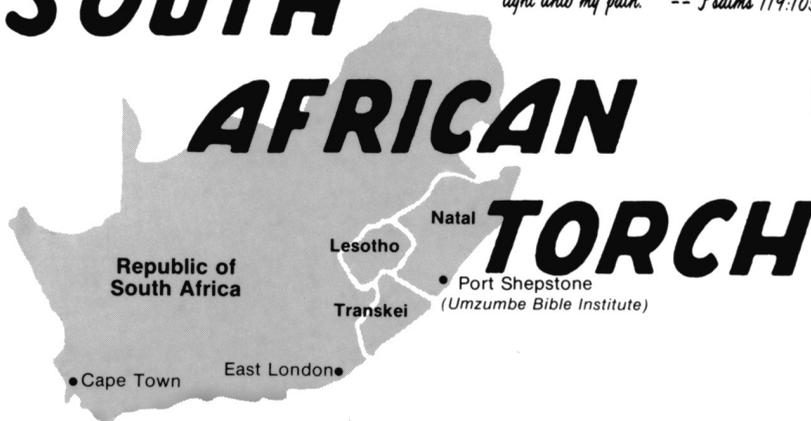


SOUTH

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

AFRICAN



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Annual Conference Presents Challenge

by Michael Stanley

The annual church conference of the Church of Christ Mission is the biggest event on the calendar each year. Typically it involves more than 500 people in attendance, and finding a suitable venue is always a challenge. This year was typical but with one exceptional challenge.

The Gauteng Province agreed to host the conference, so Sabelo Lewis and his colleagues had to look for a suitable venue. This was made difficult by the fact that venues that showed promise were no longer available when a decision could be made. As treasurer for the Church of Christ Mission, I received a call from

Bro. Lewis with an urgent request for payment of a deposit on the venue they had found. The deposit which was unusually large (R60 000 approx. \$6000) was duly made and things seemed set for the conference.

In August we had a meeting of all the representatives of organizations associated with the Church of Christ Mission. Along with updates from the various representatives, we scheduled a visit to the venue for the conference. We toured the facility and were impressed. They had a large hall and meeting rooms. The kitchen was well equipped and accommodation was comfortable. Everything seemed to be in order.



During the Bosberaad (planning meeting in Johannesburg) Michael handed financial documents to Bro. Cekiso in the presence of Thulani Maki. Thulani helped with the collection of money and drawing up of reports.



Officers of the Church of Christ Mission listen to reports and answer questions at the bosberaad in August. (l. to r. Dugmore Stemela, Secretary; Elijah Gontsana, President; Sabelo Lewis, Deputy President; Johan Blaauw, Member)

Caryl and I left for the States on August 30. The conference was scheduled to begin September 22, but there was a hitch. It seems there was a controversy over an unpaid sum of R120 (Approx. \$12) and because of this the venue was no longer available. A new venue near Pretoria was found and people were redirected at the last minute.

Reports indicate that the conference went well in spite of this hiccup. Bro. Cekiso, who took over the

responsibilities of treasurer while I am in the states, reports that the collection and handling of money at the conference went well. There were complaints with regard to accommodation, but the last minute change of venue left that to be expected.

I anticipate that when the final reports are in I will hear that the conference went well and that the finances are all in order.

Furlough

by Caryl Stanley

We spent the first couple of weeks in the United States with some family gatherings. Michael's sister came from South Africa about the same time that we came to the United States. Unfortunately, her husband wasn't able to come. Michael's sister-in-law from Indiana also came to Minnesota which meant that the four living siblings and the four living spouses were able to be together.

The US children and grandchildren all gathered on Labor Day for a picnic. What a blessing to get reacquainted and to meet the new family members! On Saturday we interred Mom and Dad Stanley's ashes in the Maine Prairie cemetery near Kimball where many of the Stanley and Eaton ancestors are buried. All of the older generation of Stanleys went to a dinner theater production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat one evening. That was a fun outing!

We stayed with one of my sisters for the first two weeks. We bought a car and some office supplies while we were in Minneapolis. We were also able to go on a

dinner cruise on the St. Croix River with my two sisters and their husbands one evening. It was beautiful and calm that night and we enjoyed it very much.

Home base

We are staying with Richard Eckman in Kimball for this furlough. His late wife was our forwarding agent for about 20 years. We are gone every weekend, but we enjoy the times we have spent together during the week. Michael participated in crushing sorghum which Richard makes into syrup, loading hay for a customer and tracking down a deer that a neighbor shot during bow season. We have enjoyed seeing most of Richard's children and some of the grandchildren. I have done a little bit of cooking and baking. We commandeered Richard's dining room table for our office. We were able to get letters written and to prepare our display.

Church visits

We started visiting supporting churches and individuals in late September. By the middle of November we had visited churches in Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Ohio and South Dakota. We attended the International Conference on Missions in Kansas City and got to see a lot of old friends and meet some new friends. Over the next few Sundays we will visit more churches in South Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska and Wisconsin. Then we will have two weeks to get ready to return to South Africa.

We have enjoyed our visits to churches. The people have shown interest in our ministry and have been very supportive. We have stayed with some wonderful people and been spoiled with some great meals. (I think we will both have to exercise and diet when we get back to South Africa!)



Duane, Debbie, Larry and Michael were at the Maine Prairie Cemetery where the siblings interred the ashes of their mother and father.

Family News

We have enjoyed the contact we have through email, Skype, and Facebook. It is great to have almost instant contact with the family when they are so far away! Everyone seems to be fine, but I am sure we will see a lot of changes in the grandchildren, especially the little ones.

The family is taking care of our personal vehicle. We knew it would need a service before we got back, so we asked JP to take it in for us. We got a bit of a shock when he contacted us to say it needed more than a service. At least it should be in good condition when we get back.

Our house-sitter seems to be doing fine. He struggled a bit with the alarm system at first, but he has learned how to use it. He reported that there were 3 young men in the front yard one morning. When they realized he

was still at home, they ran away. He called for the response team and they suspect these men were planning a burglary.

Our house-sitter is a leader in the Umzumbe church and he has sent us a report on some of their activities. He told us that the home of one of the church members had burned down. They don't know if it was started by a candle or if it was arson. He said that he is also struggling to keep the Sunday School going, which is something I have been working on. He gave us a report on the health of some of the elderly members. It was good to get caught up!



Minnesota Bible College/Crossroads College celebrated their 100th anniversary on October 3 to 5. Michael thoroughly enjoyed seeing the old Dome building on 15th Street and University Avenue in Minneapolis, where MBC was located while he was a student. It was great to meet old friends and get re-acquainted.



On Friday and Saturday the celebrations continued at Rochester. Once again there was an opportunity to meet old friends and reminisce. It was wonderful to see Earl Grice, professor at MBC, and Alvin Nicholson, a fellow-missionary to South Africa. We were very proud when Alvin Nicholson was honored as the oldest living graduate of MBC.



We attended the International Conference on Missions in Kansas City Missouri in November. The pre-conference sessions for missionaries were very helpful and we felt they were very valuable. The main sessions were encouraging and we enjoyed visiting the exhibit hall where we met many old friends.

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After a few teething problems our 2006 Buick Lucerne has proven to be comfortable and reliable.

South Africa

We sold the 1999 Isuzu pickup, which is our mission vehicle, when we left South Africa. It had 350,000 kilometers (218,750 miles) on it. The body and engine were in pretty good condition, so we had several people interested in buying it. Since we sold our mission vehicle, we will have to buy another vehicle when we get back to South Africa. We have the money from the Isuzu in an account so we have some money, but it won't be enough to buy a replacement. If you can help us, please send your contributions to SA Churches of Christ Mission at P. O. Box 18531 Minneapolis, MN 55418-0531.

Vehicles by Caryl Stanley

United States

When we arrived in the US we bought a car. We looked at leasing, but decided it would be best to buy and then sell it when we leave. We used personal money and bought a 2006 midnight blue Buick Lucerne with 112,500 miles on it. Unfortunately, we have had to do some repairs including new brakes. Now it is in great shape and it has 120,000 miles on it. We have enjoyed a comfortable and reliable vehicle. We will still make one long trip and a couple of shorter ones. We do hope to sell it when we go. If anyone is interested please contact us at 612-401-0014.



The 1999 Isuzu pickup proved highly reliable. After traveling over 200,000 miles we decided it was time to replace it. We will have to buy a vehicle when we return to South Africa.