

HELLO FROM THE HORNES:

DECEMBER 31, 2010

DECEMBER DAYS: All some little kids may have wanted for Christmas was “their two front teeth,” but quite frankly, we Hornes would have settled for more hours in every day. December days just seemed to whizzzz by so that the month was just one long blur! It still had its highlights, though, so here goes:

WEDDING BELLS: As you will recall, last month Al baptized five people, two of whom were Jessica Castilo and Nathan Benavides. Having had Bible Studies with them, as well as Marriage Enrichment classes on another evening each week, these two young people became very dear to us. So we were thrilled when they asked Al to perform their marriage on December 4th. We had never before been to an Hispanic wedding and will never forget it. For one thing, whereas we normally see a fairly small wedding party come down the aisle, this wedding had 19 in the wedding procession. We know because we did the math! First, the two mothers of the bridal couple led the way to light the candles. Following them were the 4 bridesmaids accompanied by 2 groomsmen. Next, two “Baby Ushers” (as they were described on the printed program) walked in. One of them was named Psalms and so little that he had to be accompanied by an adult. The ring-bearer was next. He was not even a year old so he had to be carried, as he clutched the cushion with the rings. Bringing up the rear were the 3 flower girls, a maid of honor, and last of all, the bride on her father’s arm. Grand total...nineteen people walking down the aisle to the traditional strains of the Wedding March. For sure, that’s a wedding we will never forget!

NO JOY AT JOHANNESBURG GENERAL HOSPITAL: Now and again, we hear of a small complaint or two about American hospitals. Well, listen to this true happening about the biggest hospital in Southern Africa called Johannesburg General Hospital. The Benoni church secretary named Joy Hausberger wrote us about her recent visit to that hospital, “I was Number 439 in the line,” she said. “It took SIX hours before my number was called. I finally got an appointment to see a Rheumatologist on February 14th! It was quite scary to see prisoners in their orange jump suits and in shackles walking around the hospital but I guess they also need to see doctors. I had been told to bring my own toilet roll with me and also something to sterilize my hands.” That’ the same place where 15 or so years ago, a friend of ours was told to bring her own sheets when she was admitted and also her own eating utensils since all the hospital’s had been stolen. We also saw drops of dried blood on the corridor floor one day when visiting a patient and no one had even bothered to clean it up. On another occasion, we were visiting a patient in their ICU when we witnessed one of the night attendants come into the room, bend down at the wall sink to get a drink out of the faucet, and then gargle with it before spitting it out

again into the sink”. Hoo-boy, what next? Americans can be glad that their hospitals are virtual show places by comparison.

CELEBRATIONS: While both Donna’s parents were alive, the Horne Family always gathered in Kerrville for the big occasion. That was so both of them could be present. However, after Donna’s mother passed on in 2007, Fort Worth became the place for the gathering of the clan. Thanksgiving is celebrated there as well. So, one of those holidays we stay with our daughter, Lisa, and the other, we stay with our son, Steve. This year, by the time our youngest daughter, Stacey, and her family of seven, drove over from Memphis, the head count around the dinner table was twenty five. That included all of our local grandchildren and great-grandchildren. In fact, if our missionary daughter, Lynda, and her family of five in New Zealand, could have been with us, we would have numbered thirty. The more the merrier! (Incidentally, another great-grandbaby is due in April, so watch out, world! The command was to “go forth and multiple” and we Hornes are taking it seriously). Incidentally, while we’re on the subject of numbers, we celebrated our 54th wedding anniversary on the 15th of this month and the day after Christmas, one of our Riverside members turned one hundred and three!

ON THE ROAD AGAIN: Al and Kirk Eason, SABC’s new Director of Development, are making a good team. Mid-month, they drove all the way up to the area known as “The Piney Woods” to share The SABC Story. Cities visited were: Kilgore, Longview, and Tyler in Texas, as well as Minden in Louisiana. Congregations and individual friends of the college were visited with a view to putting SABC on the map financially! If you can help, please do so in care of Memorial Church of Christ, 900 Echo Lane, Houston, TX 77024. Please designate it for Southern Africa Bible College. You could also help us by finding congregations or individuals who could assist us with funding for SABC. Please let us have that information in care of that same Houston address since we are anxious to partner with as many as possible in the training of gospel preachers in Africa.

Yours for World Evangelism

Al and Donna Horne