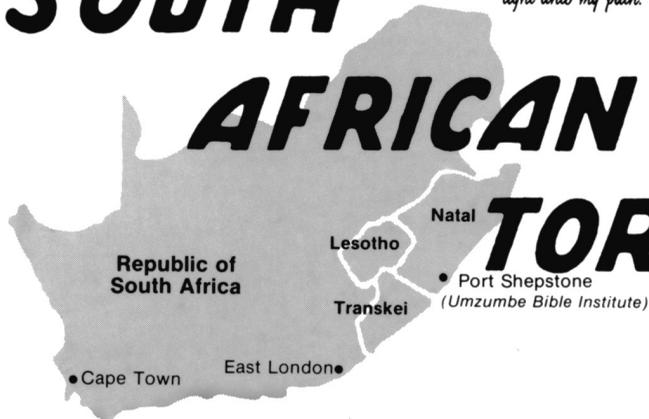


SOUTH

AFRICAN

TORCH



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



Vol. 64

First Quarter, 2013

No. 1

National Youth Seminar

By Michael Stanley

The National Youth Seminar in December last year made for another long trip. The venue was a camp site near East London in the Eastern Cape. I tried to recruit some from KwaZulu Natal to attend the Seminar, but I was unsuccessful. I drove to the Seminar on my own. The venue for the meetings was hard to find, but eventually I made it to the right place.

We were reminded of the importance of continuity between one committee and the next when the new committee called on former members to help organize the Seminar. The experience of Mieta

Sishuba and others helped to ensure that planning was completed on time.

For the most part the Seminar went well. As usual some of the scheduled teachers did not arrive, so Steve Caulley and I were asked to take on extra teaching responsibilities. We managed to handle that. Between teaching and preaching the campers got a heavy dose of "missionaries" at the Seminar.

My small group varied widely in age - from a teenager to a mother with teenage children. The group was very responsive so that was encouraging. I was left with the impression that lesson material



Michael visited with some of the other ministers as they enjoyed a late lunch.



Steve Caulley also commented on the enthusiasm and high level of participation this year. It helped to make all the work worthwhile.

was taken to heart

The outing this year was to the beach (Indian Ocean) and everyone enjoyed that. It isn't often that I ride in a "black taxi" (minibus) but the trip to the beach added to my list. I think it must be a reflection of my age, but the music in the "black taxi" was much too loud. Also I was ready to return to camp long before some of the younger people.

Since we were near East London Steve and I decided to visit retired missionaries, John & Heather Kernan. Considering their age (90's) they are both doing well. We had a good time reminiscing.

The road I took on my way home has a reputation for being the most dangerous section of main high way in South Africa. For the most part traffic was well-behaved, and I arrived home safely.

Furlough

It is time for us to return to the United States to visit you (our supporters and friends) again. We are planning to return to the United States in late August and will begin our visits to churches in September. We plan to be there until the end of the year. We are looking forward to renewing relationships and reporting on our ministry over the past 3 years. Please contact us at stanleys@zamission.org to make arrangements for us to speak to your congregation.

South African Bible Institute

At the beginning of February we traveled to Kimberley where Michael attended a South African Bible Institute Board of Governors meeting on Saturday morning. In the afternoon we went to South African Bible Institute graduation. Three men graduated this year and Michael was asked to give the Charge to the Graduates. He challenged them to live lives in accord with God's Word as they had

been taught while at South African Bible Institute. He reminded them that not all South African Bible Institute graduates have lived as they should have and it is time for them to change the patterns of the past.

The graduation ceremony was held in the Shaka Street church in Kimberley and the ladies of the church provided tea and snacks afterwards.



A choir made up of the 2013 South African Bible Institute graduates, students, and former students sang at the graduation ceremony.



Michael was asked to give the charge to the graduates. He challenged them to be an example and to live according to God's word.

Sinothando Creche (Day Care)

The creche committee, which consists of parents and community members, met just before school opened in January and Sindi, one of the ladies on the committee, agreed to be the teacher this year. She has had training as a day care teacher and has a lot of good ideas.

In January only 3 children came. It is a short month and some parents didn't want to pay the full amount for a partial month. In February there have been 8 to 10 children, but Sindi says she knows more will come so we are hoping to have between 15 and 20 children. Sindi started out by doing some cleaning and she got rid of a lot of broken and incomplete toys. We are hoping to be able to replace some of those toys during the year.

We have applied for non-profit status with the government and that should provide some financial help for the crèche. Our goal is to make it self-sustaining so that it can continue even if we are not involved



Michael repaired an old jungle gym that had been stored in the back room at the creche. As soon as he finished some of the children tried it out.

Magog Senior Citizens' Club

After a break over Christmas, the Club has resumed its activities. The elderly people really enjoy getting together twice a week. In addition to the meal they enjoy together, the ladies have done some sewing and both men and women have prepared the gardens and planted lots of vegetables. The Lord sent a lovely rain right after the seeds were planted and we can already see the plants coming up. Although the Club has been approved as a non-profit organization so they should be able to get some funding from the government, so far no money has been released so they are continuing to operate on the small amount that members contribute. Once a month there is a special tea to honor the people whose birthdays occur during that month.



The ladies take the remnants of material they have been given and create curtains, table cloths, quilts, pillow cases, hats, etc.

South African Torch

Published quarterly for the
following Missionaries and their
Forwarding Agent

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Family News

By Caryl Stanley

All of the family is doing well. Dawn, Rebecca and Gabriella are well-settled into the new school year. Dawn is teaching grade 1 again and is hoping the class continues to be as good as it is now. Rebecca is in grade 9 and Gabriella is in grade 6. Seanna is almost 20 months old and Matthew is almost 17 months old and they are both walking – so they keep us all busy! Chayah is 4 and Erin is almost 3. They both go to the same day care, but it is big so they are in different groups. We are so blessed to have our grandchildren close. There are no changes for the adults in the family as they all have stable jobs, which is a blessing in the present economy!

Michael and I keep busy with the local church, day care center, senior club and some travels. We are constantly reminded of the dangers on the roads and the fact that God has cared for us in many dangerous situations. Almost every time we travel we see the results of someone's accident!



Grandpa always makes home-made ice cream for birthdays and everyone gets an opportunity to turn the crank. Erin is waiting to take her turn.