

HELLO FROM THE HORNES:**SABC'S ANNUAL LECTURESHIP AFTERGLOW**

The Lectureship theme this year was *"The Bible: The Source of Spiritual Growth."* It was based on Colossians 1:9-10, *"Filled with the knowledge of His will. . .bearing fruit."* The attendance were highest on Sunday, the first day of the Lectureship, with 356 in Bible Study, 468 in morning worship and 394 that evening in worship. Visitors from America this year were Sondra and Brian Davis, Westside elder, from Round Rock, Texas; Linda and Larry Cline, Hardin Valley minister from Knoxville, Tennessee; Vicky and Jack Evans, Frisco minister from Terrill, Texas; and Kevin Kasperek, Riverside minister from Kerrville, Texas. Besides Kevin for the week of Lectureship, we also kept in our home Joshua Ankiyah, an Indian minister from Durban, South Africa. The only hiccup during the week occurred on the second morning out on the SABC campus when there was a four-hour long power outage which meant there would be no sound system for the speakers, and even more serious to some, no mid-morning tea served. However, Rob Cooke, a Benoni member, provided us with a generator at short notice – after which it was "business as usual." Of course, one of the purposes of a college lectureship is to advertise the Bible College plus fund raising. There were 15 responses during the Lectureship which included two for baptism. Others were desiring to improve their walk with God. A highlight this year was a charming fund-raising song written by an African graduate of SABC, Leonard Magaya from Harare, Zimbabwe. To the tune of "There is Power in the Blood." The words are. . .

"Have you been to SABC for the Lectureship? Are you filled with the knowledge of His will? Are you fully supporting the cause of Christ? Please donate something today." Then follows the chorus: *"Are you supporting the college with cash, prayers, and other resources? Are you fully contributing weekly or by the month? O please support the college today."*

RAT-A-TAT-TAT

We have an American friend who refers to the recent hurricanes there as *"Mother Nature's Hissy Fits."* Well, here in Benoni, on Monday, strong winds and a heavy rainfall plus *"The Mother of All Hail Storms"* hit our area. Our own sturdy brick home was built in 1948 so there was no visible damage—although listening to the rat-a-tat-tat against the windows, you would have thought each one was shattered to pieces. Not everyone was so blessed, however, because 344 small government-funded dwellings were severely damaged while 3,000 shacks in squatter camps were completely washed away! With Johannesburg being the economic center of South Africa, many people come here from surrounding countries and outlying districts to find employment. But there are no jobs so they are forced to scrounge around for pieces of tin and cardboard and the odd brick or what-have-you and erect their own little shanties in a squalid squatter camp.

WE CALL THAT LIFE

And now a quote from author, Pamela Shepherd: "I remember somebody telling me they had been to Africa, and they were asking the local tribe about their spirituality. The tribesman couldn't make sense of the word. And so the visitor kept trying to explain what they meant by spirituality, and finally the man said, "Oh, we call that *life*," (which is what we are all about.) Al's Lectureship topic this year was "The New Birth" from John 3:3, 5. To find and attract souls and then to study with them and eventually witness their "new birth" as they are baptized into Christ is our greatest joy. We have had seven baptisms in the last three months: Charlene and Ruan Coetzee, initially contacted through on-line World Bible School studies, who then studied with us; a mother, Lizelle Mostert, and her two children in their twenties, Michael and Charne', who came out of a Pentecostal background to become members of the Lord's church; Theo Pienaar, the son of one of our members, who is dating a young lady in the Benoni congregation; and

Charles Botha, who began visiting the Benoni congregational services and ended up obeying the gospel! After each baptism, we were thrilled to welcome them into the church where they began their new walk with Jesus Christ. *The New Birth – We Call That Life!*

ENOUGH ALREADY!!

Here in South Africa, there are some serious concerns. Like crime which, along with the joblessness we already mentioned, often leads to people emigrating from South Africa. In the last six weeks, our Benoni congregation has had to say goodbye to two of our young families with another soon to follow: 1) One of our deacons, Jason Wright and his wife, Natalie and their two young children have already completed their papers to move to England; 2) Another young family, Tyrone and Lara-Rochelle Tee, with their son have just arrived as immigrants in Australia; and 3) a third young couple, Sheldon and Candice Fisher, who also have a little boy, emigrated in September to Auckland, New Zealand. Of course, our loss is our Lynda and John Staiger's gain as the Fishers are planning to worship with the Morningside congregation where our son-in-law preaches. We regret losing these three families to re-locate in overseas countries and hope they don't experience what another immigrant to London did. He said he saw a bumper sticker on a car there that said, *"I MISS SOUTH AFRICA."* So he broke the window, stole the car radio and lap top and left a note saying, *"Do you feel better now?"*

BLOOM WHERE WE'RE PLANTED

Following our usual annual schedule, Lord willing we are due to arrive in America on Wednesday, November 1st, where we will be met at the DFW Airport by our children. We are excited as we anticipate seeing our four children and their families very soon now in America! As a matter of interest, this time we will even get to see our daughter, Lynda, and her husband, John Staiger, since they are planning to come over from their missionary work in New Zealand to attend the Harding College graduation service in December of their oldest daughter. It has been two years since we have seen our Lynda and John and before that, it was six years before we saw them. Incidentally, our co-workers here and dear friends and fellow-workers, the Hogg's, flew back to Tennessee this past week and we really miss them already. In fact, when Donna expressed that to a Kerrville friend, she used the expression, *"Now we are two lonely little petunias in an onion patch."* And the friend wrote back, *"I can hardly wait till those two little petunias get their little blossoms back over here in the States."* We assure her and you that while there, we will *"bloom where we are planted."* It is not easy to leave our work even temporarily here in Africa. *"The fields are (so) white unto harvest but the workers are few."* One thing is for sure, we will continue to reach out to folks with the gospel of Christ wherever we are.

IN CLOSING

And now, we dedicate this African Blessing to everyone who has ever called or continues to call Africa their home. *"May the African sun always shine and the African drums beat deeply in your heart. May the vision of its glory fill you with joy, and may the memory of Africa be with you always!"*

NEVER BACKWARD, ALWAYS FORWARD!!

Al and Donna Horne

Your Missionaries to South Africa

PS Please help us in our work by sending much-needed donations to ***Southern Africa Bible College:*** Address the envelope to SABC, c/o Memorial Church of Christ, 900 Echo Lane, Houston, TX 77024. May God bless you all and may you retain your place *"near to the heart of God."* Because of Jesus!!