

SOUTH

AFRICAN

TORCH



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



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KwaZuluNatal Youth Camp

Each year when the schools are closed for the winter holidays we have a camp for youth from the whole province of KwaZuluNatal. This year it was held at a school in Hammarsdale. Michael went up on Tuesday and taught and then he came home. Then he and I went back on Wednesday and stayed until Friday. We taught several classes and participated in worship services.

One of our classes was for the youngest children, who were in elementary school. We decided to teach them the books of the New Testament. We were very proud of them as they all were able to say them with very

little help after the two lessons we taught. On Saturday night they recited them together for everyone at the worship service.

We had made arrangements to stay at the home of Patrick Sithebe, a minister who lives in the area, but in the end we didn't stay there as Patrick was working and his wife, Corina, was cooking at the camp. They said it would be safer for us to stay at the school where the camp was held, so they brought a double bed and put it in one of the rooms. This year it was particularly cold during the camp. At night the temperature dropped to near freezing.



Michael is helping the girls from our elementary camp class learn the books of the New Testament. They sat on mattresses on the floor; but they really enjoyed the class and participated with enthusiasm.



Our meals at camp were served on a tray in our "bedroom," a classroom. We were fortunate to have a really nice bed, a small heater and great service from the cooks. The heater gave an air of warmth to the room, but did little to change the temperature; so getting out of bed in the morning was an invigorating experience.

Recovering from Heart Repair

The really GOOD news is that Michael is doing very well since his by-pass heart surgery, and we are all most thankful for that. His surgeon has turned over recovery monitoring to his local doctors. Michael is fully back among the ministry tasks that have filled his life for many years.

The really BAD news is that Michael's insurance has rejected ALL claims related to the medical expenses. The insurance was written to deny coverage for existing conditions and they determined (from Michael's comments reported in the doctor's notes) that Michael had experienced symptoms before the beginning of the policy that any doctor would have diagnosed. Therefore the condition was determined to be "pre-existing."

The insurance issue is, of course, directly related to the Stanley's missionary status. They had insurance when they began their furlough in mid-2009. But the coverage was for overseas missionaries, and they could not be in the U.S. longer than a certain number of months under that policy's coverage. As that time limit ran out, they had to purchase a short policy for living in the U.S. for the rest of their furlough. When they returned to S.A. in Feb 2010, they had to get another new policy, and this is the one that has proved woefully inadequate. Michael and Caryl have been left with about \$35,000 in medical bills from the surgery.

When the surgery was scheduled, with many of the

costs needing to be paid "up-front," the mission board sent a letter to regular contributors to urge gifts that could serve as a "bridge" until the insurance payments would come. A generous response was immediately received, but no one realized that insurance payments would not be forthcoming.

The mission board decided to describe this need to all of you who have followed the work of the Stanleys through the years, and so--with this article--we would like to invite your gifts to help with this enormous and unanticipated bill. If you would like to give a love gift to help Michael and Caryl, please make your checks to **S.A. Church of Christ Mission**, indicating "medical" in the memo line. The mission address is **P.O. Box 18531, Minneapolis, MN 55418**.

Prayerfully,
Larry Moore, Bill Gossett, Duane Stanley, Bill Weber



Once out of ICU, Michael was able to visit with the grand-children in the hospital lounge. Now he is back to most of his normal activities.

Soccer Workshop

During the school holidays Scripture Union organized a soccer workshop for both boys and girls in Gamalakhe, a township near Port Shepstone. A coach from FIFA



Each day Caryl made ten loaves of bread into peanut butter sandwiches and served drinks for the children who participated in the soccer workshop.

(International Football Federation) taught soccer skills to the leaders and children. It gave an opportunity for outreach to young people and made use of all of the interest



Michael served as a team leader, but he had a lot to learn about soccer. His boys varied in age and skill but they came each day and participated with enthusiasm and sometimes with alarming determination.

in soccer that the World Cup generated. The team leaders led discussions relating to life skills and each day ended with singing and a devotional message by one of the leaders.

Family News by Caryl Stanley

We continue to visit Mom Stanley. They take her to the lounge for the mornings now so she is around people. She still doesn't talk much, but at least she gets some stimulation. Once when we were there they brought her lunch so Michael was able to help her eat. She actually talked to him quite a bit that day.

Dina went back to work at the beginning of July. It was pretty hard on her and Erin at first, but they have both adjusted. Sean's work seems to be going well. Rebecca and Gabriella are both doing well at school. Rebecca is active in sports (she came third in the cross country race and second in the 800 meter race at her school recently) and dancing (modern and tap) so she is a busy girl. Both of the girls are very helpful with Erin and love her to bits!

Diane and John's wedding was beautiful. Everything went very well and they have hundreds of pictures. They had a two-week honeymoon and are back at work again.

Dawn was off school for five weeks. They extended the winter break to accommodate the Soccer World Cup. After a few days back at school, the unions went

on strike and she was off school again for a few more weeks. JP is keeping very busy at Genesis and also taking a computer course on Saturdays. Chayah is growing up! She talks non-stop - though we don't always understand what she is saying. She keeps us entertained!

Michael is recovering well. His doctor has recommended some walking so we are trying to get out several times a week to do that. He is back to most of his normal activities. The Church of Christ Mission financial year ended on July 31, so he has been busy getting all of his treasurer's reports ready.



On July 17 Diane and John Evans were married. The bride was radiant, the groom was dashing, and the parents were very proud. It was a beautiful sunny day and everything about the ceremony went like clock-work.

Magog Life Skills Camp by Caryl Stanley

Our annual Life Skills Camp for grade 7 students from Magog Primary School was scheduled for May. When Michael had his surgery, we handed over all of the planning to the girls from Scripture Union. They did a great job.

This year we were not able to use the Oribi Bible Camp, so we went to Skogheim Christian Conference Center. It was quite different. They cater all of the meals so we didn't have to provide our own cook. There were some new activities for the students also. They did a rope course one afternoon and went swimming in the pool one afternoon.



Pearl Mthembu did a lot of the planning for the Magog Life Skills Camp. She also led a small group of boys during the discussion time.

We did not participate as much in the camp this year as we usually do, but we did stay at the conference center and we sat in on most of the lessons. However, because of Michael's surgery his activities were limited.

During the camp the leaders learned about several issues amongst the students in that class. There is some bullying going on and we even identified abused and neglected children. Pray for wisdom for us as we seek to deal with those issues.



One advantage to Skogheim as a camp venue was the swimming pool. Swimwear varied greatly as did swimming skills, but they all had a great time.

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Travels and Meetings by Michael Stanley



De ja vu. Michael can remember as a child folding letters and stuffing envelopes for his father. Dina, Diane, and Dawn have all folded letters and stuffed envelopes and now the third generation has their turn. Rebecca, Gabriella, and Simphiwe help to prepare a mailing to the South African churches.

I recently attended two meetings as Treasurer of the African work. Fortunately neither one was particularly stressful. The first was a meeting of the Finance committee in June (before the end of the financial year) to review the finances of the Church of Christ Mission and take care of some business related to a special meeting that had been held in December last year. It also introduced me to the chairman whom I had met before, but whom I did not know. I was impressed from the moment I met Bro. Cekiso. He seemed well-informed about financial matters. Then he handed me his reports on the meeting held in December. They were meticulously drawn up and that made my task of reimbursing travel expenses much easier.

The second meeting took place in August (after the end of the financial year) so I had a lot of material to prepare. The purpose of this meeting was to share information ahead of the annual conference. It is also supposed to reduce the amount of business that needs to be handled at conference. Unfortunately past experience says that it does not change the amount of conference business much.

CHANGE OF EMAIL ADDRESS: Please note that we are shutting down the Venturenent email address as a cost saving measure. Please change to **stanleys@zamission.org**. For email addressed to specifically to Michael use **michaels684@msn.com**.