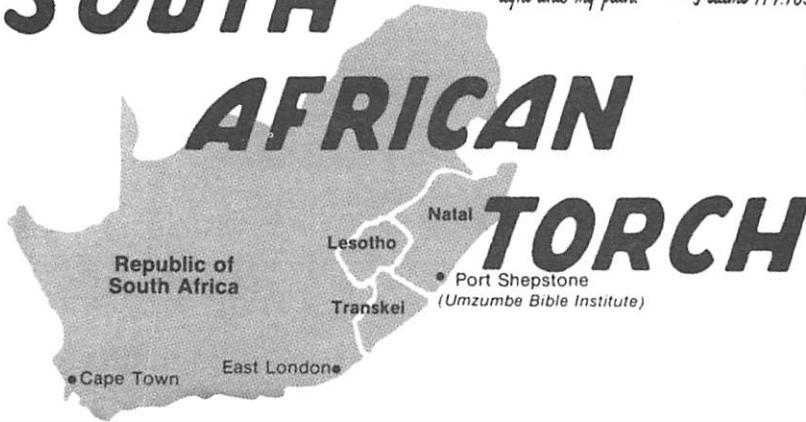


# SOUTH

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



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## *Christmas Greetings from our house to your house.*

May God bless all of our celebrations as we remember  
the birth of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ.



*Michael and Caryl at  
Como Park in July, 2015*



*At our final Magog Senior Citizens' Club  
meeting of the year we exchanged Christmas  
gifts with the person whose name we  
had drawn.*



*A local crèche shared Christmas gifts with our  
children at Sinothando Crèche.*

# Magog Senior Citizens' Club Christmas Celebrations

On the 2nd of December the Magog Senior Citizens' Club gathered at a hotel in the village of Umzumbe for a Christmas dinner. The tables were beautifully decorated and we were treated to a delicious buffet dinner. It was a joyous occasion.

On the 9th of December we gathered at the usual place at Umzumbe Bible Institute for the November and December birthday party and our Christmas party. There was an abundance of food and lots of fun and laughter. We had drawn names a few weeks ago and then bought gifts to exchange. Each person held his/her own gift and then presented it to the recipient with much song and dance!

Now the Club is in recess until schools reopen in January. It seems quite unusual to be home on Wednesday and Friday mornings.



*The seniors enjoyed a delicious meal at a local hotel for their Christmas celebration.*

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## Sinothando Crèche Graduation



*The children dress in caps and gowns for their graduation from crèche to primary school. It is a big celebration.*

The school year ended in early December. The teachers and parents organized a graduation ceremony for the nine children who will go to the primary school next year. There was a program with items by the children, a speech by Michael (who is the director of the crèche), awarding of attendance certificates, presents and food.

We went to Umzumbe Bible Institute early to help get things ready. As usual with these events, they started

several hours later than the advertised time. That just meant that the program continued long into the afternoon.

This year the police brought gifts for the children. Each child received a box which had been prepared by children at a crèche in a more affluent area near Port Shepstone.



*Michael was asked to give the speech to the parents at the graduation ceremony. The mother who led the program also interpreted for him.*

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## New Ministry Opportunity at Magog Primary School

In November Michael was asked if he would serve on the Environmental awareness committee at Magog Primary School. He met with the committee on two occasions to plan activities for 2016. This opened the door for further involvement in the school. Mrs. Memela, the principal, asked if we would revive our "Life Skills" program which included Bible lessons for Grade 7. Caryl taught 3 lessons before end of year activities prevented further teaching. A fourth lesson was a video that we showed for the grade 7 pupils. It was disrupted when about three groups of younger students joined our class. Next year we hope to expand the classes to include grade 6 pupils.



*Caryl presented Bible lessons for the Grade 7 students in November.*

## South African Bible Institute Extension Classes

Because of our trip to the US, preparation for the annual conference and other activities, Michael had not been able to have his South African Bible Institute Extension classes for several months. They finally were able to have the next session the first weekend in December. Unfortunately the other teacher and two of the students weren't able to be there, but the remaining three students requested that they go ahead anyway. Michael decided to use a teaching video for some of the lessons.



*These men are enthusiastic students of the South African Bible Institute extension classes Michael teaches at Umzumbe Bible Institute.*

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## Family News

The end of the school year is always a busy time for the family. We were away and didn't get to attend the day care end-of-year program of Erin and Seanna. I gather they did quite well! We attended the prize-giving program for Rebecca and Gabriella. They both got prizes and Rebecca was again chosen as a prefect – which is a student leadership position.

Rebecca, Erin, Chayah and Seanna were in the dance studio program. They did Peter Pan. Rebecca was in several dances as she is one of the senior dancers.



*Rebecca in action as Tiger Lily in the dance studio's rendition of Peter Pan.*

ers. She played the part of Tiger Lily and even had a solo performance. Chayah was in two dances and did well. Erin was a doll and Seanna was a "tiger" stuffed toy from the children's toy box. Of course, we think our grandchildren stole the show!!

Chayah's birthday is in December and it falls on a public holiday so she had a big party with family and friends. Fortunately, Dawn and JP now have a bigger house and a nice yard so they had plenty of space. They even had a slippery-slide (water slide) for the children.



*Chayah participated in the Peter Pan show.*



*Seanna as a stuffed-toy tiger and Erin as a doll in Peter Pan.*

## South African Torch

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## A Special Wedding



*Nokuphiwa and Mbongeleni Mbhele on their wedding day.*

Several years ago we were privileged to meet Nokuphiwa Mvuna, the sister of a high school English student we had been helping. Nokuphiwa wanted to go to the University of Cape Town to study medicine, but her family didn't have the money to pay her boarding deposit. We were able to help her get a scholarship so she could go to university. We kept contact with her over the years and Michael always asked her about her studies, her relationships and her walk with the Lord. In 2010 we were thrilled to attend her graduation ceremony when she finished her studies and became a doctor. She is finishing up her community service at the end of this year. Now she can choose where she will work.

In December she got married and we were invited to attend the wedding. It was a beautiful wedding and we were impressed with the ceremony and the reception. Most people provide alcohol for the wedding guests even if they don't drink, but Nokuphiwa and Mbongeleni chose to provide non-alcoholic champagne for their wedding. We wish her and her husband a long and happy marriage.