

# SOUTH

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



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## Ministers Week by Michael Stanley

The annual Ministers Week took place from 02 to 07 March this year. A number of unusual circumstances made the event extraordinary. Caryl did not travel with me because she had shingles and spider bites that made travel extremely uncomfortable. The meetings were held in Douglas and this was unusual because the minister at Douglas, Louw Koopman, passed away last year. The church leaders decided to proceed with meetings in Douglas and that plan worked well.



*Michael taught a lesson with Isaac Mguzulwa as interpreter. It is always encouraging to have a good interpreter and Isaac is a good one.*

The next set of unusual circumstances was that the chairman of the Ministers Associ-

ation, Richard Gallant, arrived in Douglas and was immediately admitted to hospital with blood sugar levels out of control. He had good medical care and later in the week he was released and took up his responsibilities as chairman.

I was on the program to lead the Lord's Supper on Sunday, but after that plans were changed several times. I had to take Ezra Mbali to Kimberley so that he could travel back to Port Shepstone because his wife was not well. Next I preached in the place of a minister who did not arrive and then I taught a class in the place of Steve Caulley who was ill and was unable to attend. In spite of these hiccups the program proceeded well and the meetings that I attended were orderly. The women held their meetings and reports indicated that everything progressed well.

The weather was hot so I tried to find a shaded place to park my pickup. I did not always succeed and so there were times when I had to drive holding an extremely hot steering wheel.

## South African Bible Institute by Caryl Stanley

I had decided that I would not teach at South African Bible Institute again as I find it quite tiring. I said I would go to Kimberley and help Michael with his class, but I did not plan to teach a class. However, with the death of Louw Koopman and the extra stress on Steve Caulley, he asked me to reconsider. (Actually,

as he said, he begged me to reconsider.) So from March 31 to April 11 Michael and I were at South African Bible Institute. Michael had two men, both from Zimbabwe, in his class on How to Study. He enjoyed teaching them and felt they made good progress. I had four men in my class

*continued on page 2*

## South African Bible Institute

*continued from page 1*

on Establishing a Sunday School. We had some good discussions and they assured me they enjoyed the class and learned a lot.

We stayed with our friends, Roy and Jenny Murray, again. That is always a pleasure. Roy has been treated for cancer since we were last with them and is looking and feeling well! Jenny treated us to really great meals and we really enjoyed being with them.

While in Kimberley Michael could renew contact with the churches in the Northern Cape. This year he preached for the church in Douglas on Sunday. They have been without a minister since Louw Koopman passed away. He also preached for a chapel service at SABI. On Sunday 13 April he preached for the con-



*The Board of Governors of South African Bible Institute met on the 8th March Here is Steve Caulley (center) with members of the Board of Governors (l to r) Steven Lesala, Michael Ndlokovane, Michael Stanley, and David Jossie.*

gregation at Lerato Park. This is an Afrikaans-speaking congregation and that makes his task of communicating easier.

We spent some time with Steve and Brenda Caulley. The day we left Kimberley Steve went into hospital for surgery on his upper spine (neck). The surgery went well, but he will be recovering for quite some time. He announced to the students that he will let them know when South African Bible Institute can reopen

Pray for South African Bible Institute. There is a serious lack of teachers and even of students. If things don't change, the Institute will close at then end of 2015. Right now Steve Caulley is organizing distance learning courses for those who want to study but can't leave their homes and jobs. Michael and I will be overseeing some of the classes in KwaZulu Natal and we are in the process of planning for them.



*One of Caryl's students, Timothy Greeff, is an ambulance driver so he did not make it to all of the classes. Here Caryl talks to the other three students. (L to r) David Nokwindla, Lebo Shushu, and Boy Booyesen.*

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## Hassles

When we arrived back in South Africa, we found that a road grader had cut the water line across the road from Umzumbe Bible Institute so there was no water on our property. Although a church member and a Magog Senior Citizens' Club member had reported it, the pipe had not been repaired. In fact, someone from the water company had come out and plugged the pipe and told them that, as owners, we were responsible for the repairs.

We went to the water company in January and lodged a complaint as the break was on their side of our meter. After two months of complaints, we finally got to speak to someone who dealt with the issue. The pipe was repaired (although the road grader could cut the pipe again as it was not buried as it should have been) and we had water once again. I also requested that they adjust our water account as we paid for several months

when we had no water. They finally got it sorted out on the April account and we will probably not have to pay for water for the next four months.

At our house we also had a water complaint. We did not get an account in January so I paid the amount we usually pay (about \$15) and assumed all was in order. When we got the February account it said we owed over \$300. Our water was off for a while in January because of a broken pipe. When it came on there was a lot of air in the pipes and, apparently, our meter counted all the air as water. We have requested an adjustment on that account and we are waiting for an answer. They did say they would monitor our consumption for the next three months before making a decision. Unfortunately, the water was off again recently and we had air coming through again.

## Family News by Caryl Stanley

In February and March I spent a lot of time at home because I had shingles and before I had recovered from that I got two spider bites – one on my foot and one on my calf. It seems we caught the shingles early, but I took a lot of pain medication and spent a lot of time resting. I even missed Ministers' Week this year. The spider bites required a course of antibiotics and the doctor told me to elevate my foot. (I am not so good at staying off my feet, but when I didn't the swelling increased.) We went to Kimberley to teach at South African Bible Institute before the spider bites had healed and I ended up at the doctor again while we were there and had to take a second course of antibiotics. It looks like the bite on my foot will leave a rather nasty scar!

My brother-in-law, Joe Gillespie, passed away on April 12. He and my sister, Juanita, were on vacation in Arizona and California when he was hospitalized because of breathing difficulties. The doctors in Arizona diagnosed lung and stomach cancer. After a few days my sister and a stepdaughter rented a van so they could take him back home (and drove back) to Minnesota. Joe was admitted to hospital and passed away a few days later. Pray for Juanita. I am sure there are a lot of decisions ahead of her. It is hard for me to be so far away at a time like this.

Dawn stepped out of her classroom one day in February and twisted her ankle. It swelled quickly so she was taken to a doctor near her school who sent her for x-rays.



*We make home made ice cream for birthdays and, along with all the grandchildren, Grandma Caryl took her turn cranking the ice cream freezer.*

He decided it wasn't broken and sent her home with crutches. A few days later she was at her regular doctor with Seanna and he checked her foot and diagnosed a torn ligament. He had her get a "boot" and said if she hadn't come to him she would eventually have ended up with surgery on the ligament. The six weeks in the "boot" is nearly up, but she isn't happy with the fact that it still swells and is quite stiff. She will see the doctor again soon.

South Africa has a lot of holidays in March, April and May. First there was Human Rights Day on March 21. Then there was a usual break between terms for the schools from March 28 until April 7. (We were in Kimberley teaching at South African Bible Institute at that time.) Next it was Easter with Friday April 18 and Monday April 21 being holidays. Then the education department decided to close schools from April 28 until May 2 because Monday and Thursday are public holidays (Freedom Day and Workers' Day). Then we had another holiday on May 7 as it was national elections. Hopefully, after all of this life will get back to a more normal schedule!

For our family March and April are full of birthdays. Erin and JP celebrate in March so they had a combined party. Sean, Dawn, John and Gabriella all celebrate in April and they have one big party. For years our family has allowed the birthday person to choose the menu and party plans. Since Dawn, John and Gabriella all have the same birth date, they decided to let the one with a special birthday choose. This year Gabriella turns 13 so it is her turn.



*A favorite activity for the family birthday outing was archery.*

## South African Torch

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## New Wheels by Caryl Stanley

On Thursday the 27th of February we took possession of our new (to us) 2012 Toyota HiLux diesel pickup. On Saturday Michael left for Ministers' Week in Douglas in the Northern Cape. Two of the ministers from KwaZulu Natal traveled with him. He was happy to have it for the trip.

After he got back from the trip we bought a topper (canopy) for it. Traveling with luggage and possessions in an open pickup is not advisable in South Africa. Now our possessions can also be protected from the rain.

The first problem we faced was that the vehicle is higher than any of our other vehicles have been and the luggage rack at the back hits the garage door. We have worked out a way to get it in without causing any damage, but it does take two of us to do it!

This vehicle provides a very comfortable ride and we enjoy having a radio after not having one in our mission vehicle for many years. It does not have air conditioning so travel in summer will be a bit uncomfortable.

Again we are appealing to you. If you can help us with the vehicle payments (which are about \$500 per month) we would appreciate it. Just mark your contribution "vehicle" and send it to our forwarding agent at S. A. Churches of Christ Mission, P. O. Box 18531, Minneapolis, MN55418-0531.



*Now that we have installed a topper, we can travel with less worries about theft and rain.*



*The Toyota is a little taller than the old pickup, but with just the right amount of ballast on the tailgate, we can still move the pickup either into or out of the garage without hitting the door.*