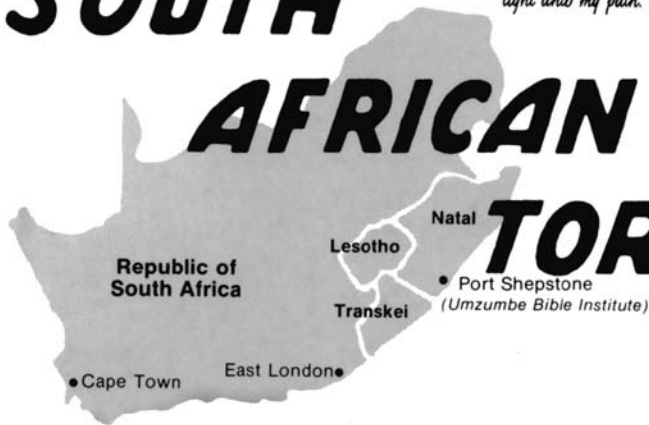


SOUTH

AFRICAN

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



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Sunday School at Shaka's Kraal

By Michael Stanley

Toward the end of October Patrick Sithebe asked me to print up certificates like the ones we had used at Estcourt years ago. I agreed to do that and then he asked me to attend the awarding of certificates to those who attended Sunday school at Shaka's Kraal. This is a new congregation with ties to the group at Jozini right up in the north of the province.

I have been impressed with the commitment shown by the church at Jozini. They have invited me to special programs on several occasions, but because of other commitments I have only gone once. Still I was encouraged to see church leaders who are doing their work with little outside assistance. Young people were active in the church and that goes against the trend in most of our churches. Very few of

the churches have Sunday schools and the number of young people attending church seems to have decreased over the last 10 years.

The group at Shaka's Kraal has developed a structure to make the Sunday school successful. They have a man who is the Sunday school "principal" and he works with two teachers, one for children (primary school age) and one for "adults" (high school age). During the program they commended a teenage girl for her work in encouraging children to attend the Sunday school. Some of the students demonstrated what they had learned. One recounted the story of Moses and another quoted Scripture from memory. There was also a skit involving several of the children that illus-



Caryl watched as the teacher lined up the children and then rushed to the front to lead them into the tent where the year-end celebration took place.



The Sunday school "principal" and the teacher pose with "adult" students holding their certificates. The student on the left was commended for her work in encouraging students to attend Sunday school.



One of the two cakes provided by a lady in the congregation. The church leaders are from Jozini which is another 190 miles north of Shaka's Kraal.

trated a Biblical truth. The Sunday school is somewhat unorthodox, but as an initiative that was developed locally it is truly noteworthy. A woman from the local church provided two cakes to celebrate the occasion. Others provided soft drinks and candy. After the service a meal was served. We rejoice with the congregation in what they have accomplished.

Right: Michael was not present when the church building was dedicated. At that time other church leaders received blankets as gifts. When Michael was able to go to Jozini, a gift-giving ceremony was added to the program and Michael received his gift of a blanket.



Conference 2010 By Michael Stanley

The annual church conference was held at Beaufort West from 26 September to 1 October. It was a long trip for us so we drove in two days. We actually arrived a day early because I knew that as treasurer there would be financial matters that needed urgent attention including last minute purchases. The first day was not as hectic as I expected it to be and the conference proved to be well-organized by the local congregation.

Collecting money is an important item on the agenda and this year was no exception. The churches responded well to my request that church related money be deposited directly into the church bank account, but there was still money for housing and food that was transacted as cash.



The finance committee (T. Msengane, P. Booï, and N. Cekiso), along with Caryl, counted money and issued receipts. This left Michael free to take care of other matters, such as teaching people how to deposit directly into the national account, buying groceries and meat, transporting food, as well as taking care of office work that others had left to the last minute.

Members of the finance committee and Caryl collected, counted, and receipted money while I helped people who brought cash to learn how to deposit it correctly. Later in the week I helped to purchase food, pay for it, and transport it to the kitchen. I learned how time-consuming operating a purely cash economy can be. I served as treasurer back in the '70s, but I learned that a lot has changed since that time. I also took care of photocopying documents including meal tickets which should have been done before the conference began.

Because of my responsibility as treasurer I missed out on a lot of the meetings, including the lessons taught by Steve Caulley. That was a disappointment. I hope that next



As tradition requires, Michael read his financial report to the conference and it was interpreted by Amos Shweni. An important change from previous years was that each delegate had a booklet that included a copy of the report. It was also significant that the finance committee had examined the report a month before the conference began.

year I will have less work to do, so that I can be more of a participant in the conference.

On the whole the conference progressed with very few hitches. There was a farewell program for W. Mdladlana, a 90 year old minister who has retired. Unfortunately his health did not allow him to attend, but his wife was able to be present. A collection for his retirement was taken up and that meant more cash that needed to be counted.

Caryl and I stayed on for an extra day. That gave me a chance to make sure that everything was wrapped up before I left. It also gave Caryl and me a chance to relax before we began the long journey home.



Since her husband was unable to attend the conference because of poor health, Mrs. Mdladlana (with glasses) was the honored guest. A very generous offering was collected to supplement Bro. Mdladlana's retirement income.

Family News by Caryl Stanley

Some of you may remember Brian and Deanna Guy who served as missionaries at Umzumbe Bible Institute in the mid 70's. They now minister in Missouri and return to South Africa on short-term ministries. They came to Port Shepstone for a couple of days on a recent trip and went to see Mom Stanley.

Mom has her good days and her not-so-good days. The day Brian and Deanna visited her was a good day. When they walked in, she said, "I remember you." Considering that she hadn't seen them for many years, that was very impressive. On top of remembering them, she talked more than usual and even joked with Brian about some of her memories.

Dina's family is doing well. The school year has ended so Rebecca and Gabriella are at home. I was able to attend the prize-giving programs for both of the girls. Rebecca got certificates for high marks in several subjects and Gabriella won the prize for the best reader in grade 3. Erin is now standing by herself and trying to walk.

Diane and John had a rough couple of months when the car dealership where John worked closed because of "irreconcilable differences" between the partners who owned the dealership. Suddenly he



When Brian and Deanna Guy visited us recently, they went to see Mom Stanley. She and Brian even shared a few jokes.

was without a job. He immediately sent applications to other dealerships and was able to get a job almost immediately. He was only off work for less than a month. Diane still has to do some traveling for her job, but she can do a lot of the work from her home office. She misses the personal contact that she had in the past.

Dawn is also looking forward to the end of the school year, so she can stay at home with Chayah for a few weeks. She has enjoyed this year and it certainly was a better year than last year. She got on well with the other teachers in grade one and had a very supportive principal. JP has been facing some stress at work and is looking forward to the Christmas holidays. Their offices close for a couple of weeks at this time. Chayah is nearly two years old. She hasn't talked very much until recently. When she decided to talk, she really took off. She keeps us all entertained!



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Thank You!! Thank You!!

by Caryl Stanley

In the last issue of the South Africa Torch our board requested your help with our unexpected medical expenses, resulting from our insurance company denying our claims for Michael's by-pass surgery. We have been amazed at your response and want to thank all of the people and churches who responded. Gifts varied in size, but each one is gratefully appreciated. Thank you to all who responded so quickly.

It is at times like this that we are reminded how wonderful it is to be part of the family of God. Thank you to all of our brothers and sisters who have been so generous at this time.

We still have some bills to pay and if you would like to contribute, please send your gift to our forwarding agent and mark it "medical".

CHANGE OF EMAIL ADDRESS:

Please note that we are shutting down the Venuenet email address as a cost saving measure. Please change to stanleys@zamission.org. For email addressed to Michael use michaels684@msn.com.



We wish you all a blessed Christmas season. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we pray that we all will take every opportunity to share with others the real reason for this holiday. Without the birth of Jesus, we wouldn't have the promise of eternal life. We also wish you a happy and healthy 2011.