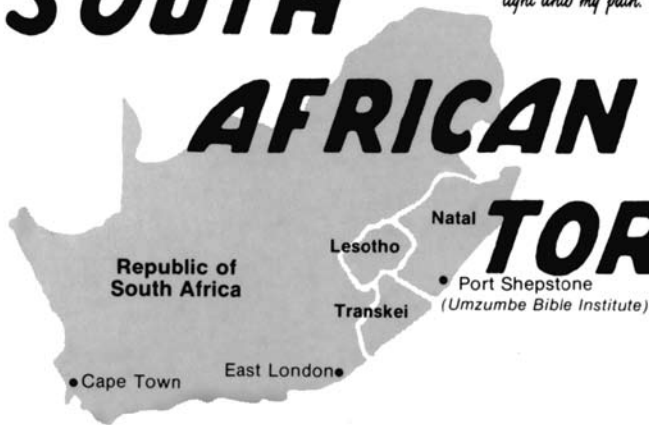


SOUTH

AFRICAN

TORCH



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



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No. 1

Seven Months in Retrospect by Caryl Stanley

Return to the USA

We returned to the United States in July 2009. We attended some family events including a wedding, a Relay for Life and family reunions during July and early August. It was great to see family we haven't seen for several years.

Church Visits

Over the past six months we have traveled about 16000 miles. We have visited churches and friends in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. We have visited 26 churches and spoken to small groups, Sunday School classes and lots of individuals.

We have enjoyed our furlough and felt very welcome in the churches and homes we visited. We have been able to share our ministry and plans for the future.

Breaks

For three weeks in September and October we returned to South Africa to attend the Church of Christ Mission annual conference. At that conference Michael was elected as the new treasurer.

We also were able to visit our family and enjoy time with them. We took Christmas gifts to the family and, since we knew we wouldn't be there at Christmas time, we celebrated Christmas on September 25. We also celebrated Michael's birthday which occurred while we were there.

We took some short breaks over Thanksgiving and

Christmas. Most churches have special activities during that time so we weren't able to give mission's presentations then. We took the opportunity to enjoy family time with our brothers and sisters and their families.

Return to South Africa

During late January we decided to send a crate to South Africa with some materials for ministry and also some items for ourselves and the family. We ordered some books and other materials and we had to wait for them to arrive before we could pack the crate. It is always a bit stressful to pack and send the shipment and collect it on the other side, but it is always fun to open it and make use of the items.

We are scheduled to depart from Minneapolis on 15 February. About 22 hours later we will arrive in Durban South Africa. We are looking forward to seeing our family and getting back into our home again.



Michael and Caryl have worked with Pearl for several years. It is now our plan to establish a permanent girls' club on the campus. Pearl's past efforts indicate there are excellent prospects for such a club.

A Crate Goes to Africa

A crate of teaching materials and personal items started its journey to South Africa the day we flew out. It will probably be over a month before it arrives.



With access to power tools, and working in a heated garage, building the crate was the easy part. Skids were added to the bottom to make the crate easier to handle.



The books were put on the bottom where they would stay flat. A new engine for the tiller, and a generator to replace the one that was stolen in 2007 added significant weight to the crate. Then came the difficult task of adding a wide variety of shapes and sizes. Along with personal items, we added some "goodies" -- candy, graham crackers, and angel food cake mixes. (These last items help to make opening the crate in South Africa a festive occasion.)



With the crate loaded on a trailer it was ready to take to the shippers and commence its journey to South Africa.



An inch of snow during the night did not make our task easier, but once we got it to the shippers, a forklift made light work of moving the crate which now weighed over 700 pounds.

Web page is updated

Find our web page at www.zamission.org for

- the latest e-mail updates
- a history of missions in South Africa
- information about our work
- pictures

We are also working to make the SA Torch available as a .pdf document -- complete with color pictures.

Family News

by Caryl Stanley

We were thrilled to have Diane with us for a few weeks. She was on sabbatical leave from Scripture Union and had visited friends in the United Arab Emirates and Great Britain. Then she came to Minnesota just before Thanksgiving. Fortunately, we had a room for her at Nate Stanley's, where we were living, so she stayed with us. We were able to visit family, attend a concert and Christmas play and enjoy a lot of fun together. She got to do some of the things she wanted to do, like go to the Guthrie Theater, go skiing and see lots of friends. She left just after Christmas and went to Atlanta, Georgia, to visit friends who have been involved in mission trips to South Africa over the past few years.

In mid-January we met Diane in Newark, New Jersey, rented a car and drove to Niagara Falls, another of the goals of her time in the USA. We saw the American side of the Falls in the evening and then traveled into Canada to stay the night. We spent the next morning touring the Canadian Falls. It is really a beautiful sight in winter, with ice and icicles! We drove back to Newark and then spent one day in New York City. We got to see Ground Zero, go on a guided tour, and visit the museum. We also walked down Broadway and managed to get tickets to an evening performance of Phantom of the Opera. In the late afternoon we went on a horse-drawn carriage ride in Central Park and Diane got to ice-skate. She left the next day to return to South Africa. She has now settled in and started her new position with Scripture Union as National Training Coordinator.

Dawn started teaching grade 1 at a school in Port Shepstone at the beginning of 2010. She had a rough ending to her third year of teaching at a church-sponsored school. Toward the end of the year there were problems, which Dawn reported. The result was that she just felt she needed to get out of a very uncomfortable position. She seems to have settled in well in her new position. JP continues his job at Genesis. Chayah turned one in December and is growing fast. We really feel like we are missing out on a lot of her development.

Dina and Sean are settled into their bigger house and awaiting the birth of their third child. The baby is due the end of February so Dina will be taking maternity leave from mid-February. Rebecca and Gabriella are back in school at South City Christian College. They are very excited about the baby. Sean has been helping us by paying accounts and taking care of finances while we have been in the United States. I am sure he will be glad to have us back doing our own work!



Before we returned to South Africa we stopped to visit Caryl's mother in Litchfield, MN. We played some games and had a lovely meal with her. She will be 90 this year.



Christmas celebrations stretched out over several days. Here Caryl and Diane wait for a game to begin with relatives from the Westfield side of the family.



While Diane was in the States we helped her celebrate her birthday at Niagara Falls. There was no cake or candles, but the view was stunning.

South African Torch

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Missionaries and their Forwarding Agents

UMZUMBE BIBLE INSTITUTE

Mrs. Lucille Stanley
P.O. Box 2800
4243 PLAINS
Republic of South Africa

M/M Michael Stanley
P.O. Box 13
4225 UMZUMBE
Republic of South Africa
Tel: +27-39-684-6517

E-mail: michael.stanley@venturenet.co.za

Forwarding Agent:

Duane Stanley
P.O. Box 18531
Minneapolis, MN 55418-0531

Mission Services
2004 E. Magnolia Ave.
Knoxville, TN 37917

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Return to South Africa

by Caryl Stanley

We arrived back in South Africa on 16 February (mid-summer) with winter clothes. Fortunately rain had cooled temperatures.

We are excited about resuming our work with the local school children. Pearl, a Scripture Union worker, is going to be working with us to establish a girls' club on the Umzumbe Bible Institute campus. We would also like to establish a program to help young people with homework. Many of the young people don't have family capable of helping with homework.

Michael will be busy with his new responsibilities as Treasurer of the Church of Christ Mission in South Africa. He will attend Ministers' Week soon after we get back and he is planning to have some information ready for the executive committee by then. Pray for him in this work.

We will resume our visits to Eshowe to encourage the congregations there. We have not had contact with them since we left. Pray for the church leaders and for Michael as he meets with them.