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## Ministers Week' -- KwaZulu Natal by Michael Stanley

The annual Ministers Week was held 6 to 11 March. This put the meeting very close to Easter, so we had a very busy month. This event usually involves a long trip for us, but this year it was held in our province (KwaZulu Natal). This was welcome as it meant that we had less than 200 miles to drive and it was all on good tarred roads. Eshowe is a town that we used to visit once a month for several years so we were able to visit with friends that we had not seen for a long time.

While we were there we stayed with Gama Ncanana who is one of my extension students. We enjoyed visiting with him and his family even though our schedules were very busy.

The venue for the meeting was excellent. It was a Roman Catholic facility that was very well maintained and met all of our needs. On top of that the weather cooperated making our stay in Eshowe very pleasant. The sermons and teaching were good and encouraging. We felt that all aspects of the program were worthwhile.

A surprise came at the response to the

videos that we showed. We had borrowed a projector and brought some Christian movies. Caryl showed a couple of them to the women. They obviously enjoyed them. Later the men came to me and wanted to watch the video as well. The response to the movie "Courageous" was particularly enthusiastic. We need to make more use of video material for teaching.



Michael and Steve Caulley met with some of the church leaders to discuss the way forward for the South African Bible Institute.

## Ministers' Week -- Women by Caryl Stanley

Several years ago the ministers' wives started attending Ministers' Week with their husbands. They wanted to have some teaching instead of just sitting around while the men were meeting. Then they decided to learn crafts that they could use for leisure and to earn extra money. Over the years we have had some lessons and discussions which have been really good. We have also learned table setting, how to make Bible covers and how to do beading and cross stitch. I thoroughly enjoyed learning beading and I have taught cross stitch.

This year the chairlady of the ministers' wives was unable to attend and had only planned one lesson. The ladies were wondering what to do with the rest of their time. Michael and I had taken some Christian videos along so the ladies watched two of them and discussed what we had seen. When the outing had to be cancelled because of rainy weather, some of the ladies asked to watch *Courageous* and some of the men joined us. After the movie several of them asked where they could get the movie. Shortly after we got home, one of the ministers contacted us to say he had bought the movie and he and his wife were watching it together!

I had also taken cross stitch materials with me to Ministers' Week. Several of the ladies really enjoyed learning that in the past so they made more items this year.

I really felt that we had a successful and encouraging time together.



The ministers' wives spent some time in the afternoon doing cross stitch and enjoying getting better acquainted.

## Family News by Caryl Stanley

Michael had cataract surgery on both eyes in January. He has really good distance vision now, but still needs to wear glasses for reading. He wears the glasses most of the time because it is easier than trying to remember where he left them! Just after the cataract surgeries he had prostate surgery. It took him about a month to really feel like he was back to normal after that. Fortunately, he is feeling fine now and able to get back to all the normal activities.

Dina's family all seem to be doing well. Rebecca is nearly finished with high school and is planning to work with the youth at the church for a few months while she decides what to do next.

Diane and John are adjusting to their new situation. John resigned from the motor industry at

the end of February and joined the family farm. It is a huge change, but he is enjoying it so far. They also started a new business late last year called Jolly Fresh. People order vegetables on-line. Then Diane and John get the vegetables, pack them in boxes and deliver them to the customers. Matthew started pre-school in January and is loving it! He fell out of a tree in their yard recently and had to have a doctor repair his chin!

Dawn and JP found out in February that his mother had a cancerous brain tumor. She is still in hospital having treatment after the tumor was removed. Dawn

recently went to the doctor because she was losing her hair. The doctor did some tests and found that she is allergic to wheat and peanuts - two of her favorite things! So now she and Seanna are both on limited diets. Seanna fell in a restaurant in March and hurt her right "shoulder." After a few days they decided to have X-rays and found that she had broken her collar bone. They put her arm in a sling for about three weeks. She is right-handed, but now she has to do everything with her left hand.



We spent a few days at a holiday resort with John, Diane and Matthew. Grandpa and Matthew got to shoot a bow and arrows.



Seanna fell down a step in a restaurant and hit her shoulder on the next table. She broke her collarbone and will be in a sling for a few weeks.

## Easter by Michael Stanley

Easter is a very important time for Christians in Africa. People will travel great distances to attend special services over the Easter weekend. We had more than 400 people attend services in Mvutshini. A group of about 40 came from Ingwavuma, a trip of more than 300 miles.

We were blessed before Easter when Bill Weber (former missionary to South Africa) arrived with his grandson, Ethan. We really enjoyed visiting with them and we were very happy that they were able to stay for the Easter services. Bill was put on the program and we enjoyed his message. The youth were blessed when Ethan brought a message for them.

The sermons were very enthusiastic and they were amplified by a capable sound system. Some of us thought the sound was too loud. As usual, Friday was devoted to the seven words of Jesus on the cross. There were sermons and lessons for everyone. On Saturday the group

divided up and separate lessons were provided for men, women, youth, and ministers.

The lines at the dining room were always long, but that was to be expected with a group that big. The food was good and that is a significant factor in deciding how successful the meetings were.

I was asked to serve at the Lord's Table on Sunday morning. My message was short, but it always takes a long time to serve a large crowd like that.

There was some rain on Friday night. There were a few places where the rain made some people in the tent uncomfortable but not enough to dampen the enthusiasm of those attending the meetings. Some of the people left early on Sunday morning. Others left immediately after the Lord's Supper. By noon there remained a huge task of cleaning up which was done by the local congregation.



Bill Weber, former missionary to South Africa who now lives in Cincinnati, visited us in South Africa and spoke at the Easter meetings in Kwa-Zulu Natal.



Caryl was sitting near one of the speakers for the PA system. She felt the system was way too loud and so she later moved. Some of the rest of us also thought the PA system was much too loud and we tried to stay as far from the speakers as we could.

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## Magog Senior Citizens' Club

We missed most of the meetings in January as Michael had cataract surgery on both eyes and then had prostate surgery. In spite of our absence, the Club continued as usual. We have a director who is capable of carrying on with the program.

The main activities are tea with sandwiches, a worship and prayer service, and lunch. Once a month the government mobile clinic comes to Umzumbe Bible Institute and supplies chronic medicines, baby immunizations and health checkups for the community. Many of our seniors' club members attend the clinic.



*The January and February birthdays were celebrated with cake and a meal. Doreen Madlala, the lady on the right, is from our church and she turned 84 this year.*

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## Sinothando Creche

The day care center is open again this year. The two teachers from last year are back with a new group of children. There are 11 children registered. Many of them are very young and still in diapers. That adds to the work for the teachers. One teacher has not been

well from the beginning of the year. We finally took her to our family doctor and the doctor sent her for testing for tuberculosis. It takes several weeks to get the results so we are still waiting, but the doctor was confident that she has tuberculosis.