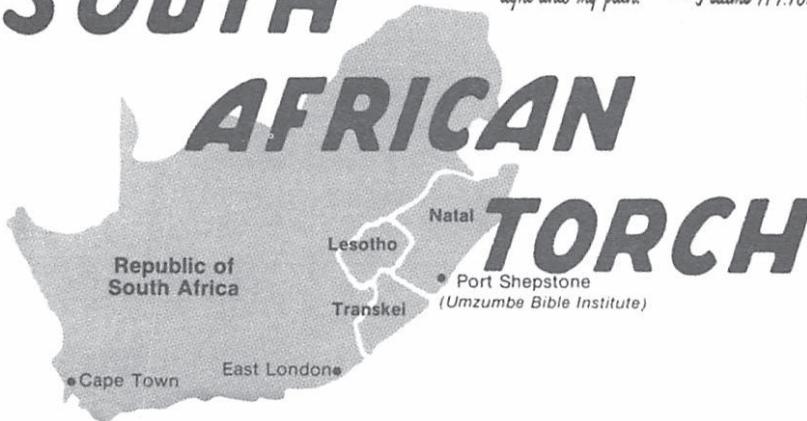


SOUTH

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

AFRICAN



Vol. 69

Second Quarter, 2018

No. 2

Ministers' Week

We were not sure we would attend the annual Ministers' Week this year. It was held in East London which is about a 10 hour drive from home on some pretty dangerous roads. We didn't feel we could make the trip in two days because there isn't a good place to stay halfway. In the end we decided to go, but we decided to travel by bus. Unfortunately, that meant that we didn't have a vehicle when we got there.



The ministers' wives made scarves with beading for their handwork project this year.

One of the big problems at the campsite was that the organizers under-estimated the number of people who would attend. They booked for 30 people to stay and then nearly 100 people arrived.

We slept one night in a two-room cottage with six men and then we moved to a nearby B&B where two of the ministers, who could provide transport for us, were staying.



Michael taught a lesson and John Mpompo interpreted.

The lessons and sermons were very good. There were some really good prayer sessions, too. We really enjoyed the fellowship with ministers and their wives from all over the country. The women also did a handwork project. They made traditional beaded head coverings.

Wrapping Up The Church of Christ Mission Responsibilities

Michael served as treasurer of the national organization in South Africa for 8 years from October 2009 until October 2017. A new treasurer was elected at Conference. Shortly after that Michael left for the US so they were not able to change the signatories on the bank account. The original plan was for the signatories to meet in East London during Ministers' Week in March to go to the bank and to do the handover of all the materials. Unfortunately, not everyone was available so that didn't work.

Most of the new Executive Committee lives near Kimberley so they asked us to come there to try again in early April. We gathered all of the financial records and stationery for the new treasurer and traveled to Kimberley. We were able to complete all of the handover to the new treasurer except getting the signatories changed on the account. The Executive didn't have all the necessary documents the bank required. They were able to get the new check book and Michael will continue to issue checks until the new executive can get all the papers they need. From now on the work will be handled by the new treasurer.



Michael went to Kimberley in April and met with Brother Siyo who is the new treasurer of the Church of Christ Mission.

Easter

The provincial gathering for Easter was held at a school near the Gcilima church, which is less than an hour's drive from our house. It is very near Diane and John's house so we stayed with them for the weekend. There were about 500 people at the meetings. They met in a very large tent, which was too small for the crowd. When the rain started to fall everyone moved closer together so those outside could squeeze inside.

Friday was the usual preaching, singing and praying. As usual they preached on the Seven Last Words of Jesus from the cross. Michael had been warned that the person designated to speak on behalf of the Umzumbe church probably wouldn't make it there in time so he should prepare a message. When we arrived and looked at the program we found out that he had been given the wrong "words" so he had to prepare a new message while he listened to the previous speakers! Despite the short amount of time for preparation, he had a good message.



Syvion Nxumalo was one of the seven preachers at the Friday service during Easter weekend.



The funeral for Melica Zobolo, widow of Jethro Zobolo, was on Saturday during the Easter weekend.

Saturday's usual program of teaching had to be abandoned as the Gcilima minister's wife had passed away the week before and the funeral was held on Saturday. She was the wife Jethro Zobolo, the minister who passed away in January. Ministers from other parts of South Africa also came so it was a very big funeral.

Family News

Top of the list in our family news has to be the arrival of our newest grandchild. Michael Roger Evans was born on April 19th to Diane and John. He is named after his two grandpas! Matthew is a very proud big brother. He had prayed for years for a little brother and God answered his prayer. Michael and I spent the first week with Diane and John so we could help with transporting Matthew to and from school and help with meal preparation, etc. We now have 5 granddaughters and 2 grandsons!

The other exciting news from family is that Dina and Sean's eldest daughter, Rebecca, got engaged to Ruahn Beattie, a Christian friend she met through National Sea Rescue Institute. Rebecca is now working for Diane and John in their Jolly Fresh business. She collects produce, helps pack the hampers and then delivers them. Dina and Sean are busy helping Gabriella prepare for a trip to the US - a gift from her American great uncles. She had a South African passport and recently got her American visa. She will spend about 2 months visiting, meeting relatives, learning about the US and making a lot of memories! Erin invited Grandpa Stanley to come to the Easter sunrise service on the beach because she had decided to be baptized and she wanted Grandpa to baptize her. What a blessing!

Dawn and JP had a bit of vacation during a recent school break. JP took some time off from work so they were able to do some family activities together. Chayah is very happy in her school. She has a lovely teacher and has made friends. She loves school. Seanna is a very active little girl and keeps everyone on their toes.



Ruahn has been involved in family activities for a couple of years. He recently proposed to Rebecca.



Matthew is a very proud big brother to Michael.

South African Torch

Published quarterly

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Magog Senior Citizens Club

We reported in the last issue of the South African Torch that Doreen Madlala, an Umzumbe Church of Christ member and one of the oldest members of the club had fallen and broken her leg. She passed away in mid-March. She was a special lady and we really miss her. Another lady, who was one of the youngest members, also passed away in March. She had only one leg because of an accident as a child.



Agnes Mkhwazi, who was one of the youngest members, also passed away in March.

We have had some new members join the club in the past few months, but some of the older members have not been able to attend regularly because of health issues. One man who has severe breathing problems comes often but sometimes has to be rushed home because his breathing becomes too labored.

Several members of the club are preparing for the annual Golden Games. These are competitions between senior citizens' clubs in the area.



Doreen Madlala, who was a foundation member of the club passed away in March.