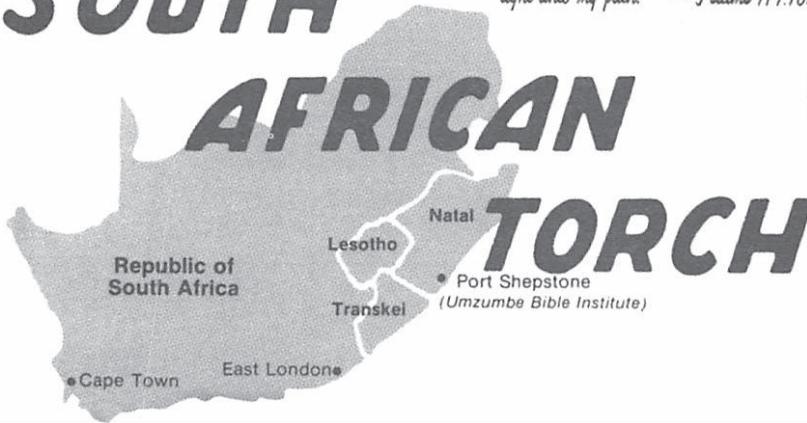


SOUTH

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

AFRICAN



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Ministers Week 2019

The annual Ministers Week was held in Wellington in the Western Cape. This meant a 1000 mile trip for us. We therefore decided to go by plane. Two other ministers from KwaZulu Natal also decided to fly so we rented a car at the Cape Town airport and shared the cost. The airport is about 45 miles from the venue so that all worked out well for us.

There were the usual “teething problems” where housing were concerned. The rooms were dormitory style and that did not make the couples happy (especially since most of the people who attended were couples). In the end everyone was accommodated although not exactly as they would have preferred. Fortunately the facilities were in good condition and that made the situation more tolerable.

Caryl and I stayed with some friends who had moved to Wellington from Port Shepstone several years ago. We learned that the room we were in is the oldest in the area. It served as a Post Office in the late 1700’s. (Interesting!)

The lessons were good, especially since they were taught by leaders that we don’t get to see very often. Jerry Kennedy taught a lesson which was to be accompanied by a power point presentation. As he was ready to start the power went off. In the end we appreciated his lesson but we never did get to see the power point presentation that he had prepared.



Many ministers and their wives gathered from all over South Africa for the annual Ministers' Week, a time of teaching, worship and fellowship.

Roger Dixon, who is based in Cape Town taught a lesson and then distributed boxes of books. There were so many that I think many of the cars were overloaded for the trip home. Those of us who flew were severely restricted in how much we could carry. Roger has prepared a huge library of teaching materials which he made available free of charge. Several of our ministers have used his material over the years. I pray that the books that were distributed will be put to good use, and not just put on a shelf to gather dust.



Mabandla Mfeka, a minister from KwaZulu Natal, preached one of the sermons at Ministers' Week. His interpreter was a former classmate at the South African Bible Institute, Dinga Lali.

Day Care Center

Things are a bit unsettled at the Day Care Center this year. Two of the teachers signed up for "Early Childhood Education" training so they can be qualified teachers. That means that they aren't there every day. Because they both have to be away at the same time we have had to hire two more teachers. Sometimes all four of them are there.

We have 16 children registered this year, though they aren't all there every day. The children range in age from under one year to four years. The babies take a lot more care as they have to be changed and fed.

The Magog Senior Citizens' Club provides food for the children two days a week. Our plan is to ask the parents to provide some groceries and then for the teachers to cook meals for the children on the other days.



The children are always enthusiastic when it comes to outdoor activities.

Magog Senior Citizens' Club

Although the attendance varies depending on the weather and other activities that are happening, the seniors enjoy their twice-weekly get-togethers. Recently we arrived a bit late and they had decided not to stay because only three people were there. As we arrived a few more arrived and those who had already gotten into the vehicle to go home, got out and returned to the dining room. Tea and sandwiches were prepared and then we went home.

Sadly, we have lost another member of the club. She was in her late 80's and had not been able to attend regularly for some time. We attended her funeral service and helped to celebrate her life. Her daughter is Pretty "Malu" Zamisa who is director of the Magog Senior Citizens' Club and the lady who helps us with the day care center.

Family News



Grandpa watched Chayah, Erin and Seanna make their own creations with building blocks during a Grandparents' Day.

A major change in our life came about when we blew the engine in our 2003 Volkswagen Jetta on December 31. We were towed to the VW garage and when they had assessed the damage, they estimated the cost of repairs at about double the value of the car. That was a sad day for us as we really liked the car! However, we did not feel it was wise to put more money into a car that old. We advertised the car for sale “as is” and were able to sell it quite quickly. The buyer was able to source an engine and had it back on the road in about a week! In the meantime we were car-shopping and found a 2018 demo vehicle from Toyota. We soon realized that we really needed two vehicles, but it took us nearly a month to organize everything for the purchase! Now we have a Toyota Hilux pickup for driving to the mission and carrying loads and a Toyota Corolla Quest for comfortable driving.



In February we replaced our 2003 VW Jetta with a 2018 silver Toyota Corolla Quest.

South Africa is in a serious electricity crisis. They buy some of their electricity from Mozambique. Unfortunately, there have been severe storms there which have made them unable to supply the usual electricity to South Africa. The power stations in South Africa have been unable to produce sufficient electricity to meet the needs of the people. As a result we have “load-shedding”. This means that electricity is shut off to various areas so other areas can be supplied. They have a schedule so we will know when we won't have electricity. On a good day we are without electricity for 2 hours, but on a bad day we have three 2-hour periods without electricity. It is wreaking havoc with electrical equipment. It is very hard on refrigerators and freezers, but it is especially hard on our security system. The battery back-up just can't cope with being used 6 out of 24 hours. So the system drains the battery and it loses its memory! We have to plan our day around the electricity schedule and when we will be able to use the computer and other electrical equipment.

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Farewell to Steve Caulley (by Michael)

I attended two meetings with Steve Caulley in February and March. One was in Philisweni (west of Bizana), and the other one was at Ministers Week. Both were special events to honor Steve Caulley for his many years of service in South Africa. Steve and his wife, Brenda, will be returning to the United States permanently later this year.

Ministers and their wives took turns in reminiscing concerning Steve. He always found time in his schedule to work with youth and young adults. He will especially be remembered for the well-prepared lessons that he taught on a wide range of subjects and for his quirky sense of humor.



The church at Philisweni presented Steve Caulley with gifts and money at his farewell celebration.



During Ministers' Week the ministers honored Steve Caulley for his contribution to their education during his years at the South African Bible Institute.

Also noteworthy was the many, many hours of work he put into the South African Bible Institute (SABI). Now it will be up to national and local leadership to decide the future of the school.

Steve was given the traditional gift of blankets at the program in Philisweni. There was also a collection taken at both meetings so that he could buy something to remind him of time and work in South Africa.