

HELLO FROM THE HORNES:

2011 SABC LECTURESHIP WRAP-UP: This year at Southern Africa Bible College's annual lectureship, we welcomed the following speakers from overseas: From Tennessee, came **Beverly and Bill Watkins**, Crieve Hall minister in Nashville; **Bill Elliott** and **Larry York**, both from the West End congregation in Knoxville; and **Bob Huff**, an elder at the Wooddale church in Knoxville. From Houston, Texas, **Christie and Kirk Eason**, SABC Director of Development, represented the Memorial Church of Christ. Other American speakers were **Greg Johnson**, elder and minister of the Shelby Valley Church of Christ near Pikeville, Kentucky; **Neville Buchanan**, SABC graduate and minister from Cold Spring, Kentucky; and **Keith Kasarjian**, from Alabama. Also speaking for us were **Fielden & Janet Allison**, missionaries working in Swaziland, and **Dr. Neil Christians** from Canada. We also hosted wonderful local speakers and many guests from all over Southern Africa – some of them from places as far removed as 1000 miles away, like Cape Town and Zimbabwe. This year's line-up of outstanding speakers made this lectureship another great event.

THE YEAR OF THE TEAR: In all our years in Africa, we have never had another year like this one. During an 8-month period at the Benoni church, we suffered the final illnesses and deaths of six ladies -- all faithful members of the church. Among those whom we loved and lost was **Esme Rappard**, the beloved wife of long-time SABC instructor, **Theo Rappard**. After a long period of health complaints, she was finally diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. We miss her and express our sympathies to the entire Rappard family. Also, during that time, we had another two church funerals as well – the father of one of our members plus the husband of another. In addition, Al participated in a memorial service in Pretoria for a SABC graduate from the sixties, **Nick Dekker**. An accomplished linguist in African languages, Nick had been a missionary in Swaziland and among the Zulu's. He'd been married to his wife, **Lorraine**, for over fifty years. Though he had cancer, with his dying breath he continued to try to teach the gospel through his oxygen mask to his attending nurses. Finally, one of our young African couples at church lost their little 3-year-old daughter in a matter of hours. She became ill one day and was admitted to a nearby government hospital that evening. When the couple returned the following day, their little girl was wearing an oxygen mask and at four, that same afternoon, she died. The consensus is that she died of an often fatal *button spider* bite. So that was ten deaths we had in eight months. If it weren't for heaven, it would have been overwhelming. They were all very dear to us. Truly, this has been a year of tears.

ANOTHER WAVE OF DEPARTURES: In the early 90's, the Sunday morning attendance at Benoni church was regularly just under 500. But over the years, emigration and migration steadily reduced our number to between 250 and 300. This year, alone, we have lost four other families to destinations both inside and outside the country. In May, one of our families of six moved to Cape Town. In June, two of our couples retired and moved to Port Alfred and Durban respectively. Both couples have been in the church since the 1960's, but now in advanced age, they moved to be near their care-giving children. Then mid-August, we lost another one of our main couples who emigrated to the States. A young vibrant couple with two children, Marcy and Jaap Lourens, had won a draw for a green card so it was an exciting

move for them. So there went fourteen more people in one fell swoop who moved away – another blow to the Benoni church. Donna and I feel really needed in the Benoni work once again. We have much to do for Jesus there.

AROUND THE WORLD AROUND THE WORLD: In Holland they say, “Goeden nagt.” In Australia, it’s “Night, Mate!” And in Duitsland, “Schlafen Sie Wohl.” In the USA, we say, “Good Night!” Meanwhile, in South Africa, they still close out the day with, “Are the windows closed and the doors locked? Did you activate the house alarm and pull the car into the garage? Are the Rottweilers on their post out in the yard?” Sad to say, but in an 8-month period, there were three couples within a 3-mile radius of our house in Benoni who had murderers enter their home in the night. A couple was shot to death in their home in February; another elderly man was stabbed to death in April in his own backyard and his wife admitted to ICU; and a third couple was attacked in their home this month by iron pipe-wielding intruders. The husband was beaten to death and the wife severely wounded. It was interesting to note that two of the three men who were murdered were 75-years-old. It would seem that older couples are being targeted and victimized because, as everyone knows, they haven’t the strength or the prowess to try and fight back.

ARRIVAL IN AMERICA: To begin our 4-months fund-raising work in America, we arrived back in Texas on October 26th. There to meet us at the San Antonio airport was our son, **Steve**, from Fort Worth and his 6-year-old daughter, **Audrey**. They drove us on home to Kerrville and stayed a couple of days to welcome us and help us get setup with some of our basic services. It’s great to have a caring, loving son! Before we left Africa, Al had two requests from Riverside members in Kerrville. One was to preach the funeral, three days after we arrived here, of 51-year-old **Becky Johnson**. She was the ALS (Lou Gerig’s Disease) patient whom we visited every Friday afternoon for two of the three years we spent here. Then, next month, on the specially selected date of 11-11-11, he is to perform the marriage of our dear friends, **Gary Jones** and **Lydia Black**, at an outdoor sunset ceremony on the Riverside church grounds. Also, we have continued our ministry of visitation to those members in hospital and those living in Kerrville’s nursing homes and care centers. While here we also want to hold some Home Bible Studies and Marriage Enrichment Evenings. *We were won to win and saved to serve.*

ONWARD AND UPWARD,

Al and Donna Horne,

Your Missionaries to South Africa

P. S. Remember that with the demands of the economy right now, SABC has had to cut back on the student body. Please help us with your prayers and financial donations. Please make out your contribution to Memorial Church of Christ (SABC), 900 Echo Lane, Houston, TX 77024. Please help us train our preachers to spread the Word throughout Africa and the world.