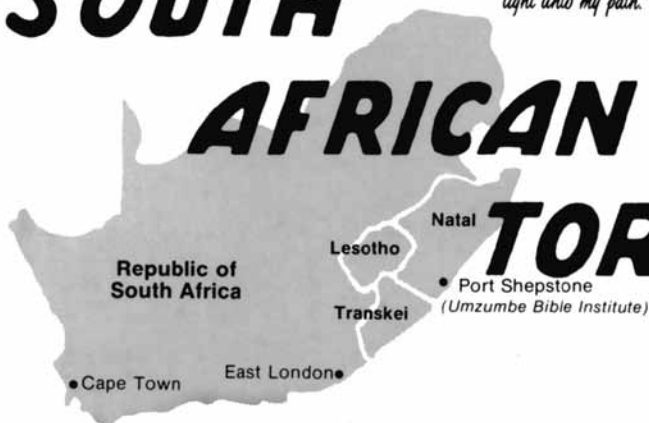


SOUTH

AFRICAN

TORCH



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



Vol. 63

First Quarter, 2012

No. 1

National Youth Seminar 2011

By Michael Stanley

The National Youth Seminar (NYS) started back in the 1980's. It was promoted by missionaries as a way of reaching and teaching young adults. Alice Fishback, in particular, kept the vision alive. In 2004 Christ In Youth (CIY) offered to enter a 5 year partnership. They provided training and funding for the South African program and this gave a significant boost to the seminar. Successful seminars were held in Bloemfontein, Cape Town, Margate, and Port Elizabeth. Missionaries continued to play an important role in the Seminar. Phil Smith did a lot of work in adapting CIY material to South African conditions.

When the partnership ended the seminar struggled. This was especially true because of three things. One of

the mature leaders, Phila Gumede passed away and then Phil Smith and Alice Fishback returned to the United States permanently. The last two seminars (held in Wellington, Western Cape, and Uitenhage, Eastern Cape) have been smaller than in the past. They have also been troubled by significant leadership issues.

The seminar in Uitenhage suffered from the usual problems of failing to keep to the printed schedule, but at the same time the lessons were well-received. Lessons were taught by Michael and Caryl Stanley, Dugmore Stelmela, and Richard Gallant.

Mieta Sishuba has served on the National Youth Seminar committee for many years. In recent years she has served as chairperson and has had to deal with several



Mieta Sishuba has been active on the NYS committee for many years and served as chairperson for more than five years. She can enjoy a well-deserved rest now that there is a new committee with a new chairperson.



Michael and Thulani, the NYS treasurer, discussed the financial records as they entered information on the computer.

difficult situations. Her courage and zeal in handling a wide range of issues has been truly commendable.

2011 was an election year for the NYS and new leadership was chosen. Only one person was re-elected. Mieta said that she would now have enough time to give attention to her own spiritual development – something which her position as chairperson had limited. We pray

that the new committee will fulfill their responsibilities with integrity and zeal. It will take real commitment and work to develop the potential which the NYS holds. The new leaders will have to define their vision and then communicate it to youth throughout South Africa. This is a significant task.

Obituary

Esther Lucille Eaton

By Caryl Stanley

Esther Lucille Eaton was born on August 19, 1921, to Orrin and Bessie Eaton. She had an older brother and sister and one younger sister. When she was 10 her family moved back to the family farm at Kimball, Minnesota. While in high school she met Lynn Stanley at church. After she completed high school, she and Dad both went to Minnesota Bible College. While in Bible College they got married on September 2, 1942.

Their first son, David, was born in 1944, but only lived a few weeks. Four more boys followed: Darrel in 1945, Michael in 1947, Duane in 1949 and Larry in 1952.

After further studies Dad and Mom decided to move to South Africa as missionaries. They traveled to South Africa in October 1953 by ship (which Mom hated because she got extremely sea sick.) They settled in Kimberley and Dad established a Bible Training School. While in Kimberley they were blessed with their only daughter, Debbie. After their furlough in the United States in 1958 they relocated to the Port Shepstone area where they lived for the remainder of their lives.

Dad worked in ministerial training until his retirement in 1989. Mom never wanted to be in the limelight, but was always supportive of his ministry. She served as Treasurer of the National Women's organization of the mission and gave many Bible lessons to the women of the church. She also taught typing and sewing to students at the Bible School.

For many years Mom had a knitting machine and she made a lot of jerseys for her children and grandchild-



*Lucille Stanley
August 19, 1921 - January 2, 2012*

dren – and many others. Later she started doing cross stitch. She was meticulous and would always make sure it was done perfectly. All of her children and many of the grandchildren treasure the articles she made for us. She learned to use a computer when she was in her 70's and loved to send email messages to her sons in the United States. She even helped others at the retirement village learn how to use computers!

Family was very important to Mom and she took pride in her children. She was preceded in death by her husband, Lynn, (1999) her son, David, and her son, Darrel, who was killed in a car accident in 1973. She

is survived by Darrel's widow, Anne Thompson, Michael and Caryl, who live in South Africa, Duane and Kathy, who live in Minneapolis, Larry and Marguerite, who live in Apple Valley, and Debbie and Lynton Neethling, who live in South Africa. She is also survived by 12 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren.

It is with confidence in the promises of God that the family celebrated her life and the enormous impact she had on the lives of so many over those 90 years.

NOTE:

When Lynn Stanley passed away, a memorial fund was set up for students attending Crossroads College in Minnesota and South African Bible Institute in South Africa. Any memorials can be sent to our forwarding agent, Duane Stanley P.O. Box 18531 Minneapolis MN 55418-0531. Please mark your gift "Memorial Fund"

Family News

By Caryl Stanley

As you all have probably heard, Mom Stanley passed away on the 2nd of January at the age of 90. She had been in Villa Bruno, a care center in Port Shepstone, for many years. Her health deteriorated over the years, but she was not in pain and she knew who we all were right up to the end. What a blessing that was! Her passing was very peaceful as she simply fell asleep in her chair after breakfast that morning.

In consultation with Michael's brothers and sister (Duane, Larry and Debbie), the decision was made to have a service at the Norwegian Settlers Church where family and close friends were able to share in a memorial service. I was privileged to read the obituary, Michael gave a tribute, Debbie read tributes from Duane and Larry, and Dina read tributes from the grandchildren. After that service we went to the funeral home where there was a service in which Michael and I participated and several of the African brothers and sisters gave tributes.

The new year has brought some changes to the family. Rebecca and Gabriella have gone to a new school. When the fees at the Christian school they were attending were raised by 20%, Dina and Sean felt they couldn't afford to keep the girls there. They are now attending a small school that uses Accelerated Christian Education materials. They have both settled in well and have made friends. They continue with Girl Guides, which they both love. Rebecca is still doing tap and modern dancing, as well. Gabriella would like to get involved in running or athletics so Dina and Sean are considering what to do for her.

Erin (Dina's youngest), Chayah and Seanna (Dawn's



Rebecca's birthday party was a family outing to Wild Waves. Dina, Erin, Chayah and Grandma enjoyed the Lazy River ride the most! (Unfortunately, several of us ended up with bad sunburns.)

girls) all go to Tiny Town Day Care Center. They are happy and are all growing quickly. Chayah, at 3, is keeping us all entertained with her constant chatter. She says some really cute things! (We often hear her mommy!) Erin is almost 2 so she keeps her care-givers very busy. Seanna is 7 months and she is a very contented little girl.

Diane is still on maternity leave, but she will be going back to work soon. She does most of her work from home and has decided not to work full time now. She is enjoying being mommy to Matthew and he is really growing!

Dawn is teaching grade one again this year. All of the teachers are finding it quite tough as discipline in the public schools is very lax and teachers are very limited in what they can do. I really feel for them - and I think it does not bode well for the future!

Sean, Dina, John and JP all continue with their same jobs and everyone seems to be doing well.



Our new year didn't start off so well, as while we were at church on January 1, thieves targeted our house and stole a laptop computer. They gained access by breaking a large window which we then had to replace.



When our good friend, Roy Murray, with whom we stay in Kimberley, decided to marry Jenny, they invited Michael to conduct the ceremony. What a joyful occasion!

South African Torch

Published quarterly for the following
Missionaries and their Forwarding Agents

UMZUMBE BIBLE INSTITUTE

Mrs. Lucille Stanley
P.O. Box 2800
4243 PLAINS
Republic of South Africa

M/M Michael Stanley
P.O. Box 13
4225 UMZUMBE
Republic of South Africa
Tel: +27-39-684-6517
E-mail: stanleys@zamission.org

Forwarding Agent:
Duane Stanley
P.O. Box 18531
Minneapolis, MN 55418-0531

Mission Services
2004 E. Magnolia Ave.
Knoxville, TN 37917

Return Service Requested

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Permit #374

Day Care Center -- Sinothando Creche

Sinothando Creche opened in January and Nomk-hosi, our teacher from last year, has returned. One of the ladies who went for training came as helper in January, but then she moved away. On the advice of our committee, we hired another lady from the community to be the helper. She started the last week of January and so far we are very happy with her. She loves the children and they love her!

We filled in all the forms to register Sinothando Creche with the government, but when we took the forms to the Department of Social Development they told us that we cannot have both Michael and me on the committee. (Apparently, that is supposed to stop fraud, but the previous committee managed to commit fraud without having "two people with the same name in the same household" on the committee!)

We had a meeting with the parents of the children and a new committee has been chosen. Michael is on the committee with two of the previous committee members and two parents. Now we have to fill in the forms again and try to get registered. In the meantime we are up and

running with 19 children.

We will be sending the teacher and helper for training again this year. They should be starting in mid-February.



Mrs. Mvuna, the helper at Sinothando Creche, sat on the floor and played with the children. One of their tasks was to sort the blocks by color.