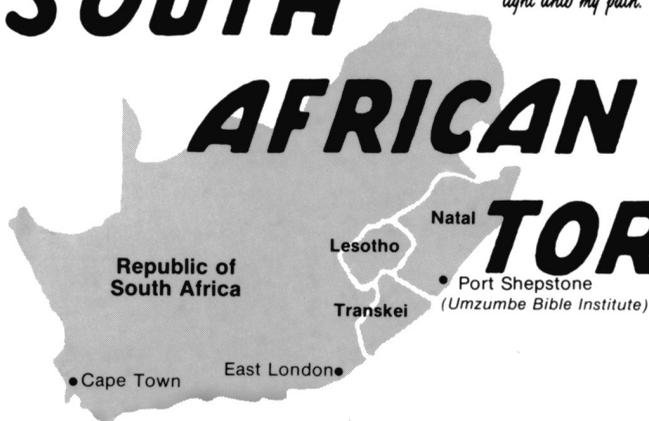


# SOUTH

# AFRICAN

# TORCH



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



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## Youth Camp 2013 at Oribi Bible Camp

by Michael Stanley

Controversy over the venue nearly resulted in the cancellation of camp this year. Thanks to the commitment of the Mvutshini group, the camp went ahead and was successful. One apparent result of the controversy was that the average age of the campers was significantly younger than in previous years (mostly school children). I don't know what is driving this transition, but we welcome the youthful enthusiasm shown by the younger campers.

Participation in class discussion and other activities was generally good and this was encouraging. The quality of teaching was also good. I was disappointed that the talent evening and the group Bible Quiz were cancelled. Hopefully they can be reinstated next year.

The program for Saturday evening was a highlight for me. In one of the classes we had a particularly vigorous discussion about Jesus' leadership style. I decided to act out the Biblical account of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples as a means of emphasizing servant leadership. According to her mother, it was a most memorable experience for the girl whose feet I washed.

The food was prepared by the Mvutshini group and was good and ready on time. I hope that next year we can eliminate the controversy and see an increase in the number of youth who attend camp.



*As one of the campers read the relevant passage of Scripture, Michael acted out the story of Jesus washing the feet of His disciples during the Saturday evening program.*



*All of the campers gathered for a group photo at camp which was held at Oribi Bible Camp.*

# Church of Christ Mission 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

by Elijah N. Gontsana, President of the Conference

The year 2012 was the year to celebrate 90 years of the Church of Christ Mission conference in South Africa. The conference was held at J.J. Serfontein High School, Queenstown, Eastern Cape from 30th September to 05th October 2012. We are not sure exactly when the Restoration Movement was introduced to South Africa, however oral tradition suggests that it was at the end of the nineteenth century.

Most Christian leaders came from North America who laboured to plant the local churches according to the New Testament teaching. One leader came from Australia, namely John Sheriff. Those missionaries who came from North America, to name the few, are C.B. Titus, Bill and Melba Rees, Max Ward and Gladys Randall, Lynn and Lucille Stanley, Alvin and Vernita Nicholson, John and Heather Kernan, Al and Jean Zimmerman, Floyd and Joan Stamm, Michael and Caryl Stanley, Alice Fishback, Gordon and Estelle Nelson, Bill and Verna Weber and many missionaries who didn't stay a long time in South Africa.

Thomas Bambezi Kalane is the one who worked vigorously and started the work of preaching the gospel of Christ under the auspices of the Restoration Movement i.e. Christian Churches/Churches of Christ in South Africa. He studied in America and returned to South Africa in December 1920 to plant churches. He died after only 18 months in South Africa. Within that short span of time he did an outstanding work. There was mention of 23 local churches started by 1923.

The church is showing signs of numerical growth in the 21st century. The challenge we encounter is the shortage

of preachers. There are about 200 local churches and 55 preachers. We have only one Bible School which serves to train our preachers. The Bible School is running short of teachers where Steve Caulley and Louw Koopman are the only teachers at present. Both of them are about to retire as they approach 60 years this year and next year. Our only school is going to close if the situation goes on like this. The South African Church of Christ Mission does not wish that this should be the case. We ask Christians in America to pray for us that we get the suitable personnel required by the school. We ask the Christians in America to pray precisely that the school get a qualified principal and teachers who will help to equip our preachers.

The Church of Christ Mission is now preparing to take over the school. The second challenge is that of financial resources. We also ask the Christians in America to pray for us so that we may surmount this hurdle.

Our annual conference will be held in the Gauteng Province from 22 to 27 September 2013.



*Elijah Gontsana is the President of the Church of Christ Mission in South Africa. He graduated from Umzumbe Bible Institute and later taught there. He then studied at Lincoln Christian Seminary in the US. He also has taught at the South African Bible Institute.*

## KwaZulu Natal Women's Conference

by Caryl Stanley

Each year in July the women of our province meet for a weekend of teaching, preaching, singing, praying and business. This year the meeting was held at Gingindlovu, which is about three hours from our home.

A few years ago the men decided that they would also meet when the women gathered for their annual meeting. Many of them were there because they had transported the women to the meeting. Now the men also have teaching and business meetings and join in some of the worship sessions.

Michael had some things he needed to do before we left home so we arrived after lunch on Saturday. We were greeted with "You are very late!" When we saw the program, we realized why that was an issue. I was scheduled

*continued on back page*



*Brother Caiphaz Ncanana led the communion service on Sunday morning.*



*People gathered in groups during breaks to enjoy fellowship together.*

# South African Bible Institute

In June we traveled to Kimberley for our annual two weeks of teaching at South African Bible Institute. Michael had only two students this year, but they were good students and they were enthusiastic so that was encouraging. I did not teach this year as there was a visiting teacher from the US to take the other class.

We stayed with our friends, Roy and Jenny. They are the couple for whom Michael performed the wedding ceremony 1 ½ years ago. Jenny and I spent a lot of time visiting, baby-sitting a grandchild, and doing handwork while we sat in a sunny room, trying to stay warm. Temperatures got down to near freezing at night and up to about 50 F during the day.

In addition to teaching Michael attended the Annual General Meeting of

South African Bible Institute. He was supposed to go off the Board of Governors after a three year stint, but because there were few people at the meeting and there are some major changes coming, it was decided to keep the Board of Governors as it is for another year.

There were also combined meetings of the South African Bible Institute Board of Governors and members of the Church of Christ Mission executive committee. The Church of Christ Mission is preparing to take full oversight of the South African Bible Institute as soon as all of the legalities can be worked out.



*Michael had two students and he enjoyed sharing some information from a current magazine with them to illustrate the point of his lesson.*



*While we were in Kimberley we traveled to Hopetown for church one Sunday. It was our first visit there, but the church members shared their memories of Lynn Stanley and Alvin Nicholson helping to build the building in the 1950s.*

## Furlough

As I write this we have only a few days until we leave for the US on our next furlough.

We are busy getting things taken care of at our house in preparation for leaving.

Fortunately, we have found a man to stay in our house while we are away. We will store some of our personal things in the office and one bedroom and he will have one bedroom and the rest of the house. With the high crime rate, we are glad that someone will be in and out on a regular basis.

We have sold our pickup, but we will be able to use it until just before we leave. The buyer has given us a deposit with the promise to pay the rest before he takes delivery.

We have made arrangements for a lady from the Umzumbe church to take responsibility for the day care center – collecting fees, paying teachers and keeping records.

The Umzumbe church and the Magog Senior Citizens' Club will take care of up-keep and maintenance on the Umzumbe Bible Institute campus.

As soon as we arrive in the US we plan to get a car. We are planning to make Kimball, Minnesota, our base this furlough. We will have some family time with Michael's and my siblings and then we will visit as many of our supporters as we can over the next few months. We have been busy with scheduling via email. You can continue to contact us at [stanleys@zamission.org](mailto:stanleys@zamission.org).

## South African Torch

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## Women's Conference

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to teach a class for the women at 11! No one had asked me to teach and I had not seen a program until we got there. Someone else took my class time and the schedule was so full that there was no other time for me to teach. I am sorry that I missed the chance to teach, but I really didn't feel well-prepared at that time. I have learned to carry a lesson with me because I never know when I might be asked to speak, but I prefer to be more prepared than that.

We stayed with a very hospitable church family that we have stayed with at other times when we have been at Gingindlovu. When we got up in the morning we realized that we were not the only ones there. There must have been about 6 or 8 others at the house who had arrived after we had gone to sleep.

## Family News

We have had several opportunities to take care of grandchildren over the past few weeks. We have been called in to take Chayah and Seanna when they were sick, but most of the time we have just been able to baby-sit.

Each Thursday we go and get Chayah from day care and take her to her dancing lesson. She has to be there at 1:30 and Dawn isn't able to get away from school to take her. She loves her dancing and is doing well.

We had Matthew three days in a row recently. Diane had to go to the head office in Cape Town for meetings. Matthew came to us for two days, but he went home each night with John. The day after she got back, Diane had another all-day meeting so Matthew was with us again. He is nearly two so he keeps us on our toes!

Rebecca had a dance show recently. We all enjoyed going watch her perform tap and modern dances. There were two shows - one in the afternoon and one in the evening. Erin loved the dance show and tried to copy the dancers on stage! Between the afternoon and evening shows we went bowling. It is the only bowling alley in the area so we always take advantage of it when we are there. We concluded that we all enjoy bowling, but we need a lot more practice!

Gabriella and Rebecca are both interested in surfing and are attending lessons. Apparently Gabriella did pretty well her first time on a surf board.

Shortly after we got home from Kimberley, we got word from Roy and Jenny, our friends in Kimberley, that Roy had been diagnosed with cancer of the bowel. He has had surgery and is on chemotherapy Please pray for him and for Jenny.



*We enjoyed our visit with Roy and Jenny Murray when we were in Kimberley.*