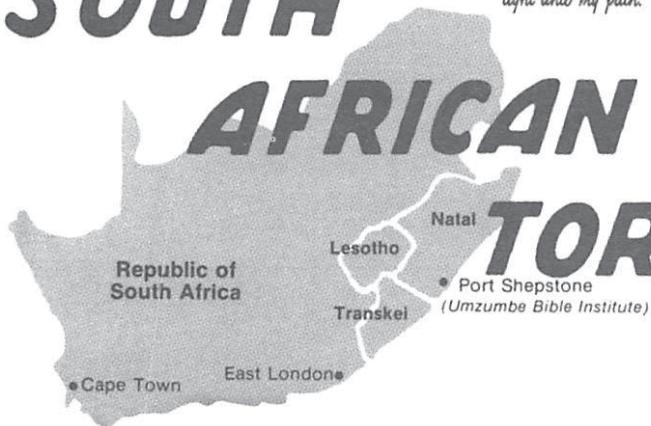


SOUTH AFRICAN TORCH



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



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Youth Camp by Michael Stanley

I took campers from Umzumbe and nearby areas to Camperdown for the annual youth camp. I had been to the Shekina Camp several years earlier and I could not remember how to get there. I had received directions over the phone, but they did not make sense to me. Garmin could not find the camp and even a doctor (long term resident of the area) and a policeman could not help me. Eventually I decided to try on my own for the third time. I traveled much further on a gravel road than I thought I needed to but I was rewarded by finding the entrance to the Shekina Camp. I found out that the directions I got over the phone were for someone who was approaching from the opposite direction.

Much of the camp was routine with five of us doing the teaching. One afternoon we had a combined class that was billed as a discussion. In spite of efforts to initiate discussion the students remained silent. Finally one of the teachers decided to use a Spelling Bee as a time filler. As the Spelling Bee progressed the teacher modified the rules to suit the camp circumstances and that drew a response from the campers. The result was a lengthy and very robust discussion which had almost everyone participating. Some felt the rules could not be tampered with. Others accepted some changes but with very little agreement about which changes. I laughed out loud as I watched the debate develop. I am not sure who won the Spelling Bee, but if I ever have to pull a debating team together I know who to choose to be on my team. One is a young man from Umzumbe.



Some of the young people who came to youth camp gathered for a time of fellowship.

I think that everyone enjoyed the camp even though not all of the classes progressed as planned. I pray that the lessons found a place in the hearts of the campers and that application of the lessons will continue to take place.



Sipho Nhlenyama, one of the younger ministers taught the youth at camp.

KwaZulu Natal Women's & Men's Conference by Caryl Stanley

This year the KwaZulu Natal annual women's and men's conference was held on July 8 and 9 at the Nkotheneneni Church about 30 miles from home. During the day on Saturday the men and women had lessons and meetings. It was disappointing that there were very few youth there, but they had just completed a week of youth camp so many of them did not come to the services.

Although I was there I was not feeling very well as I was still recovering from my appendectomy. I ended up spending some time resting. We returned home on Saturday evening, but those who had gathered for the meetings had an all-night service. That is quite normal at combined meetings as finding sleeping places for so many people is difficult and they enjoy the singing and messages.

We returned on Sunday morning for the worship service. By then some of those from distant churches had returned home. Michael led the communion service and one of the ministers preached.

It is always a blessing to gather together for worship and fellowship.



School ministry. Just before Caryl left for the US Peter Nuttall from Scripture Union went with her to Magog Primary School. He gave a devotional talk and then gave new Bibles to every student in grade 7. The Bibles are sponsored by the Bible Society.



The ministers always sit at the front of the church. Brother Ncanana, who is at Michael's right, preached on Sunday morning and Michael led the communion service at the KwaZulu Natal conference in July.

Day Care Center

Our day care continues to grow. We now have about 35 children on the register - though they do not all attend regularly. The teachers are helping prepare the pre-school children for school next year.

Michael continues to oversee the four teachers and he occasionally take time to play with the children. When he returns to the U.S. in October a lady from the church will oversee the center. She has done that for us before and is very familiar with the teachers and children. We are fully confident of her ability to take that responsibility.



Michael bought a small skateboard, but the pre-schoolers haven't been able to master it yet. However, they love it when Michael helps them get on and takes them for rides.

Family News by Caryl Stanley

Our furlough plans changed suddenly when I was notified that my younger sister, Juanita, had been diagnosed with a recurrence of cancer. The doctors said that if I wanted to see her I should return to the U.S. "sooner rather than later." Our original plan was to travel back in mid-October, after the annual church conference. We decided that Michael would stay with the original plan and I would travel before the end of August.

I left South Africa on August 24 and arrived in Minneapolis on August 25. I flew from Margate to Cape Town where I had to wait 9 hours and then I flew to Amsterdam and Minneapolis. My sister, Sharon, her husband, Dave, and my niece, Paula, met me and took me to see Juanita. She recognized me when I walked in and gave me a big smile. I was able to talk to her and spend time with her. Unfortunately, she was in a lot of pain and was not really able to talk to me.

After our visit I went home with Sharon and Dave. On Saturday morning at 6:30 Juanita passed away. I am sorry I did not get more time with her, but I am glad for the few hours we had together. We had been able to Skype recently and I cherish the conversations we had together then.

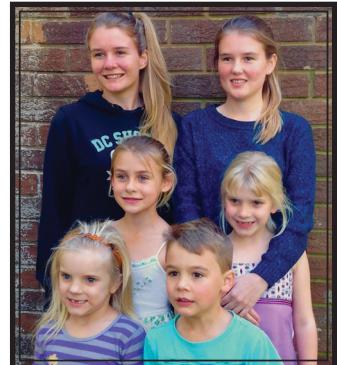
Now I am spending my time with Sharon and Dave and with Michael's brother, Larry, and his wife, Marguerite. Larry helped me get a car so we will have a nice 2010 Honda Accord for our transportation during furlough. I will also be available to help Paula sort out Juanita's apartment and give whatever support I can to her family.

Michael is getting ready for the annual conference. He and I worked a lot on his financial report before I left and he will finish that up. Then he will collect all of the reports and have them published in the booklet that will have to be printed for the conference delegates.

Our daughters will help Michael get the house ready for our absence. We decided to leave the house unoccupied. They will remove the most valuable things and we will have our neighbor and the community watch keep an eye on the house. We will have a garden service take care of the lawn while we are away. Pray with us that everything will be in order when we get back.



Shortly after Caryl arrived in the US, Michael's brother, Larry, helped her locate and buy a car. We found a 2010 Honda Accord and we have been assured it is in excellent condition.



The Sunday before Caryl left South Africa she was able to get a photo of all of the grandchildren together. From back they are Rebecca and Gabriella Thorncroft, Erin Thorncroft and Chayah Ferreira, and Seanna Ferreira and Matthew Evans.

Praise and prayer

Thank the Lord for Caryl's safe trip back to the U.S.

Thank the Lord that Caryl got to spend a few hours with her sister before she passed away.
Thank the Lord for family who are hosting Caryl in the U.S. and Michael in South Africa.

Pray for the annual church conference in early October.

Pray for Michael as he prepares for his trip to the U.S.

Pray for safe travels for Michael.

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Magog Senior Citizens' Club

We have had one member pass away during the last few months. We attended her funeral with other members of the Club and many family members and neighbors. The family had set up a large tent and the service lasted for a few hours with speeches, singing and a sermon. We did not go to the grave-side service because the grave was on a very steep hillside.

One of our other regular members went to stay with family in Cape Town because he was quite ill and his son wanted to take him for treatment there. We have missed him. He is back home but still not able to attend our meetings.

A few of our members participated in the Golden Games where they competed against people from other local seniors' clubs in some athletic events. Some of them will go on to compete in a regional competition. Despite their age some of our members are still quite active. Because most of them walk everywhere they go, they are quite strong.



Mrs. Doreen Mjweni (secretary of the club) and Mrs. Pretty Zamisa (director) are essential to the Magog Senior Citizens' Club.