

# SOUTH

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



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## Furlough By Caryl Stanley

As many of you know we were in the United States last year. I came in August to see my terminally ill sister, who passed away less than 24 hours after I arrived. I spent the next seven weeks with my older sister and brother-in-law while Michael wrapped up his preparations for the annual church conference and then he joined me here.

We were able to visit eight of our supporting churches, meet with our board, attend the International Conference on Missions in Peoria and spend some time with my sister and Michael's brothers.

In January we returned to South Africa. Michael's American brothers announced that they were planning to travel to South Africa for their niece's wedding. Since Michael and Debbie live in South Africa and Duane and Larry live in the United States, it is not often that all four siblings are on the same side of the ocean. In addition to the wedding we were able to do a photo safari to the Tembe Elephant Reserve with the siblings and James Nicholson, a close friend. We were also able to be in South Africa to welcome grandson number two, Michael Roger Evans, in April.

Now we are back in the United States. We are staying with Michael's brothers in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area. We plan to visit our remaining supporting churches and individuals to report on our ministry in South Africa. By the end of August we had already been to two churches in Nebraska and one church in Iowa. We took the opportunity while we were traveling to visit some friends and individual supporters. What a blessing to get reacquainted with friends we haven't seen for some time. We will be able to attend the International Conference on Missions again. It will be in Cincinnati in November. Then we will return to South Africa in December.

While we are away from South Africa we have arranged for others to take care of our house and the day care center and seniors club. We have a good neighborhood watch system in our community, but we also arranged for our neighbor to keep an eye on our house while we are away. We hired a garden service to keep the grass cut and the weeds under control.

Malu Zamisa, a lady from our church at Umzumbe who oversees the seniors' club, agreed to also oversee the day care center. We have contact with her through our mobile phones so we are keeping in touch with her.

We have not had much news from the local church, but Michael gets regular information from some of the national ministers. They are busy preparing for the annual conference which will be held in early October.

# Furlough continued...

*Michael and Caryl Stanley with a display of their ministry in South Africa.*



## Planning for the Future By Michael Stanley

We met with the board that oversees our work in November last year. They felt that it was unwise for us to formally retire at this stage. They noted that Caryl and I are still in good health and I made it clear that I plan to continue with the work that I have been doing.

We will continue to perform many of the responsibilities that we have had over the past 5 years. The biggest change has been the election of a new treasurer for the Church of Christ Mission. The finances of the mission are now in the hands of Brother Siyo from Kimberley. He has a lot of experience in the field of financial management. This means that I am no longer a member of the executive committee. I no longer make the long trips which were part of my job description – a welcome change.

I will continue to preach and work with church leaders at Umzumbe (two or more weeks per month). When we return to SA I will resume my work of speaking at the high school every Tuesday. Caryl will resume teaching a Bible lesson to her class of Grade 7 students.

I will also continue with my classes for the South African Bible Institute. These classes which are taught by Israel Mfeka and myself are an important aspect of leadership development. I will consult with church leaders as I have done in the past and I will participate in provincial meetings like Easter and youth camps.

I have not taught at the South African Bible Institute in Kimberley for several years now. Since I am teaching leadership development classes in KwaZulu Natal I do not plan to resume teaching in Kimberley.

*Jackson Ndovela – School teacher: He has missed seminars because of family and work commitments.*

*Israel Mfeka - Extension class teacher – He is a graduate of South African Bible Institute and he and his wife minister in KwaZulu Natal.*

*Gama Ncanana – Teacher and entrepreneur: He has been faithful in attending seminars and even hosted one seminar at his home in Eshowe.*

*Michael Stanley – Extension class teacher – Missionary for 47 years in South Africa.*

*Sivion Nxumalo – Motor industry: Chosen to take several workshops to improve his work skills. Very faithful in attending church leadership seminars.*

*Edward Sikiwe – Very faithful in attending seminars. He always handed his assignments in on time and did very good work. He was our researcher. He knew how to find information on the internet – until his tablet was stolen.*

*Bro. Dinga (Not pictured) – Self employed. He, along with Bro. Gina, serve as elders in charge of the Ingwavuma Circuit. He was faithful in attending seminars until he developed life-threatening health issues. Recent reports say that his health has improved .*



# Family News

We are missing the family. We know Dina and Sean have done some home improvements while we have been away so we are anxious to see their house. Their oldest daughter, Rebecca, is planning her wedding. Their second daughter, Gabriella, is visiting the United States for a few weeks so we have been able to join in some of the activities with her. Erin, the youngest, is missing her big sister as they normally share a bedroom.

Diane and John keep busy with the farm and their on-line produce business. Matthew is active in school and sport activities. Michael is growing fast and I am sure we are missing out on a lot of the excitement of a baby.

Dawn and JP keep us informed about their family. The girls enjoy riding their bikes and scooters. Seanna, who is 7, has just been fitted with glasses. No one realized how weak her eyes were!



*Sharon, my sister, and I took Gabriella to see our step-mom, whom she has never met, and our step-sister, LoAnn Hanson.*

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## Gabriella's Visit

We had been in the US for just over five weeks when Gabriella arrived for her ten-week visit to the US. We had settled in with Michael's brother, Larry, and his wife, Marguerite, and arranged our speaking schedule. We visited my step-mother; visited some historic sites with Michael's brother, Duane, and his wife, Kathy; enjoyed a picnic reunion with my two remaining aunts, an uncle, and cousins and their families; and made a trip to visit supporting churches and individuals in Nebraska and Iowa.



*Uncle Larry is helping Gabriella with her math lessons.*

Since Gabriella arrived we have joined in many of the activities that had been planned for her. We went to a baseball game (and the Twins won); went on a weekend camping trip; attended the Minnesota State Fair and the grandstand show; visited my step-mother again; visited the science museum, the history center and an 1850's living-history farm; and spent some time just visiting with family. There will still be outings to see the source of her Mississippi River, Williamsburg, Virginia, and a dinner theater production. Gabriella will also go to Orlando before she returns to South Africa. In the midst of her many activities she is also working on some school work that she needs to do while she is missing school.

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## Magog Senior Citizens Club

This has been an unusual year for the Magog Senior Citizens' Club. We had very few deaths in the first years of the club's existence, but we had two deaths in March and one in June of this year. This latest one is the man we wrote about last time. He had severe breathing problems. He passed away shortly before we left. The Seniors' visited his family the day he passed away to pray for them. We met some of his grandchildren there and the following Sunday some of them came to church.

Several members of the club participated in the local Golden Games, which are physical competitions.

Two of the men from our club will be going to compete in the district games.

This year we have 15 children attending our day care center. We have two teachers who care for the children. This year we added a cook to the staff so we are able to provide the children with one meal each day.



*Moffatt Newel passed away recently. He was a founder member of the Magog Senior Citizens' Club.*



*The children sit on the floor (as they are accustomed to) to eat the meal they received from the Magog Senior Citizens' Club.*