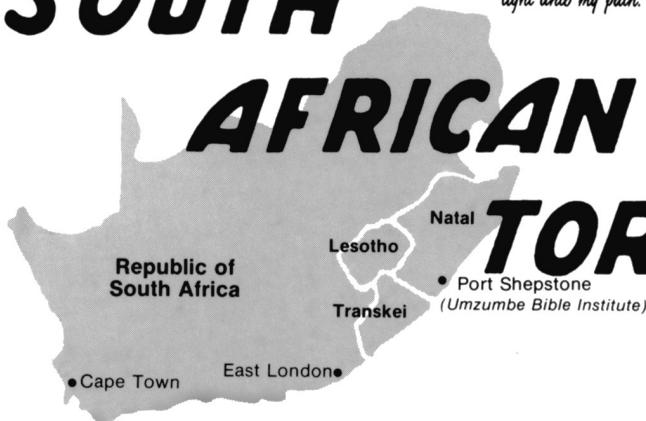


SOUTH AFRICAN TORCH



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



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Easter 2013 By Caryl Stanley

All of the churches in KwaZulu Natal met at Hammarsdale for the Easter weekend meetings. As Michael ministered there for about 3 years, we felt like we were returning home! The services were held at a school. The food was prepared in one classroom and people slept in the other classrooms. The main sessions were in a tent – which soon proved to be too small as the number of people attending grew to around 500. In the end three smaller tents were erected next to the big tent to accommodate the crowd.

The services began on Friday with sermons,



One of the ladies from Gingindlovu translated for Michael's class at the Easter service.

singing and prayer throughout the day. After a nice big meal in the late afternoon there was an evening service. Everyone enjoyed the worship time and the fellowship.

We did not stay for the overnight service (preaching, prayer, and singing). A local couple hosted us in their home. Edward got married after we stopped ministering at Hammarsdale so this was the first time we met his wife. They were gracious hosts!

Saturday morning when we arrived we found the congregation standing outside singing and



Brother and Sister Nyayo have retired from ministry and the KwaZulu Natal churches had a farewell service for them at the Easter meeting.

preaching while they waited for breakfast. After breakfast one of the ministers led in devotions. Then Michael taught a class for everyone. Unfortunately, the chairman of the province called the men out to a meeting before the class was over so Michael finished up his class with only the women.

After that we divided up for more classes: men, women and youth. In the afternoon there was a farewell for a minister, Brother Aaron Nyawo. He and his wife ministered in Ingwavuma, in the far north of KwaZulu Natal, for many years. Because of his health and age, he has handed the leadership of the church over to some very capable elders in the area.

On Sunday morning we all gathered at the school again for a worship service and communion before departing for our homes.



The large crowd at the Easter meeting made serving the Lord's Supper a challenge. Michael brought the communion meditation. Even though he tried to keep things as brief as possible, it took some time at a time when people were anxious to leave for home.

Ministers' Week 2013

We had a new experience when we traveled to Ministers' Week this year. For most of the time that we have been in South Africa we have provided transport for others when we traveled to Ministers' Week. This year the seminar was held in Hermanus, about 100 miles from Cape Town. When we added up the cost to drive a vehicle for two days, stay over somewhere along the way and buy meals while we traveled, we discovered that it would not cost much more to fly to Cape Town and rent a car. On top of that we would arrive in a few hours and be much more refreshed than we would be after two days on the road.

We traveled from our home to the airport in a van which travels several times a day from Margate to the airport. We were able to board the van at the main road about a half mile from our house so it was very convenient.

When we arrived in Hermanus, we were told that they had planned for us to stay with a church family. However, they had taken possession of their new vehicle that day and they weren't sure we could get two vehicles in the yard. We waited while decisions were made and in the end we did go there.

It was a very tight squeeze to get the two vehicles in the yard, but it worked.

The family was very hospitable and made us feel very welcome. He is a builder who works for a contractor and his house showed evidence of his ability. We enjoyed getting to know him, his wife, his two children and his sister.

The sessions at Ministers' Week were encouraging.



Michael spent a lot of time in meetings of the executive committee. Part of the time the heat in the poorly ventilated room was oppressive and that made staying awake very difficult.

On Sunday morning Michael taught a class before the church service. This was followed by lunch and then a workshop on legal issues led by a lawyer. There was another worship service in the evening.

Each day during the week, we had a devotional and prayer time in the morning and a worship service in the evening. The rest of the day was taken up with lessons, meetings, meals and fellowship.

Each year the ministers' wives try to learn a craft that they can use to generate income. This year they asked me to teach them how to do cross stitch. (They have watched me do my cross stitch at other meetings.) I took some small cross stitch patterns, needles, material and embroidery floss and taught them how to make bookmarks. Some of them really struggled, but some caught on quickly and even finished more than one item. A few of them didn't even want to stop long enough to eat!

The attendance this year was down from normal. One of the reasons for that was because it was during the school term and some of the ministers' wives are teachers. The other reason was because Hermanus is a long way for many of the people to travel.

All in all we felt that it was a very successful Ministers' Week.



Caryl had a group of keen ladies learning cross stitch. Intense concentration was the order of the day. Mrs. Mguzulwa, Mrs. Mosele and Mrs. Booyseyn all completed their work quickly.

Jozini By Caryl Stanley

The Christians in Jozini, which is in the far north of KwaZulu Natal invited Michael and Patrick Sithebe, who ministers in the Durban area, to come and visit them in February. They were facing some difficulties and they wanted to talk through some leadership issues.

The Stanleys and Sithebes traveled to Jozini for a weekend. We met church members in the town of Jozini and followed them into a rural area where the meeting was held. On Saturday afternoon there was a lot of discussion and a decision that they would continue with their services being led by elders. Brother Sithebe would be available to deal with any major issues in the congregation.

In the evening we walked to a nearby house where a tent had been erected for the service. There was a lot of excitement as people gathered, sang, prayed and listened to God's Word.

We went back to the house where the meeting had been held to sleep for the night. We heard some strange noises in the night and Patrick told us in the morning that he had seen the rats – and they were big! I am glad I didn't know about the rats before I went to bed!



Caryl was asked to bring a short message at the church service at Jozini. Corina Sithebe translated for her.



Patrick Sithebe had informal discussions with the church members at Jozini to deal with church issues.

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UMZUMBE BIBLE INSTITUTE

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

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The parents recently asked for T-shirts for the children at Sinothando Creche. Michael organized getting them and having the crèche name printed on the back and the child's name on the front. The children certainly look smart in their new shirts!



Caryl looks on as Mrs. Ngwane, one of the Seniors, hand-stitches a hem on her fabric.