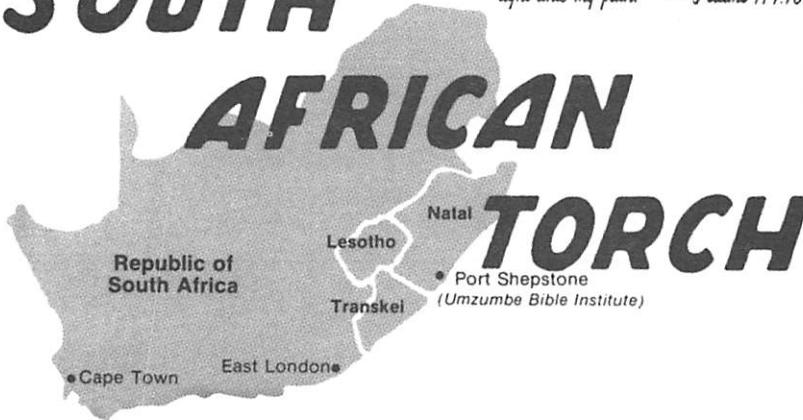


SOUTH

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

AFRICAN



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No. 1

Thank You! Thank You!! Thank You!!!

We had a very good furlough and enjoyed visiting our supporting churches and individuals. We were not able to get to all of our churches, but we will put those we missed at the top of the list on our next furlough.

We made our base in Kimball, Minnesota this time and we want to thank Richard Eckman for providing us with a room we could call our own. Also we thank him for sharing his dining room for our office. We often commandeered the dining

room table when we had work to do. He provided us with meals or let us cook and allowed us to really feel at home!

We want to thank my sister and brother-in-law, Juanita and Joe Gillespie, for hosting us when we first arrived and for providing us a home whenever we were in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. Again they provided many delicious meals, fun game times and so much more. Joe and Juanita both have ties with Tandem Printing and they printed



Richard Eckman was a great host for us while we lived with him on our furlough in 2013. He took us to the community fish dinner and we enjoyed visiting with him and his daughter and family, Robert, Penny, Weston and Carl Blanchard.



Joe and Juanita Gillespie, Caryl's sister and brother-in-law, provided us with a room whenever we were in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area.

our prayer cards and sign up cards. They also provided us with paper and envelopes. Thanks very much for that!

We want to extend our thanks to all of you who hosted us for nights and provided meals for us. There are many so I will not try to name you all. We appreciated getting acquainted or re-acquaint-

ed! Also thank you to those who provided gas for the car, repaired a tire, allowed us to use laundry facilities when we were on the road for long periods, gave us opportunities to just relax, and lots more!

We are blessed and we thank you for being a blessing to us!

Funerals

by Michael Stanley

When we arrived back in South Africa we were delighted to get back together as a family. However the first weekend we were back we attended the funeral of Gerty Qwemesha. Her husband had worked with my father almost from the time we arrived in South Africa in 1953. Nic passed away in 1994 and in the years since then we had maintained a close relationship with Gerty. I also served as handyman helping to install indoor plumbing and doing minor repairs. We felt the loss when she was no longer

able to walk the 100 yards between her house and the church because her attendance became erratic. We enjoyed the times we could visit her and reminisce about "old times."

Still we were surprised and saddened to hear that she passed away on Christmas

morning. The funeral was set for January 4. Tents were erected to accommodate the crowd of family and friends. As usual it was an all day affair with a church service in the morning that lasted for about 4 hours. Those who could then traveled to Mvutshini for another briefer service and the interment. This was followed by a meal.

This brings to an end an era of noteworthy cooperation between missionaries and national church leaders. Families that were brought together in 1954 included Max and Gladys Randall, Prince and Robert Sibenya and families, Lynn and Lucille Stanley, Nic and Gerty Qwemesha, Alvin and Ver-nita Nicholson, as well as Enoch Zobolo and his wife. (Still living but having spent many years in retirement are Gladys Randall, and Alvin and Ver-nita Nicholson.)

Gerty was not the only one who passed away during the time we were in the States. We were shocked to hear that Louw Koopman passed away December 01 (aged 61).

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Michael visited with Gerty Qwemesha just before we left South Africa in August last year. She enjoyed coming to church and when she got a wheel chair it was much easier for her.



Louw taught for many years, first at Umzumbe Bible Institute and then at the South African Bible Institute. He married Christine Sishuba in 1992 while at Umzumbe and then accepted a ministry in Douglas (near Kimberley) when the Umzumbe Bible Institute closed.

Family News

by Caryl Stanley

It is great to be back with our family. Everyone was here when we arrived back on New Year's Day. The sons-in-law did a bit of yard work for us and we enjoyed a picnic meal in the yard.

The next day (2 January) we got the shocking news that Diane's father-in-law had passed away very unexpectedly. He was 71 and in good health so it really was a shock. His funeral was on the 10th of January.

On the 5th January we were all together again at our house to celebrate Christmas. We had "ducken" (a boneless duck stuffed with a boneless chicken stuffed with dressing) with all the usual trimmings. The family waited for us to get back for their gift exchange (they draw names) so it was a really fun day.

It has been great seeing all the grandchildren again. The two 2-year-olds changed the most. When we left Seanna and Matthew were saying words, but now they are speaking in sentences!

Chayah started Grade R (kindergarten) in January this year. She goes to the school where Dawn teaches and she is loving school. She is also doing modern dancing. Rebecca and Gabriella are back at the private school and seem to have settled in well. Rebecca is still involved in dancing (tap and modern), Rangers (Girl Guides) and surfing. Gabriella is in Girl Guides and surfs. She is now old enough to go to the church youth meeting on Friday nights and seems to really enjoy that. Erin is starting modern dancing this year and taking swimming lessons.

Cars

As a follow-up to the last South African Torch, we were able to sell the Buick Lucerne. The buyer arrived the day before we left to take possession of it. We pray that he will get good service from it!

We have not bought a mission vehicle since we arrived back in South Africa. We have our personal car, a VW Jetta, and we are driving it for both personal and mission use for now. We are finding out that it is difficult to get used to having only one vehicle. However, we don't want to make a sudden decision so we are taking our time finding the right vehicle.

Home Again

We found that all was in order at our house when we got back. I think having a house-sitter proved valuable. We have heard of many burglaries in our community, but



The four youngest grandchildren had fun modeling their Christmas presents – dungarees and shirts. The pants were a bit long, but they will grow into them.

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Family News

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we were not targeted while we were away. While our house-sitter was away for Christmas, someone tried to break in, but left when the burglar alarm went off so didn't get into the house.

Our daughters had come in right before we arrived and did some cleaning and stocked the refrigerator and cupboards for us! Then all of the family came the day we got back and we enjoyed seeing everyone. We are so blessed to have a wonderful family!

We are now busy getting things unpacked and back in place. There are still some boxes that I haven't tackled, but the heat and humidity have been a deterrent!

Funerals

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Louw studied at Umzumbe Bible Institute. Because the teachers recognized his ability he was given help to further his studies at the Evangelical Bible Seminary of Southern Africa. He then taught at Umzumbe until the school closed at the end of 1994. When the South African Bible Institute opened in Kimberley he resumed teaching, recruiting and training young men and women for ministry. We were unable to attend his funeral as we were overseas at the time. We miss Louw because of our friendship which developed over many years. He was a man of ability and integrity, and we pray that God will raise up more leaders of his caliber.