

SOUTH

AFRICAN

TORCH



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



Vol. 61

Second Quarter, 2010

No. 2

Ministers' Week by Michael Stanley

I made a relatively short trip to Mbandane for Ministers' Week. I stayed in the same house where Steve Caulley and I had stayed a few years ago when we held a seminar in that area.

The program began on Sunday morning with a worship service. Louw Koopman preached an outstanding message which set the tone for the rest of the week. I was asked to lead the Lord's Supper.

Monday saw the meetings begin. As treasurer and therefore a member of the Executive Committee, I sat for hours getting caught up on business matters.

Steve Caulley and Sam Mabaxa, a graduate of South African Bible Institute, did a mini-workshop on counseling. They each took two sessions and they did a really good job.

On Thursday I traveled to Kokstad (about 60 miles) with members of the Executive Committee. Our primary task was to remove the name of the previous treasurer from the bank account and to have my name added as a signatory. It took over four hours, but we finally succeeded in making the changes. I am now able to assume all of my responsibilities as treasurer.

Ministers' Week made me weary as some issues were argued for hour after hour, but at least I am now in a position to do something about the mess that is the Church of Christ Mission finances and to influence other decisions as well.



Steve Caulley led two sessions of a mini-workshop on counseling, and then Sam Mabaxa, one of the younger ministers, completed the workshop with two more sessions.



Small groups made sure there was participation from everyone at the workshop. For Michael that was a highlight of the Ministers' Week program.



Ministers' Week was held in a rural area. A hand-made sign was vital to ensuring that travelers found the venue.

The Crate Arrived by Caryl Stanley

After we arrived back in South Africa, Michael and I went to see a receiving agent in Durban. He looked over our papers and announced that he thought we might have to pay duty on our shipment because we had not been out of the country for six consecutive months. He said they would take the value of the goods and add 10 % and then charge us Value Added Tax (a form of sales tax.) on that amount. We explained what our situation was and asked him what to do. He said he would take Michael to the customs and duty office and see what could be done. When they arrived there he went in and left Michael in the waiting room. When he came out he announced that we did not have to pay duty and VAT. We are not sure what transpired behind closed doors, but were thankful that we would not have to pay a lot of money to get our crate.

We had been told that the ship was due to dock about the 29th of March, but then we did not hear any more about where it was. We tried to track it on internet, but the information had not been up-dated after it left the United States. On the 29th of March Michael was admitted to hospital for his heart surgery. I waited a few days and then decided I had better contact our receiving agent and see what he could tell me. He said the ship had docked and the crate was available to be collected. From past experience I knew that after it has been in storage for a while they charge storage fees. I asked when they would start charging fees and he checked and said that I had one more day to collect the crate. Fortunately, Michael's brother-in-law, Lynton, had already agreed that we could use his open pick-up to transport the crate, so I asked him if he would be willing to drive me up to Durban to collect the crate. He had a free day the next day so he agreed to do that.

We drove to Durban, went to get the papers we

needed from the receiving agent and went to the warehouse. We did not have any problems, although we did have to wait at the warehouse for about half an hour because there were so many vehicles there and we had to wait our turn. The crate was loaded onto his pick-up with a fork lift and we were on the way home.

Lynton drove to our house and parked his pick-up in the garage with the crate still on it. He took our pick-up home with him so he would have a vehicle to use on the farm while his was here. That evening Sean, Dina, JP, Dawn and the girls came to our house. Sean and JP removed the cover while we made supper. After we ate, everyone pitched in to help carry the items from the garage to the living room. From there I could sort and put things away.

Unfortunately, Michael missed out on all the excitement of opening the crate. However, I am glad for all the arrangements he had made and that everything went so well.



Michael was in the hospital when the crate arrived so he missed out on that excitement, but he is very thankful that everything arrived without damage or loss.

Family News

by Caryl Stanley

I hardly know where to begin because the past two months have been full of family news.

Michael and I arrived back from the USA on the 16th of February. At the end of the month Michael left to attend the annual Ministers' Week. I decided to stay at home as Dina was due to give birth to her third child. In the end I spent the week with them, but baby didn't arrive. Michael arrived home about noon on Friday, March 5, and Erin Lael arrived at 11:20 that night. I guess she waited for Grandpa to get home. She weighed nearly 8 ½ pounds. By noon the next day, Dina and Erin were home. She joins big sisters, Rebecca who is 12 and Gabriella who is nearly 9. They are doting big sisters who have taken to caring for Erin with



With the addition of Erin Thorncroft we now have four grand-daughters. Rebecca and Gabriella enjoy looking after cousin, Chayah, and little sister, Erin.

great enthusiasm. Dina is enjoying her maternity leave, but will have to return to work in July.

On March 16 Diane phoned us about 9 at night to announce that John Evans had proposed to her. We had ample warning as John had come to see us a few days before that to ask us for permission to marry her. We are thrilled for them. John is a lovely Christian man. He works for BMW as after-sales service manager. They are planning to get married in July.

Michael and I had put off going to have annual physical examinations for some time, but when Michael got back from the Ministers' Week we decided we should take care of that. When our GP heard Michael describe some symptoms he had been experiencing, he asked a lot of questions and then ordered blood tests to be done immediately and a stress test to be done the next day. When he saw the results of the stress test, he made arrangements for Michael to check into a hospital in Durban at the beginning of the next week.



Michael and Caryl are proud to announce the engagement of Diane to John Evans. They are planning a July wedding.

We made our monthly trip to Eshowe that week-end and then stopped in Durban on our way back. We thought we would probably be there for a couple of days, but he ended up having an angiogram, a triple by-pass surgery, and a nearly-two-week hospital stay. He is home and recovering. He tires quite quickly, but is definitely on the mend.

Dawn is enjoying teaching at a different school this year. She says the atmosphere is a huge improvement. She gets lots of support from her principal and the other teachers. She spends a lot of time preparing materials and marking papers, but she is definitely happier. Chayah is 16 months old now and really growing up. She started walking right after we got back from the USA. She had hardly taken any steps and suddenly she just took off and walked. She is a very happy and contented little girl.

We have been to visit Mom Stanley a few times. They now take her to the lounge each day so she isn't alone in her room during the morning. She doesn't talk to anyone, but at least there are people and activities around her.



Michael became accustomed to wearing hospital gowns and having nurses on call 24 hours a day. But when he began to actually like hospital food, he decided he had been in the hospital too long.

South African Torch

Published quarterly for the following
Missionaries and their Forwarding Agents

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Return Service Requested

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Permit #374

“The Lord gives and the Lord takes away . . .” by Caryl Stanley

Renita Rambo

In January of this year a young lady named Renita Rambo from Colorado came to South Africa to work with Steve Caulley at the South African Bible Institute. She had fit in very well and was excited about the ministry there. On the 24th April she drove to East London to take a student home as he had been ill. She took Caulley's daughter, Maria, with her. On the way home, she, Maria and two young men were involved in a head-on collision. Renita was killed, one of the men has a broken leg, the other has head injuries including losing an eye and Maria has severe leg injuries, a dislocated pelvis and laceration on her face. She will have to be hospitalized for several weeks.

Sarah Nesbitt

On the 1st of May we were having a family gathering when Diane got news that a friend of hers, a young lady from Northern Ireland, had died in her sleep. She was only 27 years old. Sarah had worked for Scripture Union with Diane. She first came to South Africa in 2001 as a volunteer. Then she returned to Northern Ireland and later went to Australia for further studies. In November 2008 she returned to South Africa to work full time in music ministry.

She had been involved in many of our family activities as she was a close friend of Diane's. When we had Simphiwe staying with us, Sarah took her out to movies and outings.

Stuart Cook

On the 5th May we received word that Stuart Cook, a fellow-missionary who lived and worked in the Johannesburg area since 1966, had been killed in a head-on collision. His wife, Marilyn, was also in the car and was injured. She has several broken ribs and cuts. Stu and Marilyn had moved from Johannesburg to a rural area where they continued to work amongst the people in that area.

Arrie Koeberg

Also on the 5th May we received word that a national co-worker of fellow-missionaries, Pete and Fran Laughren, passed away from cancer.

It is at times like this that we are reminded that our lives are in God's Hands. We have no guarantee of our "three score and ten years", but we need to be ready whenever God calls for us.