asking me to teach a lesson for her class. In the changing schedule I



A Bible knowledge competition was held at camp. Since no one had a book of questions, Michael wrote out several pages of questions during his free time. To the surprise of everyone, the winning team was from Hammarsdale.



The camp outing was a trip to the Jozini dam and a cookout. There was plenty of meat so everyone enjoyed the meal.

never did teach her class.

School age children from the local area attend camp, but on the weekend the numbers are swelled considerably when young adults get off work and join the camp. This year was no exception. By Friday night the number of people at camp had grown considerably. Saturday activities included lessons in the morning and in the afternoon an outing to the Jozini dam for a braai (barbeque).

The service Saturday evening featured a paid evangelist. There were a number of people who responded to the altar call, but I was not happy with the excessively emotional nature of the altar call nor with the fact that it was extremely long. I am not convinced that young people can be badgered into God's kingdom.

On the whole I felt the camp went very well. It seemed to encourage the local church and helped the local young people to feel they belonged to a larger body of Christian youth. It was a long trip, and with ten passengers and all



Michael used candy to bribe some of the students from camp 2010 to refresh their memories by reciting the books of the Bible. He was pleased that they had not forgotten.

their luggage the pickup was crowded. Still I felt it was worthwhile and I am ready to participate in the KwaZulu Natal camp next year.

Vehicle Problems by Michael Stanley

My Isuzu pickup has proved to be a very reliable vehicle, but it is beginning to show signs of age. It now has over 300 000 km (187 000 miles) on the clock with a significant part of that distance on gravel roads.

When I drove to camp at Ingwavuma, I picked up campers (including Mrs. Sithebe) in Hammarsdale and Durban. We also stopped at Stanger to meet Bongani Mpanza (a Bible College student). I made sure he had money to travel with public transport and then drove on. It was about 5:00 p.m. when I noticed the "check engine"



Patrick Sithebe's son, Sanele, helped replace the fan belt on the trip to camp at Ingwavuma. Michael was impressed with the work he did. This obviously was not the first time he had done that type of repair.

light had come on. At the Mtunzini toll gate I discovered the fan belt was gone. I decided to drive on to Empangeni where I hoped to buy a new fan belt. With the help of friends we learned that the spares stores were closed. Angus, one of the friends, persuaded a store owner to open so we could buy the needed belt. Back at the pickup we found that neither of the two fan belts we got would fit.

By this time it was dark and I didn't want to drive to an unfamiliar area late at night so we tried to find a place to stay. The Baptist church agreed to let us sleep in the church building and even provided mattresses to sleep on. Early in the morning one of the men from the church prepared breakfast for us. When the spares store opened we were able to get the fan belt and complete the journey to Ingwavuma.

The next trip I made to that area was to the Women's meeting in Mtubatuba. We passed Empangeni on the way and after leaving the toll road the engine lost power and stopped. This time I could not see anything wrong so I contacted Angus and asked him to tow us back to Empangeni.

When we parked the pickup in his yard he offered to let us take his wife's car to Mtubatuba. When he convinced me that he was making a serious offer, we took him at his word and drove on to the meeting in a little Daihatsu sedan. Later that evening I received a message saying the pickup was running. After the meeting we returned the Daihatsu and drove home. The pickup ran all the way home without further problems. Since then the problem has returned twice and we have concluded there was an intermittent short in the wiring to the fuel pump. Since I moved the

wires I have not had any problems.

We want our vehicle to be reliable and the pickup has generally met our expectations. But when it has broken down, it has been in a spectacular way. We trust that we have corrected the problem and that we will not have further problems.

Note: After this article was written we experienced a further problem with the Isuzu. As Michael was driving

into the garage one evening, he heard a loud noise. He found that the vehicle was not drivable as a ball joint had broken. We just thank the Lord that it occurred where it did and not out on open road at highway speed or on the curvy, rough gravel roads where we often have to travel. Michael replaced the ball joint with the help of a student. Now he is driving it again.

Family News by Caryl Stanley

Seanna (pronounced See-anna) Kaylin Ferreira arrived on July 8 at 4:40 a.m. So we now have five granddaughters! Dawn phoned about 3 a.m. to ask us to come and get Chayah. However, they took her to Mike and Ruth, their landlord, as they decided they needed to get to the hospital quickly. Michael went and got Chayah and they had some tea with Mike and Ruth before going back to sleep for the rest of the night. I was able to go to the hospital where I met Dawn, JP and Dina, who served as Dawn's birthing partner. Seanna arrived about an hour after Dawn got to the hospital. She weighed 4,05 kilograms (about 8 pounds 14 ounces.) After a night in hospital they returned home. Seanna has colic (as did Chayah), but she is doing very well and Chayah is very proud of her little sister.

Dina is working night duty for a few months. It is not something she enjoys, but she has to take her turn. They aren't very busy at night and she has done some knitting and cross stitch to help pass the time. She works 5 nights and then gets 5 nights off. It is very disruptive to her schedule. Sean is doing a great job of taking care of

the three girls. He has to take them to school and get them to their Guides, dancing, etc. Rebecca and Gabriella both participated in a cross country race recently. Gabriella came first in her grade and Rebecca came fourth. (Not sure where they got their athletic ability!)

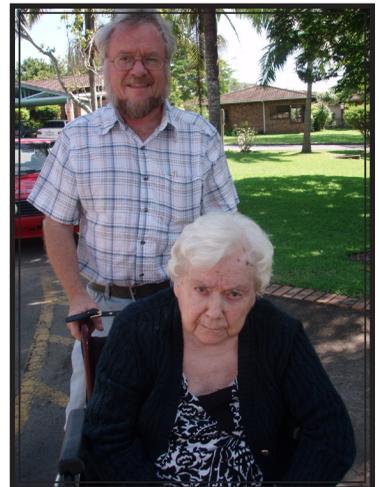
Diane and John moved the middle of July. They had hoped to buy a house, but haven't found what they want. John's parents offered them the house on the farm where John lived before he and Diane got married. It is not where they want to live permanently, but it gives them a roof over their heads until they find the house they want to buy. Diane has made the last airplane flight for her work for the year. From now on she will have to organize any training sessions by phone (or Skype) and then get others to run the programs. We are all anxiously awaiting the arrival of their little one in October. We keep hoping for a boy, but know that we will be happy with whatever God gives us!

Mom Stanley had her 90th birthday in August. There wasn't a big celebration, but it is certainly a milestone! She had several visitors and lots of flowers. She doesn't complain of any aches or pains and seems to remain much the same from week to week.

One day when we went to see Mom Stanley she was at her weekly hair appointment in the main center. When she was done, we brought her back to her room.



Dawn and JP welcomed Seanna to their family on 8 July, 2011. Chayah (2½ years old) is very proud of her little sister.



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Schools Ministry by Caryl Stanley

Michael continues to give a talk at the high school assembly each Tuesday morning. The students sing a hymn and then he speaks and prays for the students and the teachers. Sometimes we wonder if anyone is listening, though one of the teachers attends every week and often speaks to us about the talk after the assembly.

Nearly every Tuesday afternoon Akhona, one of the high school girls who attends the Umzumbe church, comes to Umzumbe Bible Institute and Michael helps her with her school work, especially Science. She is an orphan who lives with an aunt.

Recently, Gracious, Angel and Wandile (who are all related) came to Umzumbe Bible Institute on Tuesday afternoon and we let them play a math game on the computer. The reason we have the laptop computers (so that we can take them to Umzumbe Bible Institute with us) is to open a door of contact with the students from the local schools.

About two weeks later, Gracious came to us after assembly and gave us a letter she had written. She thanked

us for coming for assembly and said how much she appreciates what we are doing for the students. Since then Gracious and another girl, Precious, came and asked if we could get them some books to read to help them improve their English. That same day Gracious, Angel and Precious came to Umzumbe Bible Institute and got books. Gracious and Angel played the math game on the computer. Precious asked me to help her with her math. She had failed her exam in June and wanted help. She really needs it, so I offered to help her every Tuesday afternoon.

We are very disappointed that our Life Skills camp for grade 7, in cooperation with Scripture Union, will not take place this year. Scripture Union doesn't have time in their schedule for it and we don't have staff to run it on our own. We will probably have to have the Life Skills program after school at Umzumbe Bible Institute. We hope to finish off with an outing of some kind for the students. Pray for wisdom for us as we organize this program.