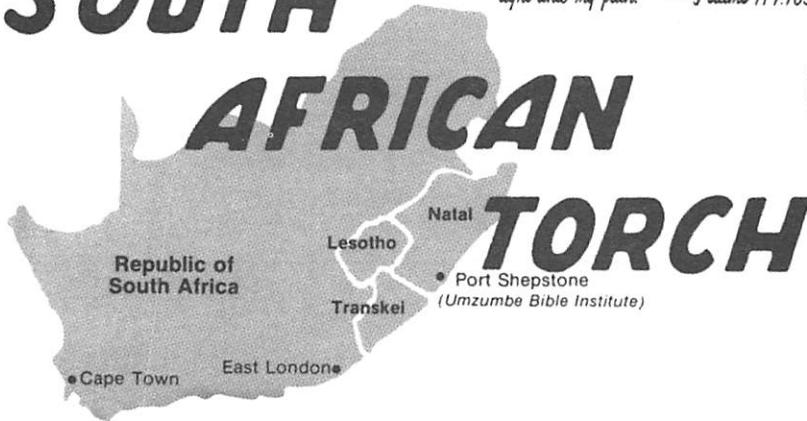


SOUTH

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

AFRICAN



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Ministers' Week 2015

by Michael Stanley

This year the annual Easter services and the annual Ministers' Week (weeklong workshop) got pulled together. The result was that we did not even return home after the Easter services (to do so would have added about 500 miles to the trip). We drove around Swaziland to get to Barberton and then on to White River. The local congregation together with other congregations in the region were very congenial hosts. The local minister made sure that all arrangements were carefully handled. This was

encouraging because he is diabetic and we understood that diabetes had taken a heavy toll on his health. He looked well and was very active during the meetings.

On the first day I was reminded that I was in Africa. Shortly before the service was to begin someone came to me and said I would be the preacher. I had to quickly look through the notes in my Bible to see if I



Michael preached on Tuesday morning having been given very short notice. Abel Dube was his interpreter. Abel is a former teacher at Umzumba Bible Institute.



The host minister, Ollfeet Mkhundlu and his wife, Beltinah (far left) pose with some of the ministers and their wives. He had everything well organized for the gathering.

Ministers' Week 2015

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had anything that I could adapt to the theme which was "Blessed are the pure in heart." I must have succeeded because I had a couple of ministers compliment me on the message.

Richard Gallant who ministers in the Western Cape, gave a lesson on purity and how to handle purity issues in the church. His lesson was very good and I hope it encouraged ministers to give more attention to Christian purity especially among the youth of the church.

As usual I missed a number of meetings of the executive committee because I had extra responsibilities as treasurer. It seems that every year I have to take care of photocopying for the various meetings. This year the men also asked for picture ID's. In order to be recognized as ministers in public meetings the men must

have picture ID's. I took advantage of the fact that the men were present so we could take pictures and make up the needed ID's. Another issue was a tummy bug that kept Caryl and me out of circulation for one day.

The home where we stayed had been recently remodeled and was beautiful. The family went out of their way to make us feel at home so we were very comfortable. We have not always felt safe in African townships, but the White River area seemed to be a low crime area.

A number of the ministers left a day early and that gave a group of us an opportunity to do some sightseeing in the area. This included the Blyde River Canyon, God's Window, and the Three Rondawels (three distinctive mountain peaks). It was especially enjoyable to go sightseeing with some of the ministers and their families. We all had a wonderful time.

Umntwanungamizizwe High School

Michael developed a long standing relationship with Mr. Zamisa and Mrs. Hlophe, teachers at the high school. This has made it possible for him to speak at the high school every Tuesday morning. Michael addresses issues like HIV and AIDS and teenage pregnancy, as well as Christian values.



Family News

by Caryl Stanley

The family is all doing well. Sean and Dina are both busy with work and transporting three active girls to their activities! Rebecca is in her last year of high school and still doing dancing (modern, tap and ballroom) so she is a busy girl. Gabriella is still in Girl Guides and her school work keeps her busy. Erin is 5. She started modern dancing lessons this year and she loves it!

Diane and John keep busy with their jobs. Diane has had to do some traveling so occasionally we get Matthew when she is away. He keeps us busy, but also brings us lots of joy! Diane and John are preparing for a move – from a little house on the family farm to a bigger house on the farm. They are just waiting for John's sister and her family to finish moving out.

Dawn and JP are in the process of buying a house. They have been looking for several months and have recently found the ONE! They are busy with all the paperwork on it and hope to move there in August. The house they are in now is quite damp and is really not healthy for their girls who both have respiratory problems. Recently Seanna was admitted to hospital as she was suffering from severe allergic reactions. We knew she was allergic to eggs, but a doctor decided to find out

if there were more allergies. Test results revealed that she is allergic to eggs, wheat, milk, shellfish, dogs, cats, grass, dust mites, cockroaches, mold, etc.! So they had to get rid of their dog and change Seanna's diet. She goes to day care, but now Dawn sends all of her food with her. We all have to be careful to read ingredients so we don't give her foods she shouldn't have. She is very cooperative and never complains when she can't have the same treats as the other children. And her skin is clearing up and she is doing so much better!



At the annual Ministers Week they raffled a painting by Hendry Lekwate, a former student at Umzumbe Bible Institute. Caryl held the winning ticket and Mrs. Lekwate was there to present the painting to her.

Easter at Ingwavuma

by Caryl Stanley

The Easter meetings for KwaZulu Natal were held in the far north of the province. These services always start early on Friday morning so we traveled part of the way on Thursday and stayed overnight in Eshowe. We stayed at a B&B where we have stayed many times, but the lady who owns it had gone to visit family so we didn't get to see her.

The meetings were held at a school. Some of the people slept in the school rooms and some of us stayed in B&B's in and around the town. We had all of our meals at the school.

Services were held all day on Friday with messages about the Seven Last Words of Jesus from the Cross interspersed with singing and prayers. On Saturday Michael led devotions before we divided into groups of men, women and youth for classes. I was asked to teach the women



Caryl was asked to repeat the lesson from the Women's Workshop as there were very few ladies from our province at the workshop.

and repeat the lesson I had taught for the women's workshop in Bloemfontein in February. After lunch there was a business meeting and some time for fellowship. After supper there was a service that went on late into the night. We did not attend that service as we felt that we needed to get sleep as we were going to make a long trip the next day to go to the Ministers' Week.

Sunday morning we got a phone call early in the morning to ask Michael to conduct the communion service as the one who was designated to lead was not there. After the service and a meal we left to drive to Barberton to attend the Ministers' Week.

Umzumbe Bible Institute

For several years we have been trying to decide what to do with the Umzumbe Bible Institute property. It is registered in Michael's name, but is really for use by the church, day care center and seniors' club. We have considered donating it to the national church, provincial church or local church. For each of them, there are some advantages and some disadvantages.

Just before we left South Africa we had some serious discussions with local church leaders and progress was made. Please pray for us as we try to work out all of the details and make a final decision.

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UMZUMBE BIBLE INSTITUTE

Michael and Caryl Stanley

P.O. Box 13

4225 UMZUMBE

Republic of South Africa

Tel: +27-39-684-6517

E-mail: stanleys@zamission.org

Webpage: www.zamission.org

Forwarding Agent:

Duane Stanley

P.O. Box 18531

Minneapolis, MN 55418-0531

Mission Services

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Our Trip to the United States

by Caryl Stanley

Michael and I spent a lot of April and May preparing for our personal trip to the United States. We decided that as we and our siblings are getting older we needed to have some time with them. When we are on furlough we are often busy on weekends and do not get to attend family activities.



(from the left): Sharon Huggett, Caryl, and Juanita Gillespie. Caryl and her sisters enjoyed time together. Travel to a funeral in southwestern Minnesota provided plenty of time to get caught up.

We took care of a lot of office and financial work during the last two months so we could be gone for the next two months. We did not get anyone to stay in our house while we are gone, but our children and the neighborhood watch will check on the house regularly.

For the months of June and July we will be in the United States so we can attend some family reunions and other family activities, including my step-mom's 95th birthday! We are staying with my sister, Juanita. Both of Michael's brothers and my other sister also live close by so we can see them regularly.

We will attend a Stanley family reunion in Tennessee in late June and a Westfield family reunion in Minnesota in mid-July. We plan to take in some other activities like a baseball game, a live theater performance, a train ride, shopping, eating out, and family gatherings!