

HELLO FROM THE HORNES:

May 31, 2010

**A PROFILE IN COURAGE:** On May 7, Al did the funeral service for a Riverside member, Donald Schma, who passed away on the 4th. Donald was an amazing man. He became a Christian late in life but before that, he lived in Pebble Beach, California in his 25,000 square foot house. When he sold it, it was to Merv Griffin who eventually sold it to Gene Hackman.

Donald was Chairman of the Central Committee for "*Reagan for Governor*" and he also rubbed shoulders with astronaut Neil Armstrong. Once, he toured Europe with his wife and a few days after they arrived home, an English Taxi Cab with the steering wheel "*on the wrong side*" arrived in the mail! Then, two years ago, Donald contracted cancer of the vocal chords. After he had surgery to remove his voice box, he couldn't speak so he had a "*button*" inserted in his throat so he could talk artificially. He hid that from view by wearing a cravat. He could not hide from us, though, his joy at having found the true church of Christ and being a member of our fellowship. On the 11th, Donald was buried at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio. As you probably know, a military burial is always moving and especially this one since a Scottish piper was on hand to play "*Oh, Danny Boy*." Long after he quit piping and we were on our way home, the plaintive wail of the bagpipes resonated in our hearts.

**AIRCRAFT CRASH IN NORTH AFRICA:** As our son Steve said when he heard the news, "*We hear of plane crashes all the time but when you know two people who died in one, it becomes personal.*" On May 12, two of our long-time, faithful Christians in South Africa, Paula and Norbert Taerner, died in the Libyan airplane crash as it was preparing to land in Tripoli in Libya, North Africa. They were the parents of one of our SABC graduates, Marcus, who is a member of the Benoni congregation and married to another of our graduates, Sandra. Of the 104 on board, there was one lone survivor--a 9-year-old Dutch lad. The pilot evidently knew there was a problem with the plane because he told the ground crew to have ambulances waiting for them on the tarmac. A passenger twittered that there was a problem and perhaps the black boxes found will still spell it out for us. Meanwhile, the Lord's church in South Africa has lost two of its pillars and SABC will miss two of her most ardent supporters.

**SOME ENCHANTED EVENING:** Someone said that "*the trouble with marriages is that when people say 'I do', they don't!*" We are here to tell you that is not always true. On Friday evening, May 21, Betsi Watters and Bill McKee were married. Al conducted the ceremony at the beautiful Trois Estate, a well known wedding venue in this area. It is at Enchanted Rock which is a familiar landmark about 40 miles from here. We feel particularly close to Betsi and Bill because Al baptized Bill last year and Betsi is a third-generation Christian of the Riverside congregation. We have had them over on Monday evenings for supper and sessions of Marriage Enrichment and all that time, our friendship with this precious young couple was being enriched.

**AFRICAN WITCHCRAFT:** When we first went to Africa 51 years ago, we lived five years in Tanganyika (now Tanzania) in East Africa. We remember seeing African albinos from time to time and noticed that they were more discriminated against than Western albinos because they lived among darker-skinned peoples. We were aware that they had to endure insults. Since then, a pattern of violence toward them has developed and escalated. Human rights activists report that attacks against African albinos spiked in 2007, resulting in at least 10,000 being displaced and going into hiding. In the past three years, 57 albinos have been killed in Tanzania and 14 in neighboring Burundi. Two of the more horrific deaths

occurred, recently, when a 5-year-old albino boy had his limbs chopped off and his mother's eye pulled out. All because it's widely believed there that human body parts will bring wealth and success. Body parts are also sought for their supposed miraculous powers and some use them as human sacrifice following the advice of witch doctors.

**FULL HOUSE:** Recently in Johannesburg, the Southern Africa International Lectureship was held. This particular lectureship has been in existence for 42 years and has had excellent attendances... the largest ever was 3200 people! Those who attended came from all over South Africa and many neighboring countries as well. Out at the SABC campus, it was a matter of "*full house*" as a hundred or so Zimbabwean brethren were housed for the weekend. It was a good opportunity to promote SABC with a view to future students. In addition, 12 SABC graduates were featured as speakers on the Lectureship program, and current SABC students helped with Youth Classes. Next year, this annual lectureship is to be held in Harare, Zimbabwe, where Southern Africa Bible College already has many grads working and serving as preachers or evangelists. To God be the glory!

#### **APRIL FUEL'S JOKE**

We actually thought it was an April Fuel's Joke when we were in South Africa recently and headlines warned that gas pump prices would increase by 5.9%. This was a huge gasoline price hike! Meanwhile, prices were rising in other areas as well -- the cost of food, water and electricity rates, etc. The Bible College is also feeling the pinch of hard times. We need a considerable increase in income to keep SABC viable. Please send contributions for SABC in care of Memorial Church of Christ, 900 Echo Lane, Houston, TX 77024. We appreciate all your prayers and past donations for the college and continue to depend on your generosity and God's grace.

Onward and Upward!

Al and Donna Horne