

HELLO FROM THE HORNES:

IN THE GOOD OLE' SUMMERTIME: It's official--summer is here! Someone wrote that, "*It's summertime and the living is easy,*" but it should have been, "*It's summertime and the living should be easy!*" That's because this sweaty, sweltering season is made up of crazy, hazy, lazy days! When you are in full-time church work, though, there's no opportunity to lollygag the days away while waiting for Texas to quit simmering in the heat. In addition to two Sunday sermons, Al has the Sunday Morning and Wednesday Night Adult Bible Classes. In fact, we stay so busy that our equally-busy friend and co-worker in South Africa, Fred Bergh, welcomed us to *The Club of the Overstretched!* He went on to suggest Al change his name to Clark Kent. "*Just think of the ease of operation,*" he wrote, "*All you need is a telephone booth to put on your superman suit and away you go!*" Yeah, right!

ON THE KERRVILLE CALENDAR: Church work this month included a sad funeral Al conducted for a Christian sister who died on her 64th birthday. We say *sad* because the deceased and her husband moved here from the Fort Worth area two years ago but never attended or identified with the church. Also, *sad* because her life was marked by two medical mis-diagnoses which changed her life forever. First, because her young husband was "*diagnosed*" with Huntingdon's chorea, they decided not ever to have children. The proper diagnosis should have been muscular dystrophy instead which means they *could* have had a family after all. Then two years before she died, she was mis-diagnosed with arthritis instead of the cancer that it really was. Lacking proper early treatment, her life span was seriously reduced. On the other hand, our *Chuck Coleman*, Riverside member, was re-elected to the City Council as a commissioner. We enjoyed the Victory Supper held in his honor. We also enjoyed a weekend visit from our long-time dear friends, *Carolyn and Bryan Teagle* of Mesquite, TX. In fact, our precious friendship with them dates all the way back to our college days at ACC in the 1950's. Another practical visitor came to stay permanently--his name, *Stanley*. Donna was scrutinizing garage sales for a used ride-on lawnmower when Riverside congregation came to the rescue and gave us a good used one! Yea! It had been left in a shed on the newly-purchased church property. Since the brand is *Stanley*, we thought that would be a good name for our new "*friend*." He did need a little "*medical attention,*" since he had been somewhat neglected. The front two tires were off their rims, the battery was without spark and the gas tank was nursing a serious fracture. Calling on Al's missionary experience from life in the bush, we soon fixed him up. Then came the moment of truth--mounting him like a cowboy mounts a steed, off Al went and thirty minutes later the lawn was neatly manicured! Stanley was a great gift from the Riverside brethren. There won't be any grass growing under our feet now! Finally, on the home front, Al was shelling and eating some pistachio nuts recently when Donna leaned over to inquire, "*Are those your favorite nuts?*" "*No,*" he laughed, "*You are!*"

MEANWHILE, BACK IN BENONI: This month was a milestone in the history of the Benoni church as one new elder and three new deacons were appointed. Of the four, the new elder and one of the new deacons are SABC graduates and another of the new deacons is starting SABC full-time in January. Another big event for the congregation this month was the annual Vacation Bible School when the numbers were the highest we've had in recent years. Teachers were sent scurrying to prepare more materials for crafts and lessons! We weren't surprised at the large

attendance because 5,000 fliers had been organized for a pamphlet drop. Also, one of our young couples in the congregation donated funds needed to transport children to the VBS from neighboring Johannesburg. That was a real sacrifice when one considers that our American gas is at an all-time high of \$4.00 per gallon, whereas in South Africa you have to pay \$5.75 (US) per gallon! As usual, the VBS was a team effort and a winner! In addition, three baptisms took place during June for the Benoni congregation. *Tom King*, local SABC trustee, had the thrilling experience of baptizing his son-in-law, *Robert Groves*, into Christ. Next, a teenager, *Heather Jenkins*, was baptized. Her grandmother, mother and brother are Benoni members. Finally, a young man from Zimbabwe named Gordon became a Christian. He was brought, taught and baptized by Gabriel, one of our SABC graduates from the Congo. The latest Time Magazine reported that life expectancy in Zimbabwe has dropped to 36 years, so how joyful it is to have a part in giving this new convert, Gordon, access to eternal life.

A MISSIONARY HEART: History records that, when Dr. David Livingstone, explorer and missionary to Rhodesia (present day Zimbabwe) passed away, he died down on his knees in prayer. His two faithful bearers, Chuma and Sussi, carved his heart out and buried it underneath a tree, just as Livingstone had requested. Then they dried and cured the rest of his lifeless body and set out with it on a journey that took them nearly a year. They lugged Livingstone's corpse 1500 miles across the African interior to a port on the east coast of Africa named Bagamoya. (This name, by the way, means "*I Left My Heart Behind.*") There it was loaded onto a ship and taken to be entombed at Westminster Abbey. To apply this story from David Livingstone's life to our own, it is difficult for us Hornes to live in two places. There is a strong bond and connection between brethren wherever one lives and so when we left Africa for this time in America, we "*left our hearts behind.*" The reverse is also true. One day when we leave Kerrville, we will leave part of our hearts behind.

THE HEART OF THE MATTER is this, however. Wherever one lives, there is a critical need for mission work--whether it is the family across the street or the pagan across the sea, the need for salvation in Christ Jesus is man's most desperate desire. We remain grateful to all of you who have held up, and continue to hold up, our hands in the evangelistic mission that Southern Africa Bible College has. Training passionate preachers and enthusiastic evangelists to reach out with the Word of Life in its purity remains our mandate from the Master. Please, keep on supporting this great work. If you are reading this but have never partnered with us in our missionary work in South Africa, we plead with you to do so by sending in your donation/s to Memorial Church of Christ, 900 Echo Lane, Houston, Texas, 77024 and mark your donation for SABC. Our funds have diminished in recent times and we can't afford to let that happen. *Please help us.* Also, please join with us in prayer for SABC and in bringing souls to lay at the Master's feet.

Your grateful co-workers in Christ,

Al and Donna Horne