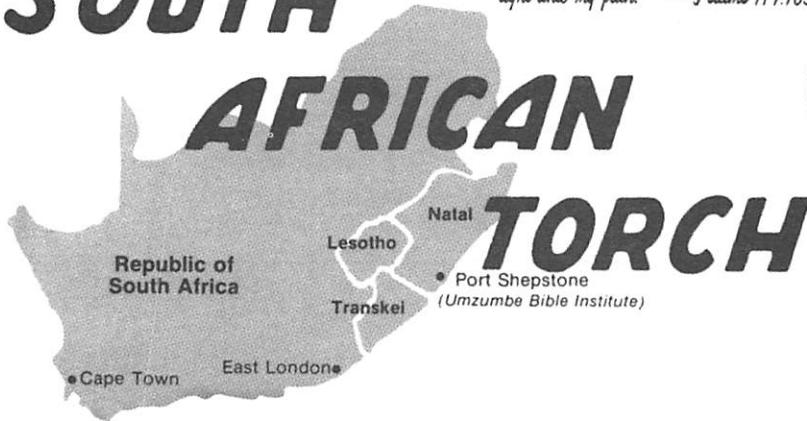


# SOUTH

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



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## National Youth Seminar - 2014

There was no National Youth Seminar in 2013 so Michael was determined for it to be revived in 2014.

He tried several times to meet with the youth who were elected to serve on the committee for planning the National Youth Seminar. He spoke with the chairman and offered to help organize the program for 2014. It always sounded like he wanted to cooperate, but nothing ever came of the planned meetings.

Finally Michael contacted former committee members and together they organized the 2014 National Youth Seminar. Michael booked a camp site in Kwa-Zulu Natal – Oribi Bible Camp, which is just outside Port Shepstone. One of the other people got the materials from Christ in Youth and together we adapted them for South Africa and had student booklets printed.



*The students and leaders gathered for a group photo at the National Youth Seminar. We really enjoyed these young people who gathered for this annual event.*

On the 16th of December we went to Oribi Bible Camp, but we didn't know how many people would come to the Seminar. In the end there were about 30 young people, mostly from the Northern Cape, and some ministers and missionaries to lead the small groups. Although the group was small, we were very impressed with the interest they showed in the studies and the behavior of the young people.

We heard that some of the youth were very disappointed when they arrived and realized that the campsite was not near the ocean! Each year at the National Youth Seminar there is an outing so this year we took them to the beach. They had a wonderful time enjoying the ocean and the cookout that accompanied it.

This year we are arranging for the National Youth Seminar to be held in the Northern Cape region.



*Michael led a small group of youth at the National Youth Seminar. They participated well and he enjoyed his time with them.*

# South African Bible Institute Extension Classes

Last year Michael started offering South African Bible Institute extension classes in KwaZulu Natal. There are a few men who want to study for the ministry, but because of jobs are unable to go to Kimberley for an extended period. Michael and Israel Mfeka do the teaching for the five men who are registered for the classes.

In January he traveled to Eshowe so the classes could be held in a more central place. One of the men lives there and agreed to have the classes at his home. Another man lives in the far north of the province and that would have been much closer for him. Unfortunately, he was not able to come that weekend. Brother Mfeka was not able to be there either so Michael had to teach both classes.

In early March the next session was held at Umzumbe Bible Institute. Again a couple of the men were not able to attend, but this time Brother Mfeka did come

so he taught his class. The men are enthusiastic about their studies and Michael is enjoying being in the classroom again.



*The South African Bible Institute extension class was held at the home of one of the students in Eshowe. His wife prepared meals for the students and teachers.*

## Church of Christ Mission Executive Meeting

I traveled to the Eastern Cape at the end of January to attend the Church of Christ Mission executive meeting. Because of Brother Sauls' funeral on that Saturday, the executive decided to attend the funeral and then go on to Dimbaza near King Williams' Town for their meeting. I was traveling alone at night between Graaff Reinet and King Williams' Town and, in an arid region with few landmarks, I missed a turn. The result was a much longer trip than I had planned. I only arrived in King Williams' Town after midnight. I think an angel was guiding the vehicle part of the time as I was very tired and had a couple of close calls on the road.

The executive met on Sunday afternoon and Monday morning. Business included planning for the annual church conference in October.

When we completed our work on Monday, we all left for home. Fortunately, I did have a passenger on the way home. At about 6 pm, when I stopped in Mthatha I contacted Caryl and said I was



*The executive committee of the Church of Christ Mission met in February to discuss issues pertaining to the national church.*

planning to try to drive the rest of the way. With the help of the family, I was convinced that I should stay overnight in a motel and drive the rest of the way in the daylight. Driving through the mountains after dark is often made more difficult by fog and mist.

## Two Funerals

by Michael Stanley

I attended the funeral Conrad Sauls, a minister from the Eastern Cape (Graaff Reinet), at the end of January. I was scheduled to go to the Eastern Cape (Dimbaza) for a Church of Christ Mission executive meeting that weekend, but the funeral was added to the trip when Brother Sauls was killed in a car accident.

Brother Sauls had studied at Umzumbe Bible Institute so had been one of my students. He had ministered for many years in Graaff Reinet which was his home town.

In February we attended the funeral of a young lady from the church. (Her father is an elder in one of the small Umzumbe congregations and her brother is an active member of the congregation that we attend.) She died of cancer and we attended a traditional prayer meeting with the family just after her death and then went to the funeral.



*Conrad Sauls, a graduate of Umzumbe Bible Institute and long-time minister in Graaff Reinet, was killed in a car accident in January.*

# Women's Workshop - 2015

by Caryl Stanley

Each year in February the National Women's organization runs a weekend workshop at a campsite in Bloemfontein. I have attended a few of the workshops and have been impressed with the programs.

In December I was asked if I would be willing to take one of the Saturday workshop sessions. The theme was Women's Role in the Church. There were three half hour sessions. My session was first and my subject was "The role of the older women in the church". Then a minister presented a session on "The church begins at home". Finally a lady presented a session on "Early Childhood education in the Church". After the three sessions they had a question and answer time. There was good attention and lots of good discussion after the presentations.

The Workshop began on Friday night with a reception at which we were asked to dress in traditional attire. They had a special speaker who was a well-known radio personality on a Xhosa radio station. The Xhosa women really appreciated seeing her in person! Judging from the comments and the larger than usual attendance, she was a powerful draw card.

Sunday morning there was a short church service. Michael was asked to lead the communion service. He tried to buy matzos and grape juice on Saturday night but none of the places that were open stocked these items. They then asked a local elder to buy them on Sunday morning. When the time came to begin the service, he still had not come back. The leaders told Michael to go ahead and the emblems would arrive soon. He gave his entire meditation and still there were no emblems. The ladies sang some hymns and we waited. Finally someone brought some cakes and cold drink from the kitchen to use. I brought some crackers that I had in the car and they decided that would be better than cake. As we got to the time of serving the cup, the shoppers arrived back with the grape juice. It was a very awkward experience!



*When I spoke at the Women's Workshop, I was aided by Zolewa Matiti, an interpreter who was kept very busy helping many of us who spoke during the weekend.*



*Because the group was large and the hall we were given was small, we met outside under the trees. As the day progressed people moved their chairs to get out of the sun and into the shade.*



*Michael gave his entire communion meditation without the emblems present because the elder who went to buy them had not returned.*

## South African Torch

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## Family News

Dina works for the hospice in Port Shepstone. Because of lack of funding they had to reduce staff and close their in-patient unit. Most of their work then involved home-visits. Dina continued with her work as a registered nurse and staff trainer. In the past few



*Rebecca and her friend, Kathlene, really enjoyed their trip to Switzerland to visit the World Guiding House of Girl Guides. They especially enjoyed the snow.*

months they have received some large donations so they are busy getting ready to reopen the in-patient unit and Dina is doing more staff training. Rebecca and her friend, Kathlene, thoroughly enjoyed their Rangers trip to Switzerland in January. They especially enjoyed the snow activities. Sean and the other girls are also doing well and keeping busy.

Diane is very busy with Scripture Union. She is involved in writing materials for their training. The most recent project was a manual for a Holiday

Club (like Vacation Bible School). She works with a few other creative people to produce the materials. (She roped me in to do some proof-reading for her as the deadline approached.) Matthew is three and full of energy. He certainly keeps his parents on their toes. Being a typical boy he loves playing with toads, frogs, snails, and slugs – much to his mommy's disgust! John has been very busy at work and with some farm issues.

Dawn and JP have had some real hassles. Their cars have both given some problems, but one is back to normal and they are working on the other one. Chayah started grade one this year. She is in the school where Dawn teaches, but is in a different class. She is doing very well. Seanna is still struggling with the eczema. They still aren't sure what the triggers are and at times her sores bleed. In spite of it all she remains a cheery little girl!



*Chayah started grade one this year. She is in the school that her mom and aunts attended and where her mom teaches.*