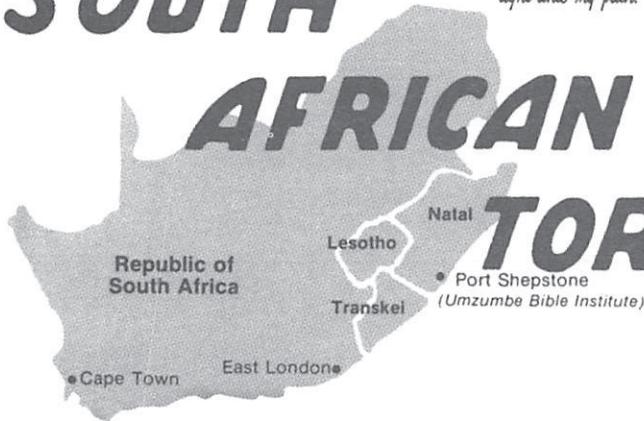


SOUTH

AFRICAN

TORCH



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



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KZN Youth Camp 2014 by Michael Stanley

Once again youth camp was held at the Oribi Bible Camp. It is only about 20 miles from our house so I was happy. They had the usual hiccups to start with, but those were soon resolved. In the end we had just under 100 campers. The theme this year was "My true identity in Christ" and I taught using discussions around Genesis 1:27 "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." We also studied I Corinthians 3:16 "Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?"

Two local church leaders, Ezra Mbali – minister at Mvutshini and Theophilus Zobolo – school principal,

helped to bring order during the first two days. After that I worked with Mabandla Mfeka to help keep to the schedule. As usual the music was much too loud for my liking, but they were not aiming to please me and the campers obviously enjoyed it. Typically I find that the younger campers participate in the classes, but that is not always the case with the older campers. This year I was surprised when some of the older campers participated enthusiastically. That makes my task of teaching much easier.

On Saturday I planned to lead my small group on the prayer walk which was established in memory of Michael MacPherson, but that did not materialize. A



Some of the younger campers performed a musical item with the help of a very capable sound system.



Several young people came forward at youth camp to accept Jesus as their Savior. Amongst them were three young people from the Umzumbe church.

girl who had planned to attend the camp died suddenly and they planned the funeral for Saturday during camp. The result was a large group of teachers and students went to the funeral. Because the girl was so young (12 or 13) I expected the funeral to be small. That was definitely not the case. It was one of the larger funerals I have attended. There were all the usual speeches by representatives of family, neighbors, her school, and the church. I was asked to speak “on behalf of the

Church of Christ Mission.” The service lasted more than three hours and then there was a large meal. It was an all-day event. I was told that the campers who did not go to the funeral did go on the prayer walk.

The highlight of the camp was when about 12 campers came forward to give their lives to Jesus. This was especially encouraging to me because 3 of the young people were from the Umzumbe congregation.

KZN Women’s Conference

On Saturday, July 5th, we went to KwaMashu, which is in the Durban area, for the annual KwaZulu Natal Women’s Conference. A few years ago the men decided that since they usually drove the women to the conference, they would also have meetings, so the program now includes all church members.

I was asked to speak and the leader asked me to choose the topic. I have been very concerned about the lack of Christian teaching the children are getting. Schools used to have religious education, but that has been discontinued. Churches used to have Sunday Schools, but very few still have them. I decided to stress the importance of parents taking responsibility for teaching their children and providing them with a good basis for making wise decisions in their lives. The attention during my lesson was very good and I was told that the women had a beneficial discussion afterward. Unfortunately, I wasn’t there as I wasn’t feeling well and had gone to rest.

At night we were able to go to the home of a

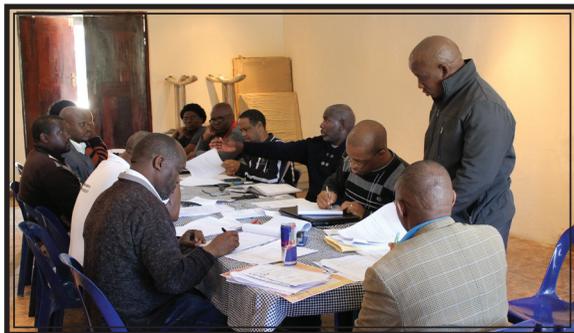
church family who lived nearby and get some sleep. The conference went on through most of the night and concluded with a church service on Sunday morning.



Four men from KwaZulu Natal came to Umzumbe Bible Institute in July and Michael and Mabandla Mfeka did introductions to South African Bible Institute classes they are taking as correspondence courses. They plan to meet about once a month for discussion, questions and exams.



Caryl and Mrs. Zobolo wait for their turns to speak at the KwaZulu Natal women’s conference which was held in the Durban area. The women enjoy their annual meeting with time for worship and study.



The Executive committee of the Church of Christ Mission met with the leaders of various groups within the church to discuss business and make plans for the annual conference which will be held in October.

Sinothando Creche

Things are running smoothly at the day care center this year. The teacher went to get training as a child-minder during the first half of the year and now the helper is getting the training. We have seen a real improvement in the care the children are getting now.

We have 17 children registered and attendance is very good. We have purchased some new toys for them. Many of the toys they have are very old and not in good condition. Over the years the toys have been misused and not stored properly, so we are making an effort to teach the teachers to help the children take better care of their toys.



At a recent meeting of the day care parents, they requested that Michael order t-shirts for the children again this year.

Magog Senior Citizens' Club

The good news for the seniors' club is that they have now been able to get some government funding. It requires a lot of administration as payments are made related to attendance. The funding pays for a project manager, food, and maintenance. Because they have this funding, they now contribute

towards water, electricity and security which we have been paying since they meet in the kitchen/dining room of Umzumbe Bible Institute. Some of our members participated in a local competition called Golden Games. They did well and some of them went on to participate in the provincial games.



The Magog Senior Citizens' Club decided to have one birthday party every other month this year instead of every month. Since I am the only one in June it was nice to be joined by those with May birthdays.



One day when the seniors were practicing for their Golden Games we encouraged the teacher to bring the day care children to play with them.

Pickup

In past issues of the South African Torch, we have asked for contributions toward the purchase of the pickup. After looking at the whole financial picture and consulting with others, we decided

that it would be best for us to purchase the pickup as a personal vehicle and collect mileage for mission travel. This plan seems to be working out well.

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Family News

The big news is that Dina and Sean are buying a house. They moved in at the end of August, but are waiting for some things to get sorted out before they take ownership. It is an older house that needs some work, but it is in a really nice area. The house is about halfway between Port Shepstone and Margate which is really convenient for Sean since he works both places. It is about 15 miles from us. They have really nice neighbors who have invited them for lunch, delivered a "welcome" cake, offered to loan them tools, invited them to make use of their swimming pool and really made them feel welcome! Rebecca is a Ranger in Girl Guides now and she and one other girl (with 2 leaders) are going to the headquarters in Switzerland for two weeks from 31 December to mid-January. The local Girl Guides have helped raise money for the trip. She is really excited and we are proud of her achievements in Girl Guides.

Diane has been keeping busy with writing educational materials for Scripture Union. She still works from home most of the time so she can have Matthew, who will be 3 in October, at home - with a nanny. When she has to be away for meetings, we have had Matthew at our house part of the time. He recently stayed overnight for the first time - and it went very well. John keeps very busy at Toyota. He is their fitment center manager.

JP and Dawn keep very busy with their jobs and the girls are doing well. Seanna has eczema, which can be aggravated by certain foods (especially eggs), but she is a very cheerful little girl even when she has severe rashes!



We recently attended the sports' day at Tiny Town, the day care where Erin and Seanna attend. Erin held her bean bag in place as she ran on the field.



Seanna ran with a ball at Tiny Town sports day. It was a beautiful warm, sunny day.