

# SOUTH

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

# AFRICAN

# TORCH



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## KwaZulu Natal Youth Camp

By Caryl Stanley

Although camp started on Monday, June 25, Michael and I only arrived on Tuesday. We had been to Kimberley over the weekend for a South African Bible Institute Board of Governors meeting and only arrived home late on Sunday night. We had to do laundry and banking before we could leave again.

When we arrived at camp, which was held at a school near the church at Gingindlovu, there were a lot of young people there. Some of the leaders had

started teaching, and Michael taught a class in the afternoon. They had not asked me ahead of time if I would also teach, but one of the youth leaders asked if I would teach my class on the Ten Commandments. He had heard about it from someone else. So I taught all three groups of young people on Wednesday. I didn't finish the lesson with the youngest group as I needed an interpreter for them so it took longer. I finished up the lesson on Thursday.



*The younger students listened attentively to their lesson on the Ten Commandments at youth camp.*

While we were there Michael started repairing the electrical wiring in the church building. He had installed the electricity there in 1998, but in the past few years people broke into the building and stole the wiring. I helped him some and he got the plug points reinstalled and some of the lights were working by the time we left. The church has asked him to come back later in the year and finish. They will buy the materials that are needed for him to complete the work.

Michael and I helped run the annual Bible Quiz. The team from Um

zumbe won their first round by default because their opponents weren't there. They won the second round and went to the final where they lost to Ingwavuma. The young people from Ingwavuma have a very good knowledge of the Bible.

We are concerned that some of the young people who are quite influential have been bringing in some teaching and practices from denominations and from things they have seen on television. We have spoken to some of the youth leaders and ministers about the issues. We have decided that what is needed is more teaching from Scripture. Fortunately, we have support from some of the leaders. Pray that we will be wise in dealing with these issues.



*The winning team in the Bible Quiz came from Ingwavuma, a church in the far north of KwaZulu Natal.*

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## Magog Senior Citizens' Club

We continue to meet twice a week and things are going well. We have now enjoyed spinach and cauliflower from the garden. (We didn't even realize they had planted cauliflower, but it certainly was tasty.) Unfortunately, the cut worms have found the onions and have been quite hard on the crop. The gardeners have destroyed a lot of the cut worms!

The ladies have made some cushions, pillow cases, bib aprons and hats from the scraps of material they have been given. Most of the work is done by hand, but some of the ladies have taken material home and sewed on their machines. The aprons will

be used in the kitchen by those preparing meals, but some of the other projects will be sold.

Several of our members participated in the local "Golden Games" and three of them were able to go on to Durban (about 60 miles from here) to participate in the provincial "Golden Games". They were transported to Durban and taken to a hotel where they stayed for two nights. Unfortunately, they did not do well enough to participate in the national competition, but they certainly had a great time. They arrived back during one of our meetings and regaled us with stories. It was their first time to stay in a hotel and they had a lot of new experiences!



*Once a month we celebrate birthdays. These ladies dressed in traditional dress for the occasion.*



*Three of our members went to Durban to participate in the Golden Games. They had a great time and shared their experiences with us when they got home.*

## Sinothando Creche By Caryl Stanley

The day care center is going well. We have been able to sort out some of the problems so it is a bit easier now. Unfortunately, one of the teachers has been sick for over a month. We don't really know what the problem is, but she was in hospital. We took her husband, the other teacher, and a committee member to visit her in hospital. She was pretty depressed when we arrived, but brightened up and was much happier by the time we left.

Attendance at the crèche dropped during July as it is a short month and some of the parents didn't want to pay fees so they kept their children at home. Then things returned to a more normal situation in August. The beginning of September we have had very cold and rainy weather so some parents have kept their children at home.



*The teachers watch as the children enjoy coloring pictures at Sinothando Creche.*

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## Family By Caryl Stanley

Dina has settled in well in her new job. Those with whom she has worked before at South Coast Hospice welcomed her back. She is involved in training and said that her first lecture went well. She will fly to Cape Town in September for some training, so she is getting ready for that. Sean and the girls are all doing well. Rebecca danced (modern and tap) in a dance show put on by several dance studios. She loves her dancing and is very good. Gabriella is growing up fast and catching up with Grandma in height! Erin is a very active 2-year-old, who keeps us all on our toes.

Diane continues to work half days at home and Matthew has a nanny to care for him during that time. John's work has been very hectic as they were short-staffed and he had to do his job and someone else's until they hired a new worker at the beginning of September. Now he is busy training the new staff member so he is still putting in long hours. Matthew is nearly one and is crawling so he can get wherever he wants to go. He is also teething and a bit miserable sometimes.

Dawn invited us all to participate when her school had a family fun day. She and JP ran a paint-ball stand so they were quite busy. They asked us if we would

come and take care of Chayah and Seanna for the day. One of the activities was a fun walk so we took the girls. Sean, Dina, Gabriella and Erin also came along so we enjoyed being together. We took a push chair for Seanna and she fell asleep on the way. We also took the "little red wagon" and Erin and Chayah got to ride part of the way. Fortunately, Gabriella, Sean, Dina and Michael took turns pulling them.



*Some rode in push chairs or wagons and a lot of us walked at the Port Shepstone Junior Primary Family Fun Day.*

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## **Finance**

It has been a while since we mentioned the exchange rate and the effect that has on our ministry. We listen to the report on the radio each day and wonder what can make it fluctuate so much.

There are many factors that can affect the exchange rate. It may be the illness or death of a leader somewhere in the world or unrest or even weather. You may have heard about the problems in the mining industry which resulted from strikes and attacks of miners on police and security and retaliation by police on the miners. It resulted in the exchange rate moving in our favor, but things have settled a bit and the rate has moved against us. We never know from day to day what the rate will be or what could affect it!

Several years ago we gave up trying to second guess the exchange rate and we now cash our check on whichever day near the 25th is convenient for us. Sometimes we gain and other times we lose, but in the end we decided that was still the best way to do it.

Over the past 12 months the rates have ranged from a low of R7.36 to the dollar to a high of R8.22 to the dollar. The average is R7.86 for the year. During this time electricity, security fees, and fuel (gasoline and diesel for our vehicles) have increased.

All in all it has been trying, but God has blessed us through those of you who continue to support us financially. Thank you!