



For behold, this is my work and my glory - to bring to pass
the immortality and eternal life of man.

MOSES 1:39



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CHRIS AND MAVIS STEVENSON | 4

SACTM: SOUTH AFRICA CAPE TOWN MISSION



CHRIS AND MAVIS STEVENSON | 4

SACTM: South Africa Cape Town Mission

March 30, 2019 to June 14, 2019 - Book 4 of 4

CHRIS AND MAVIS STEVENSON | 4

SCATM: South Africa Cape Town Mission

March 30, 2019 to June 14, 2019 - Book 4 of 4



**MISSIONARY
MEMORIES**

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CHRIS AND MAVIS STEVENSON | 4

SCATM: South Africa Cape Town Mission

Mar_30_2019_Update

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

I do not know about you, but the two-hour meeting block seems to go by very quickly. That is, except for today. After our two wards met there was a "welcoming home" for a return missionary. To begin with, this is not a social event, it is like another church meeting. Mom was the first speaker and did a great job of encouraging the young man to continue on strong in the church. Then, the second speaker, the third speaker, the fourth speaker, the fifth speaker, the sixth speaker, the return missionary remarks, a hymn sung by the members, and then, Bishop Jada who spoke for 17 minutes.

After that meeting, we adjourned to the Relief Society room where they had more speaking - people who just wanted to stand and say anything they thought appropriate and com-

plimentary about the return missionary as they all ate chicken, potato salad, chips, marshmallows, sandwiches, etc. Then, platters with candy and Mom's famous chocolate chip cookies and her Jungle Oats cookies.

It is so good to see this young man come home from his mission with a smile and a desire to go to work in the ward. Today he was called to be the Young Men's President. He will do a great job and will be a very good role model for our young men.

His mother is not a member but has been so supportive of her son the whole time he has been gone. She religiously contributed money each month to his mission.

When we went to get ready this morning for church, there was no water. It just came back on at 6 PM this evening. So, we had to sponge bathe like the majority of the popu-

lation does in the townships and villages.

Some of you are wondering if I had fried mac 'n cheese for both breakfast and lunch. Of course I did, silly!

Photos:

- "Non Halaal" means that they meat in this shop is not approved for eating by Muslims. - This is Thandile Mayekiso and his mother. His mother spoke at the welcoming home and is not a member. "Thandile" in Xkosa means one who loves life.

Have a beautiful Sabbath. Let's be grateful for the principle of repentance and the enabling power of the Atonement of the Savior. His Atonement can help us become more like him. Does any other religion teach that? We love you,

Dad and Mom



"Non Halaal" means that they meat in this shop is not approved for eating by Muslims.

Thandile Mayekiso and his mother.



Tid Bits

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

*1. Word of the week: * "cudgel," a short, thick stick used as a weapon. *Example:* Some times we feel like using a cudgel to convince people of our point of view.

2. Quote of the week:

3. Scripture of the week: What I the Lord have spoken, I have spoken, and I excuse not myself; and though the heavens and the earth pass away, my word shall not pass away, but shall all be fulfilled, whether by mine own voice or by the voice of my servants, it is the same. (D&C 1:38)

4. Joke of the week:

Wife: Oh, honey, I love your new shoes.

Husband: I bought these shoes from a drug dealer. I don't know what he laced them with, but I was

tripping all day!

5. Bee's Knees Award: Are you an all around good guy? Maybe? Probably not? Well this guy strives to do his best at whatever he does. He cares about other people. He is a busy professional but is heavily invested in providing for, teaching and loving his family. He is grateful for his many blessings. He loves his wife and will do anything to bless and help his children. He loves the gospel and wants that front and center for his family. He is competitive, funny, a great friend, intelligent and more beautiful than ten princesses all smushed together. Daniel, you are the Bee's Knees, brotha!!!

6. Gospel question of the week: Michael Beckstead beat out Grace with the answer to last week's Gospel Question, who gave the plates to the prophet Mormon? Answer: Amaron. This week's question:

Is the Word of Wisdom a commandment of the Lord?

*7. If I were you (Advice to grand kids): * If I were you, I would start saving right now my money for a mission. Can you pay for your whole mission without your parent's help? Try it. I think you will like it.

*8. What I learned: *Good ideas also need good planning.

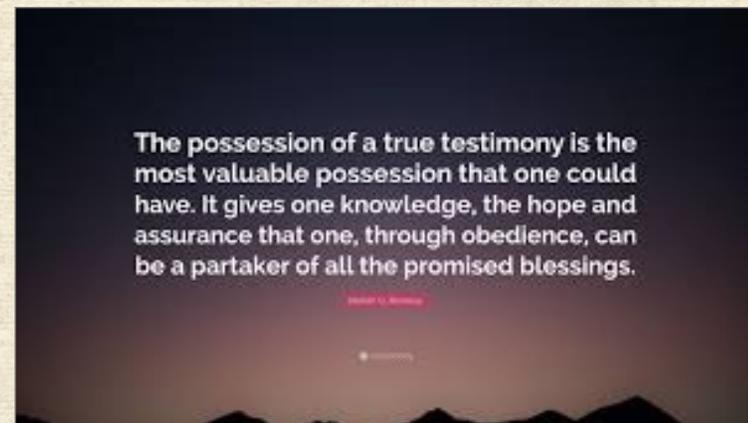
*9. What I am grateful for: * Great Primary teachers! They can make such a difference in the lives of our

children.

*10: My goal for the week: * Prepare a sample guideline for an agenda for Bishop's Youth Council. Recommend to have a Priest or Laurel conduct the council.

*11. Photo of the week: * Young kids at Grandpa Stanley Stevenson's funeral.

We love you so very much! Have fun living the gospel this week! Dad and Mom





2019 APRIL 1 }

Apr_01_2019_Update

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

I am somewhat hesitant to share this with you. I do not mean in any way, shape or form to diminish the elegance, dignity and angelic nature of your mother. However, I feel I must share the following with you as a cathartic effort to relieve the burdensome turmoil I feel deeply inside of me.

This morning, I sat down to what I thought was going to be a delicious breakfast of Cream of Wheat. Mom had mumbled something and I guess I just grunted or uttered something to suggest I was listening to her. Suddenly, to my shock and dismay, she sprinkled raisins all over my cereal. I was confused and dumbfounded. Any one with half a brain knows you do not put raisins on Cream of Wheat. In disbelief, I blurted out, "What are you doing?"

She started to laugh. "You said, 'yes,' when I asked you if you wanted raisins in your cereal." She continued to laugh. When I told her that this incident would be "reported to the children," she laughed even more, suggesting to me that she did not care about her reputation as a loving, sensitive and supportive wife.

The low point was her using my hearing impediment as justification to damage my cereal. It seems that handicapped people are always picked upon. So often, I merely suffer in silence. But please, do not cry for me. I will survive and live to move onward in my mortal journey, though my trials be as poignant as the most severe physical and psychological tortures known to mankind.

Mom did a lot of sewing today. I did a lot of maintenance work at missionary boardings and have more to

do tomorrow. We also turned in our Personal Reimbursement Form summarizing all of the mission expenses we paid for with personal funds.

*Photos: *

- Row of classrooms recently built in Cradock, about 3.5 hours from here. The people in the U.S. that funded and contracted with the builder, might be able to help us in our efforts to help the Phakamile School. We plan to meet with them when we return to the States. -
Link to a cool type of building con-

struction (which you may have seen already) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qekVxoRTirg>

We love you,

Dad and Mom



Row of classrooms recently built in Cradock

2019 APRIL 2 }

The Stick of Joseph

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

I would like to thank those of you that contributed your ideas for scriptures to the attached document, "The Stick of Judah and the Stick of Joseph."

have thick skin. Do your worse.

Thanks,

Dad

Mom and I were in a lesson once and realized how nice it was to be able to talk about the baptism of Jesus in the Bible and then, go to the Book of Mormon to help explain why he was baptised. It helps to demonstrate how the two books of scripture work hand in hand.

That approach to gospel teaching touches many subjects. The attached spreadsheet simply broaches on a few.

Please feel free to review this and let me know any of your comments, recommendations, suggested changes, additions, deletions, etc. I

2019

APRIL 3 }

Apr_03_2019_Update

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

We had a busy morning taking missionaries to the clinic and hospital. Nothing serious, just one complaining with headaches and the other who needed a sonogram. After that, Mom and I took them to McDonald's. They each had a large meal, Mom had a salad and I had an apple pie.

I have been a little under the weather with a cold, stuffed up head, chills, etc. I am betting that I will be feeling much, much better in the morning.

Staying inside this afternoon, we spent some time looking at travel arrangement for our trip home. We are not trunky, but decided we better look now and compare prices from different airlines.

Without the boring details:

June 14th, fly to Cape Town

June 17th, fly to Johannesburg

June 17th, fly to Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

June 19th, fly to Johannesburg (Attend Temple)

June 20th, (Attend Temple) Fly to Salt Lake City

June 21st, Prior to midnight, arrive in Salt Lake

Attachment:

- This is a spreadsheet that cites different scriptures regarding a gospel topic in both the Bible and the Book of Mormon. It is valuable to demonstrate to investigators how both books testify of Jesus Christ and work hand in hand to clarify doctrine. Thanks to our children that helped with researching a topic with their family.

Have a wonderful day. We love you,

Dad and Mom

2019 APRIL 5 }

Apr_05_2019_Update

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

Hard to believe that our district meeting came so quickly this week and now it is over. It was interesting to observe our ZL's attempt to disseminate information they picked up in their Mission Leadership Council during a joint meeting prior to our regular district meetings. (Keep in mind, the MLC is the meeting they fly to in Cape Town and stay for about 1 1/2 days. An expensive meeting to say the least.) With the 12 missionaries we had there this morning, the ZL's mentioned maybe 4 things we need to be mindful of in our daily work. Those items combined might have taken a maximum of 5 to 10 minutes of time. And, they kind of stumbled through their little presentation. Bottom line: We do not think the "water is getting to the end of the row."

Mom and I need to be patient and

remember these missionaries are 19-20 years old. However, it just seems that they could be a lot better prepared and all the missionaries should be taking their callings more responsibly.

Mom had her music classes today and I was set to go out with a fellow-shipper to visit some members. On my way to pick up the fellow-shipper, I had a phone call from our missionaries in King Williams Town. One of the Elders there fainted. This is about his 5th time since he has been on his mission, roughly 3 to 4 months. He called the mission president and was advised to come into East London to see a doctor.

I cancelled my meeting with the fellow-shipper and drove to the clinic. He had a battery of tests performed and about 3 hours later we were all leaving the clinic. All his tests were normal. (However, he told me his

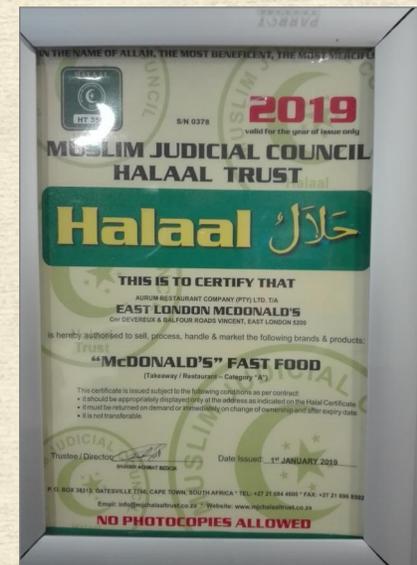
A1c test came up as an *8". That translates into about an average blood sugar reading of 183 for the last 3 months.) He will get a Cat Scan on Tuesday and then, back to see the doctor.

They had a ways to travel to get home so we ran them by McDonald's for a quick bite to eat. FYI, I did not eat anything there. I think their deep-fried food has a seriously bad after taste. You need an industrial strength degreaser product after eating there.

Looking over this email, it seems rather negative. I will end with a positive note. We had a very good discussion in our district meeting about using the scriptures when we teach. This is important to demonstrate credibility and to introduce the Book of Mormon as another witness of Jesus Christ.

Photos:

- Good to know that McDonald's is a safe place to eat for Muslims. -
From left to right: Elders Tervort (Utah), Dos Santos (Brazil), Elder Petalama (Polynesia), Elder Owens



Good to know that McDonald's is a safe place to eat for Muslims.



From left to right: Elders Tervort (Utah), Dos Santos (Brazil), Elder Petalama (Polynesia), Elder Owens (Brigham City, Utah). Elder Owens lives on the same side of Main Street as Michelle, Josh, Andrew and Stacy.

(Brigham City, Utah). Elder Owens lives on the same side of Main Street as Michelle, Josh, Andrew and Stacy.

We love you. Honor your covenants!

Dad and Mom!!!

Tid Bits

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

*1. Word of the week: * "em-pirical," based on, concerned with, or verifiable by observation or experience rather than theory or pure logic. *Example: *There is plethora of empirical evidence that the Chevy Corvette is the best sports car for the money on the road today.

2. Quote of the day:

3. Scripture of the week:

If ye love me, keep my commandments. (John 14:15)

4. Joke of the week:

Q: How many apples grow on a tree?

A: All of them.

5. Bee's Knees Award: Can you flawlessly let out the clutch on a

Porsche 911 V8 without jerking your head off your shoulders? Probably not. This kid is smarter than 10 rocket scientists all smushed together. He is a dedicated member of the church and faithful priesthood holder. He walks the talk. He is a solid athlete and a serious competitor. He dates beautiful women. He will be learning and sharing his testimony in French. He loves his family and is humbly grateful for all his blessings. David Walker, you are the Bee's Knees, brotha!!!

6. Gospel question of the week:

Last week Michael Beckstead said the Word of Wisdom is a commandment. I agree based on what Brigham Young did when he put the W of W to the Church in a general Conference and their was unanimous agreement that it become binding doctrine. Also, from what Joseph Fielding Smith says. This week's question: Which President of

the Church had 5 different 2nd counselors during his time as the prophet?

7. If I were you(Advice to grand kids): If I were you, I would read all of the conference talks when they become available in the Ensign. Try it. I think you will like it.

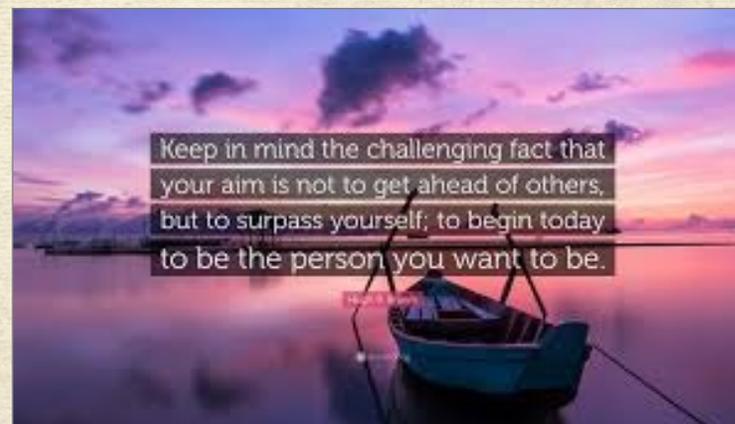
8. What I learned: 20 % of the missionaries create 80% of the problems with which a mission president must deal. (My qualitative observation.)

9. What I am grateful for: General Conference. I love to hear the words of the Lord's living prophets and apostles!

10: My goal this week: I prepared a few documents to help the bishop in administering his calling. Now, I need to sit down with him and show him how these can be effective tools for him to use.

*11. Photo of the week: * Does any one know who this little girl is?

Have fun living the gospel this week!





David and
Melissa

What a blessing to have conference so accessible to all of us. Time to listen and learn!

Love,

Dad and Mom

Apr6 2019_Update

Dear Family,

I spent this morning installing some smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in missionary boardings. We know of another senior couple that feels strongly that they need to be professionally installed. Now way. Drill two holes and your installation is finished in 5 minutes. It is not high tech equipment.

Mom and I took a lady who is a

cashier at the local grocery store to lunch today. Her birthday was yesterday. She is about 50 years old. She has been excited for days about this. We went to the local KFC. She was the birthday girl so she got to order whatever she wanted. When the food came, the workers came out and sang happy birthday to her. She was all smiles. Then, we needed to have a couple ice cream sundaes to complete the meal. She was enjoying every minute of it. We got to know her better and she learn more about us.

She lives in a shack and spends R 50 (\$3.50) a day to get to work and back. It is probably an hour commute each way. She told her son and grandson that we were taking her to lunch and they were so excited. After lunch she told us this is a day she will never forget the rest of her life. She said, no one has ever taken her to eat at a restaurant before. We were touched that we could do something so small and yet, to her, was such a huge event in her life.

It truly made our hearts joyful!

Photos:

- This is Soso, Mom and I at a very exclusive, expensive, high end, Gonubie restaurant. - Cool metal artwork at the KFC.

We love you very, very much. Do something kind for someone today. It will make you feel so good!

Love,

Dad and Mom



This is Soso, Mom and I at a very exclusive, expensive, high end, Gonubie restaurant



Cool metal artwork at the KFC.

2019 APRIL 7 }

Apr_07_2019_Update

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

We hope you are enjoying another great General Conference. Going into conference I have had a few questions and it is fascinating to me how many of the speakers have already addressed these questions with profound inspiration and answers.

We hear so often the importance of listening to and heeding the words of the living prophets. It cannot be understated. As President Nelson has said, in our day and age we must be in tune with the Holy Ghost to abide the trials and temptations of the adversary who does not sleep and who has had 6,000 years to practice his art of deception and turmoil. This needs to be indelibly embedded in the minds and hearts of each of our children and grandchildren. *Please so instruct those in your household for whom you have a

divine injunction to love, nurture and care for*.

Mom and I are trying to get over some colds with all the coughing, congestion, nose-blowing, headache and sneezing that seems to accompany such an ailment. We have stayed home today and listened to conference on our computer. However, I did go last night at 8 Pm to pick up some missionaries at the church house. I will do the same tonight. There are no taxis that time of the day and our missionaries are forbidden to be in the township walking at night and no transportation back to their boarding.

Photos:

- Last night, on the way to pick up our missionaries from watching conference, I came upon this serious road accident. It is a very dark, unlit highway at night. It appeared to be a head on collision. Sad to see

emergency workers putting people into an ambulance on stretchers. - Sister Margaret, in her festive dress, who had attended a traditional event earlier in the day.

Enjoy your Sabbath Day! We love you,

Dad and Mom

--

Christopher W. Stevenson
241 S. 7600 East
Huntsville, Utah 84317
801-791-9933 cell



Last night, on the way to pick up our missionaries from watching conference, I came upon this serious road accident.



Sister Margaret, in her festive dress, who had attended a traditional event earlier in the day.

2019 APRIL 8 }

Apr_08_2019_Update

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

We enjoyed watching the last session of Conference this morning. Great talks! We especially enjoyed Elder Kyle McKay. He not only did a great job with the presentation of his message, but he also had such a very important message to deliver.

I am now in the middle of the Mdantsane Companionship Area Wall Map Project. We are hoping that one week from now we can have very large, laminated wall maps for each of our missionary companions. These turn out to be very effective tools for daily and weekly planning.

Late afternoon, we went out to have an early dinner with Rollo and Char Steenbeek. We had our usual favorite, Oxtail Stew! In my mind, it is very important which end of the tail

you are eating. Once you separate the meat from the fat and off the bone, it is very tender and flavorful.

Mom is right in the middle of her two week cold. She is a wee bit miserable. Please remember her in your prayers.

Photos:

- This is the cat that spent an hour rolling around on the dinner table before the meal was served. - This is a _____ (fill in the blank, I can't remember what kind of animal this is). It also had free reign of the dining room table.

I plan on remembering President Nelson's counsel to employ daily repentance. That type of daily examination of our lives can really help us to become more dedicated disciples of the Savior. We love you,

Dad and Mom



This is the cat that spent an hour rolling around on the dinner table before the meal was served.



This is a _____ (fill in the blank, I can't remember what kind of animal this is). It also had free reign of the dining room table.

2019 APRIL 9 }

Apr_09_2019_Update

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

Mom has been home bound all day trying to shake her cold. I felt well enough to catch up with some missionaries that needed some medical attention. One of them needed a CT scan. Once that was done, we headed back to see the attending physician regarding all his test results. Upon reviewed, the doctor said every test they performed indicated normal. The last thing they want to do is run an EEG (brain) test to see if there are any signs of epilepsy.

It is interesting to me that in this country where you have a very high rate of HIV (19%), the phlebotomists in the clinic do not use gloves or face shields! Crazy!

We seem to have a couple disobedient missionaries. The other night I went with Elder Hodges to check on

some missionaries that were seen in a video shop renting 4 movies in their P-day clothes at 7 PM when they should have been in their area working or in their boardings since it was after dark. It is too bad that the reports are not something like, "We ran into some of your missionaries this evening. They were dressed in their best missionary attire and presenting a Book of Mormon to a family they saw at the grocery store."

We will be dining with our mission president this coming week. A good question for him is to what extent does he want the senior missionaries involved in the day-to-day activities of the young missionaries in our respective areas? They have DL's and ZL's. Are they the ones that should supervise and correct?

Photos:

- This is a small piece of an aerial

map we are creating for our missionaries. If you increase the size of this map you can see how each house is numbered. This makes it easy for missionaries to identify the location of homes they need to visit. Mdantsane_Mapbook_B5.pdf <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LAFnsBuzTzlKI7_T1WaddYXjCKkx89k6/view?usp=drive_web> Hope you have a great day. Love,

Dad and Mom

2019

APRIL 10 }

Apr_10_2019_Update

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

Another trip to the doctor today. Actually, the bone cracker, chiropractor. We have a missionary that is having some back issues for the last week. Today's session seemed to help. He goes back on Friday for a follow-up visit.

Then, it was out to King Williams Town to help a missionary get some money from the bank where he needs to have his passport to confirm ID. Unfortunately, this bank also wanted some other documentation. The solution is to wait until Monday when he will be in East London and can go to a bank other missionaries use that does not have so many hoops to jump through.

Mom has been recuperating and knitting like a maniac. She is trying to set up a knitting lesson for Saturday. By then, she should be feeling

80 - 100%.

Photos:

- This is a photo of the back side of our retirement village. Our homes have the green roofs. Note the steep drop off on this back side - hard for thieves to come in from that direction. - I stopped by a restaurant today, Cricketer, to check out the menu. We need to find a place that we can take President Lebethoa to on Wednesday evening. It appears to be a good place for steaks but might be too far from his hotel. They have Impalas wandering all around the area. You know they are Impalas because they have an "M" on their rear ends.

We love you. Be Good! Do Good!

Dad and Mom



You know they are Impalas because they have an "M" on their rear ends.

Hazy Ridge



2019 APRIL 13 }

Apr_13_2019_Update

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

Sorry about no update yesterday. We ran out of prepaid data which gives us access to the Internet. It is quite the racket they have here. You purchase a certain amount and if you do not use it all by a certain date, you are out of luck. You then have to go buy more. If you use it all up before that certain date, then, you have to go buy more. They are like lawyers, they are always making money!

We went to a funeral this morning and we got off easy. It only lasted 2 hours and 15 minutes. I will spare you the details of the disorganization and share with you one bright spot. Immediately after the funeral and all had left the chapel and cultural hall, a group of about 10 boys came in with blue latex gloves and a vacuum cleaner. While two vacuumed the chapel the other boys jumped right

in and started putting away all the chairs.

I was so impressed. I asked them who had assigned them or asked them to help out. Their answer, "No one." Wow, that is something you do not see every day in Africa! I was so proud of them, I went to the car and came back with a bunch of candy for them.

Yesterday, during part of our district meeting, we spent some time working on piecing together a large aerial map of Mdantsane. After the missionaries outlined their respective areas, we will now take it to the local print shop and create super large wall maps for them. FYI, we did some basic math based on what we think are good assumptions and we calculate there are over 250,000 people in Mdantsane. (Soweto in Johannesburg is over a million.)

Where is Josh Terry when we need him!!!

Photos:

- Full time Missionary Cartographers!
- Boy cleaning up the church after funeral

Have a great day doing what is right.

We love you,

Dad and Mom



Full time Missionary Cartographers!



Tid Bits

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

1. Word of the week: "ablution," an act of washing oneself. *Example: *Various religions have forms of ablution ceremonies as a way to present oneself clean before God.

2. Quote of the week:

3. Scripture of the week:

And again, if ye by the grace of God are perfect in Christ, and deny not his power, then are ye sanctified in Christ by the grace of God, through the shedding of the blood of Christ, which is in the covenant of the Father unto the remission of your sins, that ye become holy, without spot. (Moroni 10:33)

4. Joke of the week:

Do you want to hear a joke about pa-

per? Never mind, it's tearable!

5. Bee's Knees Award: Are you beautiful? Are you a great musician? Are you smarter than 10 rocket scientists all smushed together? This girl is super fantastic. She loves to learn. She is a great example of the gospel to her family and her friends. She loves her family very much. She can play the piano and the violin both at the same time (that's how good she is.) She is a great helper around the house, always doing her part. She has a beautiful smile and a good sense of humor. Ella, you are the Bee's Knees, sistah!!!

6. Gospel question of the week: Last week's question was, "what president of the church had 5 different second counselors?" The answer, which no one attempted to provide, is Heber J. Grant. This week's question, Who was the first church president born in Utah?

*7. If I were you (Advice to grand kids): * If I were you, I would not criticize. Spend less time looking for what is wrong and more time looking for what is right. Try it. I think you will like it.

8. What I learned this week: Criticism can bring about contention.

*9. What I am grateful for: * Unselfish people.

10. My goal this week: I met with the 4th ward bishop about using some forms to measure where his

ward is and how it is functioning. Also shared a sample Bishop Youth Committee agenda. This week: Get missionary wall maps produced.

*11. Photo of the week: * Oh, how I miss these beautiful girls!!!

Have fun living the gospel this week! We love you so very much!

Dad and Mom



In my ninety-plus years, I have learned a secret. I have learned that when good men and good women face challenges with optimism, things will always work out! Truly, things always work out! Despite how difficult circumstances may look at the moment, those who have faith and move forward with a happy spirit will find that things always work out.

— Gordon B. Hinckley —

AZ QUOTES



Apr14 2019_Update

Dear Family,

This morning we had a joint meeting with both the 1st Ward and the 4th Ward for sacrament meeting. After the meeting, they showed the last session of General Conference. Since Mom and I are still coughing a bit (Mom more than me) and we had already seen the last session, we came home.

Mom did have a chance to share with

the two Primary Presidents the plastic Easter Egg activity. It was well-received and we are anxious to see how it goes with the children next Sunday. Part of the challenge for our members is two fold. First, they do not have the experience and have not had the exposure to how Church organizations and quorums function. Secondly, they are handicapped with lack of money for even some of the simplest things. For example, something simple like, paint and brushes to help children make prayer rocks. They do not have unlimited Internet access to dial into blogs and

LDS forums. But, they are coming along. Things will just get progressively better as time marches forward.

I have reflected somewhat this last week about President Nelson's challenge to "repent daily." (I am afraid my companion may suggest three times a day for me.) When we consider daily repentance, it helps focus our attention on things we think, say and do throughout the day. We can better identify those little things we need to work on.

Photos:

- Someone at Fruit and Veg has a creative imagination. - National elections are just around the corner. Who to vote for?

We truly pray that you will have a delightful Sabbath. Enjoy your time together as family. Serve each other. Love,

Dad and Mom

April Showers

Dear Ones,

It is raining again today. I love it since we are home and it cools things down abit.

We are now down to 2 months before we leave East London, but who is counting. Actually I am counting because I am trying to finish up some things and trying to figure out how to get it done as our time winds down. We have started to give away a few things and are deciding what we need to do at our house to have it scrubbed and ready for the next tenant whoever that is and whenever they come. It does not matter how thoroughly I clean each week when I scrub floors and dust and wipe down the baseboards etc the next week there are spider webs and small spiders. They do not bother us other than they are there. They look like small daddy-long-legs with white bodies. Friday as I cleaned the kitchen floor I wiped under the counters because whether I see a spiderweb or not I always see a few spiders escaping my cleaning. Too bad for them 4 at least met there demise. The wind blows in dust

each day so if the new resident does not come the day we leave they will think we have not cleaned for a week or so. They will learn about that after they have been here for a while. Maybe it is that way everywhere that dust and dirt just accumulates on horizontal surfaces. Probably so. Sister Faku gave the opening prayer in our Sacrament meeting today and one of the things she said was "we pray that the things we hear today will stay in our ears." I will miss hearing such prayers. They are simple and meaningful. Chris has or will mention in the update that we went to a funeral yesterday. We were told by the family that the funeral would begin at 10:00, Bishop Jada told the family the day before that "our funerals begin at 9:00". We were not able to get to the church until 9:15 and we were one of the first to arrive. Bishop Lalendle was at the building and had started to set up chairs in the overflow area so we helped with that and then the mourners began to arrive. At about 10:00 Bishop Jada asked if I would please help with the music. So he gave me the songs he wanted to sing. I looked at the program but it was written in Xhosa and I could not de-

cipher that any songs were apart of the program. I was able to find a YSA women who would be willing to lead the songs. She did her best but I could not follow her beat. She left the funeral before it was over and one of the missionaries stepped up and did the leading about halfway through the first verse of the last song. People were walking in and out throughout the service. A couple of women at different times started to sing a song and expected that others would join in, The first one was shushed before she got on more than a line or two. A bit later another woman in the overflow started singing and many of the congregation would parrot what she sang. It was beautiful but again it was in Xhosa so I did not understand the words. She stood up and started clapping and really getting into it and a few others stood and a lady behind her started waving her hands over her head and it looked like the singing was going to hijack the service. Bishop Jada stood at the microphone and after a couple of minutes it quieted down and we think he explained that in our church services that was not acceptable and to

please follow along with the program. (we are making an assumption at that because he spoke in Xhosa only) The church policy is that if the funeral is in the chapel that it is to be conducted in the respectful, reverent way that any church meeting is held. Very different than the way most of the churches conduct their services in the township. Our mission President calls them the "happy, clappy" churches. As I was scanning the congregation for a physical reaction it seemed by some faces that they might be offended or could not un-

derstand why they could not do what they are used to doing. Bishop Jada told the congregation that he would be happy to speak with any one after the meeting and explain more about church doctrine. I do wish that after two years I understood more of the language but I have to admit that I have not made a good study of it. I am able to pronounce a few names better now that I was when we first came but many are still very difficult for me. Most of the church members that attended the funeral sat on the stand in the choir seats and I wondered if the congregation



National elections are just around the corner. Who to vote for?



thought they were the only ones who were supposed to sing the songs because it did not look like many if any were using the hymn books. We have attended many funerals since we have been here. It seems like there are one or two each month or more. I am sure I have shared that thought before but that is what we do at our age. That was a much longer version than what Dad would write. I kind of like the details but I know too much detail can also bore some people. Hope you all have a lovely week of spring.

Love to all, Hugs and Kisses,
Mom



2019 APRIL 15 }

Apr_15_2019_Update

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

It has been a very nice day in South Africa. Beautiful blue skies, verdant hillsides, mild temperature, soft breeze, pizza and Diet Coke. And...we did get quite a bit done today in preparation for the week ahead of us.

Mom exercised, cleaned the house from top to bottom and knocked out a bunch of washing. I helped missionaries with converting their foreign money sent from home via Moneygram into South African Rand. You need a passport. I installed a smoke detector, worked with the local print shop to create a large wall map, exercised and took care of some reservations for when we travel home.

Photos:

- I thought the list of things this company trains people for was in-

teresting. How does "First Aid" fit in with heavy equipment? - An experimental wall map. We ran this idea by President Lebethoa and are waiting for his approval. We don't want to spend money on this project and then, have the mission office not reimburse us. - I prepared this photo for one of our members who punched out a would be robber when he was held up at knife point in broad daylight.

We love you. Be good. Keep the commandments. Remember who you are.

Dad and Mom



2019

APRIL 16 }

Apr_16_2019_Update

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

Boy, did a lot of running around today. We have one missionary that is getting an EEG. I met with an attorney. Went to Mdantsane to help a brother trying to process an automobile accident claim. Lots of driving.

This evening, Mom and I went to visit the Krull family. He used to be the bishop in the East London 3rd Ward and he and his wife have 5 children. They are a rock solid family that has done so much for the Church in the is area. Their oldest daughter is planning on a mission come a year from this May. We took over to them plastic lids from Diet Coke and other products. They collect them for their school and get some type of compensation for them. Mom also took them a large bag of cookies. Very good people.

We visited with the Hodges for about an hour this evening. I think they are starved for adult American people to visit with. They took over our responsibilities of visiting Mthatha which has been described by some South Africans as the "Wild, Wild West." Today's newspaper headline was of university students in Mthatha who beat up and throw off a third story apartment a person suspected of stealing laptops and phones from the student living area. Street justice.

Photos:

- This is a cow's head. At traditional ceremonies, nothing is wasted. Sorry, I did not have any new photos, so I just went to our archived photos and came up with this one.

Have a good day making good choices, We love you,

Dad and Mom



This is a cow's head. At traditional ceremonies, nothing is wasted.

2019 APRIL 17 }

Apr_17_2019_Update

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family, We spent a lot of time in the car today. We had to make an early morning trip to Grahamstown and then, hustle back to East London.

As we drove this morning, Mom was reading from "The Covenant" on her Kindle. It was telling the story of some of the early settlers in and around Grahamstown and the incredibly bloody wars they experienced with the indigenous Xhosa tribes. The time period was around 1836 and the native tribes were referred to as the Kaffir..

William Holmes Walker appeared in Grahamstown around 1854. It was a time when there was a large population of British immigrants and soldiers. The Dutch, who originally established the area, were pretty much pushed out by the British and moved North. It was in and around Grahamstown that WHW had some

moderate success.

WHW baptized Brother and Sister Green whose ancestor was our Home Teacher in Huntsville, Glen Deem. He also baptized Brother and Sister Roper. They had a lot of land, cattle, sheep and buildings. When the sea captains banded together and denied any "Mormons" passage on their ships to migrate to Utah, it was Brother Roper who sold all of his belongings, purchased a ship and hired a captain and crew to sail all the saints to England and then, to Utah.

I also find it interesting that WHW travelled all over the Eastern Cape and never made mention of the abundant wild life - lions, snakes, boars, etc. He did share his experience of once exploring a cave and then, upon exiting the cave was surrounded by 60+ "sassy" baboons. Fortunately, he made it to his horse

and escaped without incident. Also, even though he talked about going into Kaffir land, he never mentioned any kind of problems with the Xhosa natives.

Dad and Mom

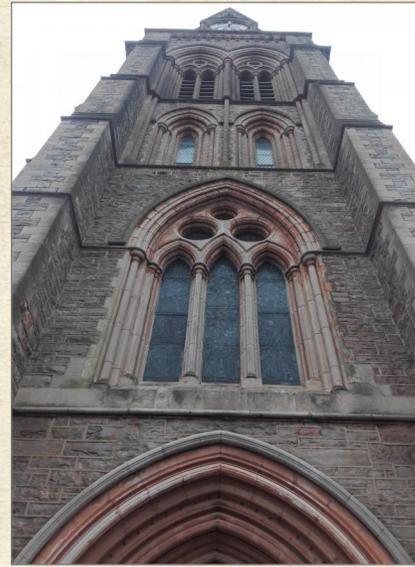
Photos:

- St. Michael's and St. George's Cathedral. (We looked to see if WHW had carved his initials anywhere with no success.) - If only my daughters could make their hair beautiful like this.

Have a wonderful day. We love you,



St. Michael's and St. George's Cathedral.



St. Michael's
and St.
George's
Cathedral.



St. Michael's
and St.
George's
Cathedral.

Apr_18_2019_Update

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

Would you believe another trip to the medical clinic? We

have a missionary that has been complaining of headaches. Today was his second visit to seek medical attention. The doctor seems to think it is stress related. We think it comes from breaking the rules! (Maybe breaking the rules leads to stress and then headaches?) Anyway, this new medication is industrial strength stuff typically used to help prevent migraines.

Mom made deviled eggs as part of the nutrition break for tomorrow's zone conference. I will not be having any due to the carcinogenic nature of the mayonnaise she used.

I met with some members this afternoon regarding the repair of the sister that had her house ran into by a drunk driver. If all goes well, Mon-

day is the start of reconstruction. I plan to learn a lot about fixing block-constructed homes.

I then met our zone leaders and we had a very nice visit with a young man who will be baptized this Saturday. Then, we went to meet another gentleman who is scheduled for baptism in another week. Unfortunately, he was not home at the time of his appointment. However, the missionaries assure me this man is powerful and will be a great member of the Church.

Photos:

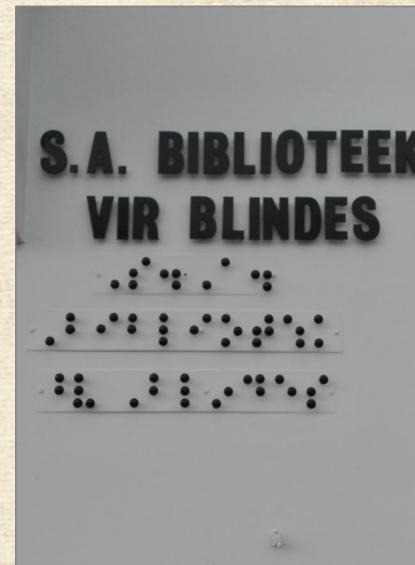
- When we were in Grahamstown, we met these four missionaries on the street. One (left) is Elder Buxton who knows the Roberts family.

- You would have to have huge, mega hands to read the braille on the front of this building. - Walking hazard - just waiting for a broken ankle or leg. - Nice old tree

that is having some problems.

We love you more and more each day.

Dad and Mom



You would have to have huge, mega hands to read the braille on the front of this building.



When we were in Grahamstown, we met these four missionaries on the street. One (left) is Elder Buxton who knows the Roberts family.



Walking hazard - just waiting for a broken ankle or leg.



Nice old tree that is having some problems.

Apr_19_2019_Update

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

One of the songs we sang today at our zone conference was, "If I could say Hi to Kolob." I don't remember singing that ever on my mission or much back in the States. It must now be on the missionary "Top 10" of popular church hymns.

Last night we were on our way to have dinner with President Lebethoa when we received a phone call from the Hodges that their zone leaders had been in an accident. Fortunately, we were only 5 minutes away from them. No one was injured. The front bumper was torn off, headlight knocked off and the left front fender was dented in pretty good. They were hit by a truck who just kept on rolling down the street. Another driver who witnessed the accident chased down the truck and got the driver to pull over. He was able to

get the contact information and the license plate number. Another good Samaritan helped unjam the lining of the wheel well so they could drive the car back to their apartment.

Dinner with the president was delightful and the food was pretty good. We tried a new restaurant. The environment was good, menu good, pricing a little expensive (President was buying), and, the company and conversation was excellent. Mom was able to unload a few of her frustrations about some of our missionaries. A lot of what Mom discussed was addressed today in our zone meetings.

One missionary today was making a short comment to something the mission president said. In his short answer he used the word "Like" 16 times. Like, you know, it was like a really short time to like use the word, "Like" a lot of like times.

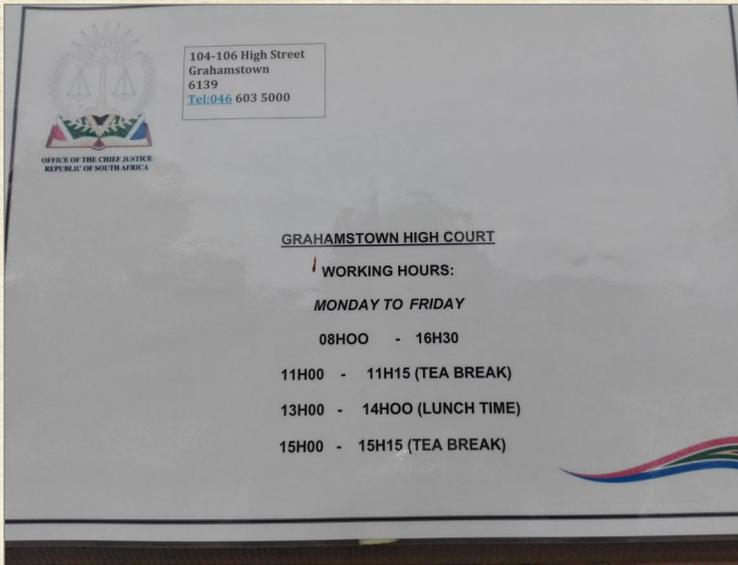
Our neighbors had a Night Adder (snake) in their house. This type of snake can make you sick, but is not lethal. The cousin, the Puff Adder, can really do some damage if it does not kill you. I saw a photo once where a Puff Adder had bitten the leg of a Rhino. The whole hoof eventually fell away from the leg - just an ugly stump left. Any way, we are sincerely hoping that we do not encounter any long, scaly reptilian creatures over the next couple months.

Photos:

- We are still amazed at how so many women can carry large bundles of stuff on their heads, most of the time without the use of their hands. - This sign said "Zero Tolerance" but there was no indication anywhere what they would not tolerate. - Beautiful butterfly Mom and I saw on a walk the other day. - We stopped by the High Court the other day and some of the workers were not going to be there until 9:30 AM. Then, as you see from the sign, 1 1/2 hours later they have a tea break.



We are still amazed at how so many women can carry large bundles of stuff on their heads, most of the time without the use of their hands.



We love you and think you are great.
Thank you for all you do. Have a
great day!

Dad and Mom



Apr_20_2019_Update

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

This is a day for celebration. Four people were baptized. A young girl, Liyanda (10), and three young men, Lathitha (12), Singalakha (14), and, Siphenthathi (17). And, the baptismal service began on time. And, there was a full house of members there to witness the baptisms. And, all four were baptized just once.

Mom and I try to present each person who is baptized with a notebook and pen so they can write down special and spiritual experiences they have in their lives.

This morning I went out with Bishop Lalendle to visit ward members. He had a list of mostly elderly women. It was such a joy for me to share my testimony with them about the Savior and the resurrection. I am so full of gratitude for the Savior. One sis-

ter had a daughter that is recovering from stomach TB. Another lady has difficulty walking because of the pain from her bad knees. Another mama who was feeling so depressed and discouraged with things in her life. I believe we all are going to be so exquisitely happy with our resurrected, glorified bodies - they will be perfect and we will feel none of the negative effects of mortality.

However, our joy will become full if we have stayed on the covenant path, endured to the end, and then, qualify to live with our Heavenly Parents again. I just do not think we can even begin to imagine the joy we will experience.

I ran the idea by Bishop Lalendle of each organization coming to Ward Council with the "Five Most Likely" in their quorums and organizations that would respond positively to an invitation to come back to Church. I

think he will be challenging our ward leaders to set some goals and search out the most likely candidates.

Photos:

- When I visited China Town today, I saw these really neat flower vases.

Love,

Dad and Mom



Tid Bits

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

1. Word of the week: "impunity," *Example:* Those that do not contribute to the D.O.P.E. Manual may feel they can ignore their duty with impunity.

2. Quote of the week:

*3. Scripture of the week: *
And thus we see that the commandments of God must be fulfilled. And if it so be that the children of men keep the commandments of God he doth nourish them, and strengthen them, and provide means whereby they can accomplish the thing which he has commanded them; wherefore, he did provide means for us while we did sojourn in the wilderness. (1 Nephi 17:3)

4. Joke of the week:

*Q: * What did the husband tell his

wife after watching the Discovery Channel about Beavers?

A: That was the best dam program I have ever seen!

5. Bee's Knees Award: This girl is so awesome. She has an award-winning smile and is the most kind person on planet earth. She loves her children - all five of them. She is unselfish and puts her family first. She has a rock-solid testimony of the gospel and is a great example of following the Savior. She loves the outdoors, murdercycle driving, camping and hiking. She loves teaching and nurturing children. She is a great cook. She can make a silk purse from a sow's ear. Melissa, you are the Bee's Knees, sistah!!!

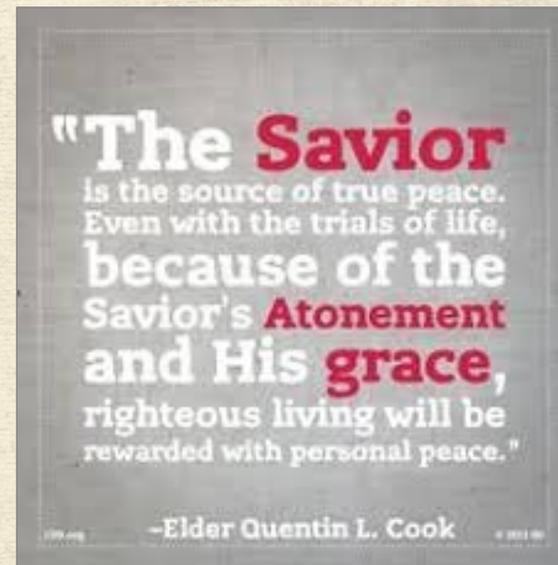
6. Gospel question of the week:
Last week's question was who was the first Church President to be born in Utah. Michael Stevenson nailed it with Heber J. Grant, followed 7 min-

utes later by either Amanda or Klave. This week's question is, During the Lord's mortal ministry, how many of his Apostles were offended and fled from Him?

*7. If I were you (Advice to grand kids): * If I were you, I would get in the habit of learning. Decide now that learning is fun and interesting. See how many things you can come to understand because of an inquiring mind. Try it. I think you will like it.

8. What I learned this week: When

I think of the Savior and the last week of his life, I mostly think of the pain and suffering he endured for each and every person that has ever been born to the earth. But, in reading from "Come Follow Me" and the Bible with Mom this last week, it re-occurred to me at how totally alone the Lord was in those last days. When the Jewish priests came to arrest Him, all his apostles "fled." These were the same men that saw His miracles, received testimonies of his divinity and heard His teachings for the previous three years. In those pinnacle hours of His ines-





timable sacrifice, no one was there. Most of us have support from family, friends, attorneys, doctors, religious leaders, etc. when we face difficult times. He was completely alone.

9. What I am grateful for: I am so excited to have a glorified, perfect resurrected body one of these days! We catch a glimpse of this excitement when we read D&C 138. Can you imagine, in that great revelation, a great concourse of people waiting for the appearance of the Savior and their complete deliverance from physical death, to have a resurrected

body. I hope they DVR that event for the rest of us.

10. My goal for the week: Eat lunch at Lavender Blue. Have dinner at the Cricketer Restaurant.

11. Photo of the week: Wow, look at all these serious people!

We love you all so much! Have fun living the gospel this week!

Dad and Mom

Dear Family,

We have enjoyed some delightful rain yesterday and today. We hope we get plenty to fill up the dams and reservoirs. And, to think we have had this much rain without us washing our car to make it come!

We had four confirmations today in our MD 1st Ward sacrament meeting. Most of the confirmations were performed correctly. It is just the one where the voice said, "And confirm you a member of the Church of the Sacrament." That is a new one for us. We are hoping that the Holy Spirit of Promise, as described in D&C 132:6, will still seal this baptism as good in the books kept in heaven. Obviously, the members of the bishopric in the circle should have stopped the priesthood holder and corrected him so it was done correctly. But, that aside, what a great day for these four young people.

After the MD 4th Ward sacrament meeting, we had another baptism, Thinama Mzongana. Her mother

was there and is not a member (yet), but there to help and support her. Thinama bore a sweet testimony and will be a strong member of the Church.

Yesterday night we took some spare missionary pants we have collected over the last two years to an Elder in our zone that was outgrowing his slacks. As a matter of fact, it appeared he was experiencing some uncomfortable form of birth control. Fortunately, we had some pants that seemed to do the job. He was so happy (and relieved) to receive them.

In our opinion, two problems missionaries can avoid: 1) tight-fitting clothing, and, 2) pointed shoes that squish the toes and contribute to ingrown toenails.

Photos:

- Thinama, her mother and sister, Elder Smith (Left) and Elder Velasco (Right). - Brother Mjijima's scar from surgery from when he had knocked out the would be robber that tried to mug him.

We love you. We think you are wonderful. Stay strong as a bear!

Dad and Mom



Thinama, her mother and sister, Elder Smith (Left) and Elder Velasco (Right).



Brother Mgijima's scar from surgery from when he had knocked out the would be robber that tried to mug him.

2019 APRIL 22 }

Apr_22_2019_Update

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

Tons of rain today. And, it looks like more rain tomorrow. No complaints!

I made a trip to visit the leather man here in Gonubie. He has made me two ranger belts out of Wildebeest hide. I think they look very nice and should last for 5 to 6 generations. Anyway, it is a unique type of game leather. If you tell me your sizes, I can have one made for you. It will cost \$45 USD. FYI, the size needs to be measured from your "most used belt hole" to the front of the buckle of the buckle (where the hole poker meets the front edge of the buckle).

With the heavy rain, Mom and I are doing some extra cleaning around the house. For example, all the lighting fixtures. We take them down, empty out the bugs, wash them, dry them and then, put them back in

place. Mom even rip into our floor fan. Every blade and every wire of the fan guard is squeaky clean.

I am in the process of repairing one of our chairs. Over the last two years (with young missionaries sometimes sitting and rocking on them), they have become pretty rickety. One of them came completely apart. I am trying an approach of just wooden dowels. Some of my work is drying right now. I will complete the job tomorrow.

Mom has developed a rather clever trick. She says I cannot order pizza until we have our leftovers gone. This is diabolical. When she cooks, there is enough for the Russian Army. I could be eating leftovers for the next 30 years. Can some one please help me out with a reasonable rebuttal, some justification for buying the Celestial food of heaven?

Photos:

- The world famous ranger belt of the Eastern Cape. He can also put a matching metal tip on the end of the belt. Now, taking orders.

Love,

Dad and Mom



2019 APRIL 23 }

April_23_2019_Update

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

Lots and lots of rain today. As a matter of fact, in Durban, where Uncle Greg and Aunt Sandy served, there has been an extraordinary amount of rain - 300 ml in just 12 hours with more rain coming down and in the forecast for the next few days. So far, over 30 people have lost their lives.

<https://www.thesouthafrican.com/durban-floods-how-much-rainfall-kzn-23-april/>

I continued my project of fixing one of our dining room chairs. As with so many things in life, as you get into the task, you see that there are other things you can do and better ways to work toward a successful end. That's okay. I think part of our life is to learn just like that. We watch, observe, ponder, and eventually act on how we think we should do some-

thing. Then, we learn even more because we have actually acted.

President Lebethoa teaches the missionaries about the learning cycle. First we learn through study, then we act, then we share. When we can effectively share the information and experience, we have truly learned. (I call it "LDS" - learn, do, share.)

I met with our auto body friends this morning. They are good people and very helpful. I have spoken with the mission president and our mission fleet manager about how to run work through their business even when the amount is a little higher than the amount where it should go to the AIG Insurance. Basically, we can average the cost of repairs over various cars to always remain under \$500 USD. This way we get our cars repaired quickly, at a fair price and with quality workmanship. The auto body shop ends up with a steady

customer and the wages they need to make the profit they need. This will greatly help us.

Anything major, serious vehicle damage, we would send to AIG.

The map project is underway. We should have about 10 - 12 large maps printed off and in color by tomorrow afternoon. We will then cut and paste them onto poster board for each companionship. Then, they will be laminated. We should have them ready for wall hanging for each companionship by Wednesday of next

week.

Next week we start reading again with the Phakamile students. We are looking forward to being with them again.

Photos:

- The seas are restless. Storms are brewing. - JJ (Left) and Jason (Right) are our map specialists splicing PDF files together and blowing them up. These maps actually have an overlay on them so the missionaries can see the house number of each lot. We expect baptism pro-





JJ (Left) and Jason (Right) are our map specialists splicing PDF files together and blowing them up. These maps actually have an overlay on them so the missionaries can see the house number of each lot. We expect baptism production to go up 500% with these wall maps. Maybe 700% if they can effectively use their dry erase markers.

duction to go up 500% with these wall maps. Maybe 700% if they can effectively use their dry erase markers.

We love you more today than yesterday. Be good.

Dad and Mom

2019

APRIL 24 }

Apr_24_2019_Update

FROM: Elder and Sister Stevenson



Dear Family,

We are starting to build an ark! Still more rain today. Unfortunately, over 60 deaths so far and most of those in Durban and the Eastern Cape. We remain safe and warm in our boarding, but feel for those living in shacks where roofs leak and insulation is non-existent. Short term forecast shows good weather for the next two days in East London area.

We had a few hours of rare blue sky this afternoon so Mom and I took advantage of the window in the weather and went for a quick walk. Later, it started raining again.

Maps are done and they look great - a missionary's Monet with minute detail. I plan to start cutting them out tonight and have them back to the printer tomorrow. Then, Lamanite (JK) versions ready for Monday or

Tuesday.

Car damage estimate from the accident our missionaries had the other night, \$917 USD. Tomorrow morning I am going to the auto body shop with Elder Hodges and put together a plan on how we can get this job done with them. That way we can get the car back quickly, at a fair price and with quality work. Elder Hodges will probably take over the car business after we leave.

Photo/Video/Recording:

- Our poor palm tree took a beating. - The rain really sounded loud on our back porch.

Have a very good day! We love you!
Make good choices that will invite the Spirit into your lives.

Dad and Mom



2019 APRIL 26 }

Apr_26_2019_Update

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

Our maps are finished, picked them up this afternoon. We will deliver them tomorrow morning when we take them some supplies, do surprise boarding inspections and check their flats for blankets, heaters and other winter-type things they should have somewhere in storage.

We had a good discussion this morning in our district meeting about charity. The point was brought up that when we have charity for our fellow brothers and sisters, it can override our fears of finding people to teach. Our concern for their welfare is more important than the fear of engaging people in conversation to see how we can truly help them.

Mom did her Friday music classes and I did some checking around for gray sand. This is the sand that Ma-

ma George wants on the repair job of her house that was hit by the drunk. As it turns out, the best we can do is dark brown sand.

I also went to look at a home that the Hodges saw in a rental flyer and said was available for rent in NU 7. I was happy to get the tip, but kind of knew that it was not the right part of town for our missionaries to rent a flat. I was right. Strike one: two dirt roads to get there. Strike two: Tavern around the corner. Strike three: The property backs up to the "bush" where bad people can more easily access the property.

Missionaries are instructed to plan. However, your planning does not pay off until you start to work your plan. "Work" is the key word. Work puts things in motion.

Photos:

- Here is the house I went to check

out as a missionary boarding in the township. - Is there anyway we can get Sidney to come over here and teach these guys how to play the game? VID_20190420_110421.mp4 <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HXj5lmfHZjG-Bd5kvP31Xqg1lqxKMzwM/view?usp=drive_web>

We love you. Be good. Do good. Look good. Smell good. Talk good.

Dad and Mom



2019 APRIL 27 }

Apr_27_2019_Update

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

We did boarding inspections this morning. How nice to surprise attack 5 boardings and have them all get approval! It was not a white glove inspection, but we were happy with how they looked. We have to believe that missionaries feel better if they live in a clean environment.

We had one missionary that was complaining of an abscess in his arm pit. He called the mission office and received an okay to see the doctor. We took him in and after a few minutes with the doctor, he was out the door and over to the pharmacy for 3 prescriptions. It is amazing at how much the doctors prescribe drugs for their patients. You would think they own a lot of stock in big pharma!

We also did some quick dashing

around to order some materials from the local "Home Depot" type store and then, off to the airport to meet missionaries coming and going with passports.

Our car had gone without washing for some time due to all the rain we have had. It was nice to get my girlfriends over at the local car wash on the job. They always do a great job - part of the reason is that I buy them chocolate candy bars each time I go there. One of the mamas noticed the pamphlets we had in the "boot" of the car. I was happy to give her "The Restoration," "The Plan of Salvation," and "The Gospel of Jesus Christ." I also gave her a video about finding faith in Jesus Christ. All of that and some candy bars made her very, very happy! Unfortunately, she does not live within 30 minutes walking distance of the Church. Because of that our missionaries cannot teach her. Someday though!

Photos:

- This is a sing that was posted in the ladies room that Mom visited. Really? How many people smoke while standing in a toilet?

We love you! Have a great Saturday!

Dad and Mom

NOTICE TO ALL

**PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU
FLUSH AFTER USING TOILET
AND WIPE THE SEAT BEFORE
LEAVING. IF YOU WET THE
FLOOR, WIPE IT.
NO SMOKING IN TOILETS.
IT IS UNFAIR, SELFISH AND
DISRESPECTFUL TO EXPECT A
CLEANER OR ANYONE ELSE
TO FLUSH WHATEVER YOU
LEAVE BEHIND.**

THANK YOU

Apr_28_2019_Update

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

Church seemed lightly-attended today for some reason. However, Mom and I were fortunate to be there and it was a blessing to partake of the sacrament and to listen to those that had prepared talks. They were good messages. Only one small complaint, too many of our members go to the pulpit and do not speak into the microphones. This is a shame since they went to the effort and time to prepare something important and then, the congregation does not get the full intent or content of he talk.

Some of you remember Mom and I went to lunch with Nono from our local grocery store, Pick n Pay. It was a unique experience for her to dine with white people and the first time anyone had taken her to a restaurant. Attached is a note that Mom wrote to her on the back of the pho-

to we took of her and us at KFC. I attach this photo simply to demonstrate what a nice touch Mom has with people and to reinforce the fact that "Everything Counts." Who knows what this photo and note may mean down the road and what direction her life might take because a member of the Lord's Church paid attention to her?

During one of our meetings, the usual person to conduct music was not there. One of Mom's music conducting students went to the stand and conducted all three songs. And, he did okay. He is about 14 or 15 years old.

I am experiencing a little arthritis in my right thumb. Consequently, I will not be able to work on our sprinkler system or shovel snow ever again in my life.

Today, one of our missionaries came

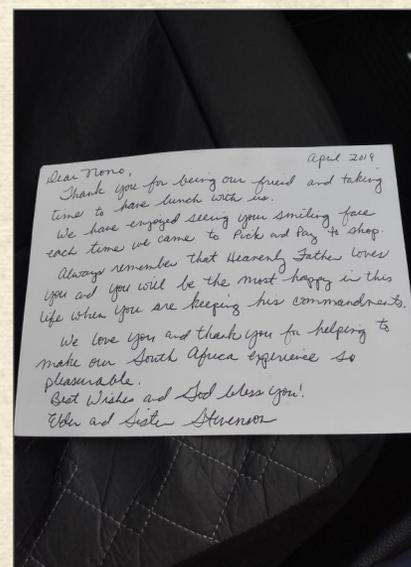
to the front of the congregation to assist with the confirmation of a young lady that was recently baptized. The bishop asked him to perform the confirmation. We could tell that he was nervous because he couldn't remember how to say the confirmation wording correctly. Fortunately, he got the job done. I think it would be a good idea, maybe a good FHE, to go over these ordinances with our children (sons and daughters) before they leave on a mission.

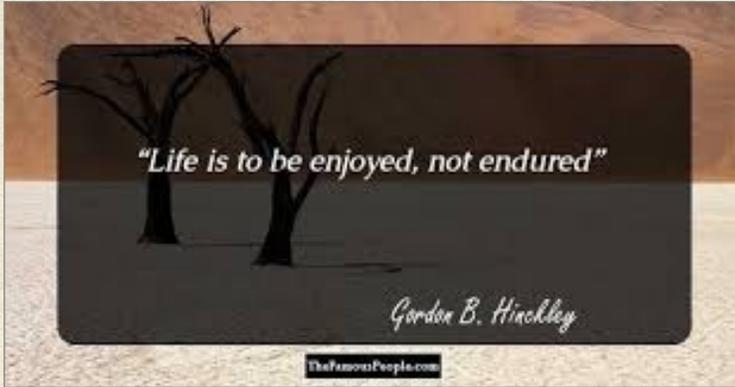
Photo:

- Mom's note to Nono.

We love you. Hope you had a wonderful Sabbath.

Dad and Mom





Tid Bits

Dear Family,

*1. Word of the week: * "suppliant," a person making a humble or earnest plea to someone in power or authority. *Example:* Enos is a good example of a suppliant full of righteous intent.

*2. Quote of the week: *

3. Scripture of the week:

And it came to pass that I beheld the church of the Lamb of God, and its numbers were few, because of the wickedness and abominations of the whore who sat upon many waters; nevertheless, I beheld that the church of the Lamb, who were the saints of God, were also upon all the face of the earth; and their dominions upon the face of the earth were small, because of the wickedness of the great whore whom I saw. (1 Nephi 14:12)

4. Joke of the week:

*Q: * Why did the coffee file a police report?

*A: * Because it got mugged!

*5. Bee's Knees Award: *This guy is awesome. He is fun. He is a good example of the gospel to everyone he meets. He loves the Lord. He loves his family and wife dearly (His wife's name is Amanda, not "Dearly"). He is honest as the day is long. He is a hard worker and seems to have endless energy. He is kind and loving to all because he sees everyone as his brothers and sisters - and they love him. He magnifies his callings in the Church. He can stomp mices to pieces better than anyone. He loves and knows animals. Klave, you are the Bee's Knees, brotha!!!

*6. Gospel question of the week: * Last week's question (which no one even tried to answer): How many of the Lord's apostles were offended by him and "fled?" Answer: All of them. This week's question: Which sea is further north than the other, the Sea of Galilee, or, the Dead Sea?

7. If I were you (Advice to grand kids): If I were you, I would learn not to argue (unless you are a lawyer

in court or you are on the school debate team). Two way conversations between people who are striving to share ideas and come to truth is much more civilized and healthy. Try it. I think you will like it.

*8. What I learned this week: * Obedience brings about blessings. *Exact* obedience brings about miracles.

*9. What I am grateful for: *Obedient missionaries. Missionaries that actually get out there and give it all they have and live each day by the rules.

*10. My goal for the week: * Make a sequentially number ward directory for the MD 1st Ward.

*11. Photo of the week: * Can you believe we have grandchildren going on missions now! How cool is that?

We love you. Have fun living the gospel this week!

Dad and Mom



Apr_29_2019_Update

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

One of our missionaries continues to have fainting episodes. All his testing seems to check out okay with the exception of an EEG (brain scan). The area medical director for the Church has recommended he return home for further evaluation and hopefully successful treatment. After President Lebethoa spoke with the director, he called Elder Tervort and told him he needed to pack his bags.

Due to his medical situation, someone needs to travel with him the whole time. I flew with him this morning to Cape Town. After the AP's intercepted us at the airport, I turned around and flew right back to East London. A senior couple working in the office will be flying with him to the United States (Utah). They will stay there for about a week and then return to Cape Town.

He is a good missionary and we hope he will be able to return and complete his mission. We know he is a great kid because he has sheep ranching in his blood.

When I returned home, Mom had obviously done a lot around the house to clean up (Preparation Day). She is always so good to cook for me (mainly because I have strange cooking skills), iron my white shirts (mainly because when I iron my shirts they look worse than before I started on them), and, she always does the dishes (mainly because when I do the dishes, she has to redo them to get them clean). Some times I feel like I have a huge "L" on my forehead.

We went for a walk tonight. It was such pleasant weather and the sky was so clear. We tried to locate the Southern Cross constellation with no success. I Googled it when I got

back into the house. There are two pointer stars to help you find "Crux." One is Hadar and the other is Rigel Kentaurus. Big deal! How is that suppose to help me? How do you find those two stars?

Have a good day doing good things!
We love you,

Dad and Mom

Photos:

- King Williams Town missionaries, from left to right: Tervort (Utah), Petalama (Tuvalu), Dos Santos (Brazil), Owens (Utah). - Elder Tervort and Elder Stevenson. Months ago, we had the great Chicken Soup Cook Off. I lost due to unfair balloting.



King Williams Town missionaries, from left to right: Tervort (Utah), Petalama (Tuvalu), Dos Santos (Brazil), Owens (Utah).



Elder Tervort and Elder Stevenson. Months ago, we had the great Chicken Soup Cook Off. I lost due to unfair balloting.

2019 APRIL 30 }

Apr_30_2019_Update

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

A number of years ago, Mom needed to go to the fabric store. When we arrived she said she would be just minute. I volunteered to guard the car. Three days later she surfaced from the store. I was faint from lack of food, bloodshot eyes and unshaven. So, you can understand my anxiety when she mentioned this morning she needed to go to the fabric store, "just to purchase a few things."

I had to drive our ZL's and meet four other missionaries at the airport to hand out their passports.. I had to meet two other missionaries that were having some car issues. I needed to go to our work area to check on a house being repaired. I was terrified that Mom would go into the store and be there the whole day. Fortunately, she was in and out within 30 minutes! I was able to

meet all my appointments on time.

I took Mom home because she is not feeling well today - maybe a 24 hour bug of some sort. I say not enough chocolate in the diet.

The home that is getting repaired has two sets of windows and a bent door frame and door coming out. I had asked Sister George if I could have those old pieces of her house. I wanted to take them to Brother Shakes who is trying to build a shack behind their house for a place for him to live. Presently, it is him and four or five women in their two bedroom home.

To make a long story short, I was able to get some of the door and frame in the boot (trunk) of the car. I drove about two miles that way and everything stayed put. Shakes was very happy. Once we unloaded, we went to a "bottle store" and bought

some drinks, fat cakes and paloney (like bologna) for him, Phumlani and the three workers at the house. We dropped off the fat cakes and picked up the old front window and somehow got it in the boot of the car. Shakes is going to take one of the windows and Phumlani the other for his house.

That is all the good news. The bad news is that I had my white shirt missionary clothes on. Well, off came the tie and it was all elbows and back pockets from that point on. When I got home, my clothes were filthy, my

slacks had a small tear, I had cuts from the rusty metal, and, I had toe fungus.

We have turned a milestone in our lives when choosing to obey the commandments and listening to the living prophets becomes a joy instead of a burden.

*Photos: *

- When you go to this strip mall, you can use the public toilets for 2 Rand (18 cents). If you have to go and you have that kind of money, you are a very lucky person. - Brother



Brother Mkwando doing his magic.



Mkwando doing his magic. That door looks 1000% better than the corrugated tin door Sister George used to have.

We love you. Obey the commandments and be happy!

Dad and Mom

2019 MAY 1 }

May_01_2019_Update

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

Today is a national holiday in South Africa - International Labor Day. However, just about every shop and retailer was open and busy. The main reason for this: Today is payday. The first of the month most get their "Social Grant" from the government for being a "Pensioner" (over age 60?) or financial assistance for each child you have in your house if there is no father around to help support the family. (This seems to be a good incentive for people to have children out of wedlock.)

Mom is still a little under the weather. Instead of laying around and moaning, she put together a couple really good items for each ward. For example, suggestions on how to put together a talk for sacrament meeting. Most of these youth have not given a talk before and need to learn

that a talk is more than reading an article from the Liahona. *These are also good suggestions for all of our grandchildren.*

I met with Bishop Lalendle of the MD 4th Ward this afternoon. The purpose of our meeting was to discuss putting together a Ward Mission Plan. It was a productive meeting as I outlined for him what the Ward Mission Plan is and that it really needs to come from the Ward Council. We also discussed other matters like the young men in the ward and insuring they are preparing for missions. I also, delivered Mom's outline on how to prepare a talk. The outline is great for youth and adults alike.

I finally found a South African flag for sale. I had been to ten different retailers that should definitely have it, but no one did. And, no one seemed to know where they could

buy one. What is a person suppose to do? Well, I will tell you. You go to China Town. Yes, they had one and I paid a whopping \$1.75 USD for it. Man, I love China Town!

We had lovely weather here today. We hope you are enjoying your Spring. We love you,

Dad and Mom

Photos:

- Sister George's house coming along. I stopped by today and brought fat cakes, paloney and soda pop for the workers. - This gardener was so pleased with his work of beautification! I love a guy like that. - Crops, right here in Gonubie. - Mom's suggestions for giving a talk in sacrament meeting.



Sister George's house coming along. I stopped by today and brought fat cakes, paloney and soda pop for the workers.



This gardener was so pleased with his work of beautification! I love a guy like that.



Crops, right here in Gonubie.

May_2_2019_Update

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

Every once in a while Mom and I get a chance to have heart felt talks with different people. This last Sunday, Mom met with a sister and after listening to what she had to say, was able to pass along some very good advice. Today I took some time to meet with a brother who has stopped coming to church. We hope these good people listen to what we have to say and feel of our testimonies. The Lord loves them and wants them back on the covenant path.

Late this afternoon, I took Mom to the Booi home. Mom is teaching Sister Booi how to knit. I took brother Booi to go run some errands. While we were driving down a road in the outskirts of NU 1, a lady was standing in the middle of the road holding her arm. As we approached, we could see that she was bleeding badly. I

rolled down the window, "Mama, are you okay?"

She said she had been cut by another lady who was up by the front of a house with some other people. The top of her right forearm looked as if it had been filleted. We had no idea what had transpired. I knew the local police station was just around a corner or two. We told her we would go notify the police. We found one lady police officer at the station. After explaining the situation, you would think they would dispatch a police car immediately. Folks, this is the South African Police we are talking about.

The police women was not too interested because she thought the scene was part of another station's area. She said we should go there. Unbelievable! We explained this lady was bleeding and needed medical attention right away. Still, not too quick to

become involved. I think it was quitting time or time for a change of the shift. We finally got her to call the other police station and attempt to send out someone. We also stressed the need for medical care. I would not want to bet any amount of money that the police or medical people came to the assistance of this lady.

Brother Booi talked to me about the inefficiencies and lack of help the police are. He had a brother that was falsely thought to have stolen from another local person. Someone said that there was a guy (Brother Booi's

brother) that looked like the robber and lived 1 to 2 kilometers away. The victim went to that location, found his brother, and, shot his brother point blank in the chest, killing him. He went to trial and was proven innocent.

Most people ignore the police and look to "street justice" as the best tool to punish offenders. Some times these street-court incidences result in deaths. Brother Booi mentioned that a community can be very brutal and harsh. He said they like to take immediate corrective action and ask



Mom helping Sister Booi learn how to knit. Mom is the one on the right.



Rollo and Char Steenbeek on "Cozy Corner" beach - 150 yards from their home.

questions later.

Photos:

- Rollo and Char Steenbeek on "Cozy Corner" beach - 150 yards from their home. - Their dog, "Pooh Bear," is a spoiled rotten, pampered, oversized rodent. - Mom helping Sister Booi learn how to knit. Mom is the one on the right.

We love you,

Dad and Mom

2019 MAY 3 }

May_03_2019_Update

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

Wow, the things you learn after being in a country for a little while. Today we stopped in at Big Daddy's (a township version of Costco) and bought 6 bags of Pengo candy for half the price of what we have been paying in Gonubie at the Sweet Shop! I am really upset about it. So, 6 bags is 600 pieces of small candy similar to Laffy Taffy. We have been giving this candy away for almost two years to children in neighborhoods we visit. Believe me, they know our car. We feel sorry for the new senior couple coming in behind us!

FYI, a bag of 100 at Big Daddy's cost \$0.49 USD.

We had a good district meeting this morning. We discussed the importance of Sabbath Day worship and how important that is to instill in the

hearts and minds of investigators.. As usual, Mom had two pieces of fruit for each missionary as well as two oatmeal, banana, chocolate chip muffins. They love Mom's cooking.

After our meeting, Mom and I went to deliver a printed email letter to an aunt of one of our MD missionaries in Zimbabwe. She lives in Scenery Park which is a large section of government-built homes. We had never been there before. Well, we eventually found the house after cruising all the side streets and asking for directions. Typically, people simply say, "That is on the other side."

As we drove, I could not help but think about how that whole area could be a group, then, a branch and then, a ward. Presently, we do not have missionaries in that area due to it being so far away from a church house. I think most of our local and mission leaders know that the main

future growth will not be from the white population. The townships and government housing projects will be the future growth.

Mom continues on with her music training. A big concern for her is that she might have to collect a lot of these keyboards if the students do not complete the course, do not show progress and do not demonstrate effort in daily practice.

*Photos: *

- Big Daddy's - everything you need under one roof. - The DA is a

political party that is closely associated with whites and Afrikaners. This sign says, put a stop to the ANC (African National Congress) and the EFF (Economic Freedom Fighters)

Keep fighting the good fight. We know who wins the war! Love,

Dad and Mom





2019 MAY 4 }

May_04_2019_Update

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

Mom and I made a quick trip out to King Williams Town this morning. For missionaries that had advance notice we were coming, the flat was not in good shape. No excuse. This particular boarding normally shelters four missionaries. Presently, they are down to three Elders because of the one that recently went home with medical issues.

Before we left town, we went and looked at a new bed frame and some living room furniture. What they have right now (a black vinyl futon) is pretty shabby. We found a deal on a three piece sofa and chair set that would work out nicely if the mission office gives us the okay. We haggled the price down R 2,000 with the store but we are afraid that is not good enough for Uncle Greg's approval. My plan is to get a deeper discount yet.

I knocked out weeds in the front yard today. We have a lot of Dutch and Afrikans people living in our retirement community, Hazy Ridge. They all do a good job of keeping their yard neat and manicured. Monday I will do the sides and back yard of the house. I know what some of you are thinking. Yes, yes, I pulled them all out by the roots!

I went out to Mdantsane to visit with Bishop Lalendle this afternoon. I thought we were going to be discussing bishop business. As it turned out, I vacuumed the whole building and he swept and mopped. I am not complaining. I deem it a privilege to help clean the Lord's church house. The overall cleanliness of the church building has not sunk in all the way with our members. However, I will be talking to the good bishop about spreading the blessing around to others.

Photos:

- We have these beautiful, magnificent trees up and down the main road in Gonubie. They are being removed due to street widening. It is a huge amount of work, especially the part removing the tree trunk with its roots. - Carnival coming to the local elementary school. Does anyone remember the "Hammer." It has to be the world's #1 throw up carnival ride!

We love you. Be Loyal to the Royal.

Dad and Mom



Does anyone remember the "Hammer"? It has to be the world's #1 throw up carnival ride!



We have these beautiful, magnificent trees up and down the main road in Gonubie.



They are being removed due to street widening. It is a huge amount of work, especially the part removing the tree trunk with its roots.

2019

MAY 5 }

May_05_2019

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

We almost had to pay double to go to Church today! Yesterday I was helping to clean the church building. I had R 1,000 in my back pocket that I had withdrew for non-tithing donations today. Without thinking, as I vacuumed the building I was putting Kleenex, papers, candy wrappers, screws, meeting programs, etc. in the same pocket.

When it was time to leave and come home, I grabbed the huge wad of trash from my back pocket and threw it in the raised, off-the-ground trash bin on the street. It was not dark yet. This morning as I searched for the money it dawned on me that I had tossed it in the trash bin along with all the trash.

When we arrived at the church this morning, we were not expecting to find the money. We felt that by now,

certainly someone had filtered through the trash. As a matter of fact, we had put a different R 1,000 in our donation envelope to give to the bishop.

We were astounded that as I sifted through the bin, we found all of the money! We offered a prayer of gratitude in our car before we entered the church.

A member of our stake presidency was presenting a name of a brother they had called to the high council. When he asked for a sustaining vote, it appeared that all voted to sustain the stake presidency in the calling. When he asked if any were opposed, the bishop and one of his counselors raised their hands. President Dinana had to do a double take to make sure he was seeing things correctly. Appropriately, he said, "We will address this with the stake president."

We think the bishop was either upset or surprised about his ward clerk being taken away from him. We are sure everything got straightened out okay.

Photos:

- This is some new furniture we are trying to get the home office to approve for purchase. We have two boardings that need some help in their living areas. Not complaining but, in Bolivia, we had nothing even close to the comforts our missionaries do today. - Check out this itemized sheet that indicates what

the missionaries can have in their boardings. Maybe big screen TV's in another ten years?

Love,

Dad and Mom



Tid Bits

Dear Family,

1. Word of the week: "deprecate," express disapproval. *Example:* Many people deprecate the juvenile-like comments made by President Trump.

2. Quote of the week:

"Use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without."

-Elder Boyd K. Packer

*3. Scripture of the week: *

Wherefore, this land is consecrated unto him whom he shall bring. And if it so be that they shall serve him according to the commandments which he hath given, it shall be a land of liberty unto them; wherefore, they shall never be brought down into captivity; if so, it shall be because of iniquity; for if iniquity shall abound cursed shall be the land for their sakes, but unto the righteous it shall be blessed forever. (2 Nephi 1:7)

4. Joke of the week:

*Q: * How does a penguin build his house?

*A: * Igloos it together!

5. Bee's Knees Award: This kid has a great smile. He loves to have fun. He is an outstanding football player and has broken bones to prove it. He has a bit of cowboy blood running through him and a bit of hunting blood. He is a great example of the gospel to his family and his friends. He loves his family and especially loves to tangle with his brother. He likes motorcycles. He will be a powerful missionary for the Lord some day. Carter, you are the Bee's Knees Brotha!!!

6. Gospel question of the week: Last week's question, which is the farthest north, the Dead Sea or the Sea of Galilee? Michael Beckstead picked off the correct answer followed shortly by Daniel. The Sea of Galilee is north of the Dead Sea. This week's question: How many total temples operating, under construction and announced in the State of California?

7. If I were you (Advice to grand kids): If I were you, I would love my neighbor. I would love each and every person around you. They are a son or daughter of our Heavenly Parents. That makes them great. Try it. I think you will like it.

8. What I learned this week: Living prophets may know of future events but do not, cannot, share them with us. They continue to exhort us to be obedient.

9. What I am grateful for: The love we see between our family members. Thanks for looking out for each other and helping where you can.

10. Goal for the week: I was going to create a sequential house number directory of all our members in the MD 1st Ward. I am still trying to get the clerk to print out a list for us. I will keep that goal for this coming week.

11. Photo of the week: Famous European spies undercover in Italy!

We love you all very much. Have fun living the gospel this week!

Dad and Mom

2019 MAY 7 }

May_07_2019_Update

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

This morning we read "The Hare and the Tortoise" with the second grade learners at the Phakamile Primary School. It was interesting because these kids, unlike the 4th graders, do not speak very much English. We hope they understood most of the story by looking at the pictures and by us helping them understand some of the words.

We have a lot of transfers going on tomorrow. I have been working out the list of who's passport I collect when they arrive in East London and who's do I give out as they are leaving the area. Basically, there are about four or five times I need to be at the airport or the bus depot throughout the day. When it is all over, we hope and pray everyone has reached their new assignments safely and that the new companionships hit it off well.

Photos:

- One of the problems we see all over is the tremendous amounts of plastic bottles, bags and other waste dumped everywhere. In Durban (made famous by senior missionaries Greg and Sandy Stevenson) historic rains and floods washed tons of plastic waste down rivers and out to the beaches. - Look at how attentive these learners are as Mom shares a story with them. The children love to have us come read.

Have a wonderful day. You guys rock! Love,

Dad and Mom



Look at how attentive these learners are as Mom shares a story with them. The children love to have us come read.



One of the problems we see all over is the tremendous amounts of plastic bottles, bags and other waste dumped everywhere. In Durban (made famous by senior missionaries Greg and Sandy Stevenson) historic rains and floods washed tons of plastic waste down rivers and out to the beaches.

2019 MAY 8 }

May_08_2019_Update

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

It was quite a day driving here and there picking up, delivering, visiting with missionaries going all over the place for transfers. But, pleased to report that everyone arrived where they needed to be and as far as we know, no accidents or serious problems.

Well, there was a little problem with one of our missionaries at the bus depot. This one missionary is rather small. He was playing a guitar and a gentleman at the ticket counter, buying a ticket, swore at the missionary and asked him in Xhosa not to play. The missionary speaks Xhosa and asked him not to swear at him. This escalated to the man getting into the missionary's face and shoving him a couple times. The man returned to the ticket counter. The missionary continued to ask the man not to swear at him. The man

came back and got into his face again and actually tried to choke him. Fortunately, a couple of men came and separated the two. Shortly after that, the missionary left to go to the airport where he was flying to Cape Town.

I am sure there are a lot of other details we do not know. However, where were the other missionaries? If the ZL could tell me this much information, how come the missionaries that were there did not grab our missionary and extricate him from the area? I am sure there are things we could have done to diffuse the problem.

Thanks for your prayers for missionaries all over the world. They are young and they are learning. Also, throw in a few prayers for the senior couples!

Photos:

- How about this for a headline in one of the local papers? - Everyone around the world seems to be following the birth of the royal baby.

We love you!

Dad and Mom





2019 MAY 9 }

: May_09_2019_Update

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

We had an enjoyable Senior Council this morning from 10 AM to about noon. It is a valuable time to discuss matters that concern each senior couple and to share experiences and ideas. We discussed our relationship to the missionaries in terms of them not obeying the rules. We talked about housing issues. Decided how to manage the use of bicycles in the mission. And how to take over the world through bio-chemical warfare. I just threw that last item in to see if anyone even reads this stuff.

Mom has been asked by one of our bishops to organize a choir for ward conference a week from this Sunday. So, what should she do? Of course, semi-decline the request. Being true to our calling to help members here, Mom will work with the Ward Music Director in picking and practicing

the songs. The Music Director will conduct the choir during ward conference. Any time these wonderful members can do something, they should do it, not us. Any time they need our help, we should be there to help train.

It appears that our car we took to the shop from overheating is D.O.A. Our mechanic can't even get the head loose after removing the head bolts. It is a car slated for removal from the mission fleet. I do not believe it will be worth the expense to try and repair it.

Here is a great quote from President Lebethoa that you might want to employ with your children, "No,' is a complete sentence. There is no need for any further explanation."

Photos:

- This is a four piece set we are going to split between two board-

ings. We are buying it for R 8,000. Without a calculator, I can tell you that is less than R 14,000 or R 11,000. As you can see, these missionaries have it pretty rough.

Do good today. Make good choices that will lead to happiness. Love,

Dad and Mom





This is a four piece set we are going to split between two boardings. We are buying it for R 8,000. Without a calculator, I can tell you that is less than R 14,000 or R 11,000. As you can see, these missionaries have it pretty rough.

2019 MAY 10 }

May_10_2019_Update

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

This week flew by quickly. We had our district meeting today and discussed the importance of accountability. One idea that came up was, when we account for something, we are reporting and sharing. As we do this, we are re-emphasizing our learning. We are able to see what we have done and verbalize our experience.

Mom and I drove around a certain part of Mdantsane this afternoon looking for houses that might be for rent. There was nothing. We have done this exercise about three times or more now. We try to speak with people in the neighborhood and it seems that nothing is available. We have tried 8 different real estate agents and 2 property managers - Nothing. We will keep trying.

We took a large bag of cookies over

to a teacher's house from the Phakamile School. Her sister passed away. Bongwiwe, the teacher, was not there, but other members of the family were. One was just a visitor of sorts. Our message was about the blessing of the resurrection. Most followed what we were saying except the visitor. She was intent on arguing that there is no resurrection until Christ comes again. Our spirits and our "bones" lay in the grave until that time. And, furthermore, only 144,000 will be caught up to join him when he comes in His glory. We politely thanked her for her thoughts and agreed to disagree.

Bongwiwe called us later and thanked us for coming by. She also apologized for the "visitor." We will be back to read with her learners on Wednesday.

Photos:

- Lisakhanya practicing his key-

board at the Church under the tutelage of the world famous piano instructor, Sister Stevenson. - Ramon, who turned in his keyboard today. He needs to focus on his studies at school. This is his big year to graduate. - Mom teaching Toni how it is done.

We love you, plain and simple,

Dad and Mom



Lisakhanya practicing his keyboard at the Church under the tutelage of the world famous piano instructor, Sister Stevenson



Ramon, who turned in his keyboard today. He needs to focus on his studies at school. This is his big year to graduate.



Mom teaching Toni how it is done.

May_11_2019_Update

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

Every other month I change out the filters from the water filtration systems the missionaries have in their boardings. In the course of 6 months, all three filters in the system have been changed at least once. It is amazing at how dirty the filters are at some of the boardings. Good thing we have the filtration system in place.

Mom worked with the ward conference choir this afternoon. Her helper did not come so she conducted the practice. "As I Search the Holy Scriptures" is a new hymn for the choir members, but by the end of the practice, it sounded like they had it down pretty well.

I did some preliminary work on organizing the ward directory in a sequential house numbering by neighborhood zone. Then, went with our

zone leaders to visit an investigator, Elliot, they have challenged to be baptized on May 18th. Mom and I are going to go visit him this week since he is a little bit older, maybe 55 years of age and the missionaries feel like he would enjoy chatting with us.

After the choir practice, we went to visit the non-member family of one of our missionaries who is serving in Johannesburg. The missionaries just started teaching them. We met the mother and the grandmother who both said they were coming to church tomorrow. We complemented them on what a great son/grandson they had raised.

Mom is doing quite a bit of food preparation for a little Relief Society Mother's Day celebration at church tomorrow - Brownies, cookies, chocolate-peanut butter oatmeal squares, fruit tray, veggie tray and hummus. Wow, are they going to

miss her when she is gone!

Photos:

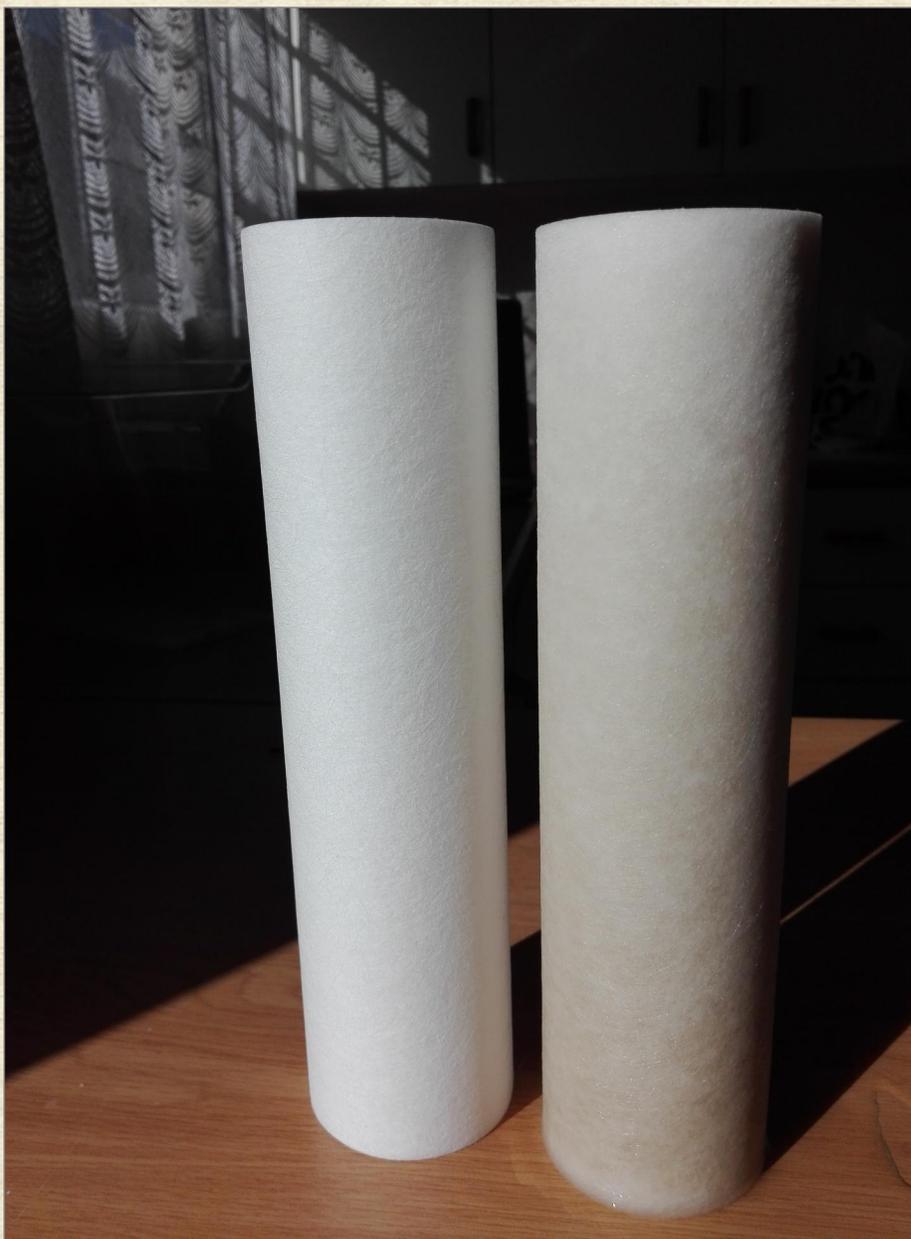
- This is the #1 filter in our water filtration system. It gets changed every two months. The other filter cartridges are changed quarterly or semi-annually.

Please have a great day! We love you!

Dad and Mom



This is the #1 filter in our water filtration system. It gets changed every two months. The other filter cartridges are changed quarterly or semi-annually.



May_12_2019_Update

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

Happy Mother's Day to all the beautiful, wonderful mothers in this family. Our hearts are full when we stop and contemplate the goodness we see in the outstanding mothers of our precious grandchildren. We rest comfortably at night knowing they are in good hands. They are learning by a mother's good teachings and example.

We said "Happy Mother's Day" to many this morning. However, Mother's Day here is not the same as back home. One Relief Society had a little refreshment gathering where Mom's food was devoured in seconds. We heard one or two talks about mothers, but that was pretty much it.

Mom held choir practice after church. They are coming along, but not quite like the Choir at Tabernacle Square. One more practice and

then, the big performance at ward conference this coming Sunday.

A little bit of a scare this afternoon. One of our bishops was taken to the hospital and was rapidly moved into the "theatre" for brain surgery. We do not know all the details, but yesterday he wasn't talking clearly and was having a hard time keeping his balance. It was bad enough that he fell and hit his head. We stopped by the hospital after church to check on him and he was in surgery at that point. Our prayers and thoughts are with him and his family.

We love you. Enjoy your Sabbath Day.

Dad and Mom

Tid Bits

Dear Family,

1. Word of the week: The meaning of being a mother is virtually endless. A mother is a protector, disciplinarian and friend. A mother is a selfless, loving human who must sacrifice many of their wants and needs for the wants and needs of their children. A mother works hard to make sure their child is equipped with the knowledge, skills and abilities to make it as a competent hu-

man being. Being a mother is perhaps the hardest, most rewarding job a woman will ever experience. *Example: *Children all over the world are grateful for the unconditional love of their mothers.

*2. Quote of the week: *

3. Scripture of the week: Now they never had fought, yet they did not fear death; and they did think more upon the liberty of their fathers than they did upon their lives; yea, *they had **been taught by their mothers*, that if they did not doubt, God





would deliver them. (Alma 56:47)

*4. Joke of the week: *

Q: When is Mother's Day?

A: Nine months after Father's Day.

*5, Bee's Knees Award: * This person comes close to perfection. She is beautiful. She has a wonderfully strong testimony as demonstrated by her life. She is supportive of her husband and children. She sacrifices for them, putting them first in her life. She is so genuine, caring and sensitive. She made good choices

that resulted in rich blessings for her and her family. A Patriarch once said in her son's blessing, "The image of thy Heavenly Mother, and many of her virtues, you are going to recognize in the mother of thy earthly body....Whose choice qualities will equal those of thy Heavenly Mother." She is an angel, an example of kindness, sympathy, tenderness and love. She loves to laugh with her family, so hard that once her false teeth shot out from her mouth and onto the floor. She was a classy dresser *without* a Gucci-size budget. She was graceful and more beautiful

than thousands of beauty queens all smushed together. All who know her, love her deeply. Bernadine Irene Stevenson, you are the Bee's Knees, sistah!!!

6. Gospel Question of the week: Again, Michael Beckstead is quick on the draw. Total of 8 temples either announced or operating in California. This week: What is the first and last names of the the two grandmothers of Mavis McKay Stevenson?

*7. If I were you (Advice to grand kids): * If I were you, I would express my love and gratitude to my mother frequently by the things I say and the things I do. Tell her regularly, "I love you." Hug her every day. Recognize how wonderful your mother is all the time. Try it. I think you will like it.

8. What I learned this week: Mothers are generally the same all over the world. The raise children and they love them dearly. They make sacrifices for them and do what they can to help them learn and grow. They want nothing but the best for them.

9. What I am grateful for: I am so thankful for the knowledge that we all have a Heavenly Mother. Only the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints teaches that beautiful doctrine.

*10: My goal this week: * I plan to study what information I can find about our Heavenly Mother.

11. Photo of the week: Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers in our family! We love you!

Have fun living the gospel this week! Be loyal to the Royal. Love, Dad and Mom

2019 MAY 13 }

May_13_2019_Update

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

I turned plumber this morning, at least until I was half way through the job. I think I had all the tools but you cannot change out a faucet if you cannot turn off the water. We looked and looked and no success. The answer: call the landlord and have them send out their handy man.

Mom has been sewing like a maniac today for various projects and requests that others have made. She is the "Mission Seamstress."

I ran a dozen errands today, everything from buying furniture to getting passport copies certified, buying some groceries, buying large white-board for missionaries, setting up doctor visits, trying to connect with property managers, etc. But, that's what you do on preparation day.

This evening I had the sweet experience of going to visit Bishop Jada in the Intensive Care Unit of the hospital and give him a priesthood blessing. I love this man for his strong faith and his dedication to ministering to the members of his ward. He may be rigid and inflexible to some, but he is a deeply converted priesthood leader. When I arrived at his bedside he was awake and talking very softly. They had just removed a tube from his throat a few hours earlier. He still had many tubes and IV lines running here and there. I told him the ward was remembering him in their prayers and how much we all love him. The nurse allowed us to draw the curtains around his bed so we had some privacy. There was a wonderful feeling there as a simple blessing was pronounced upon him.

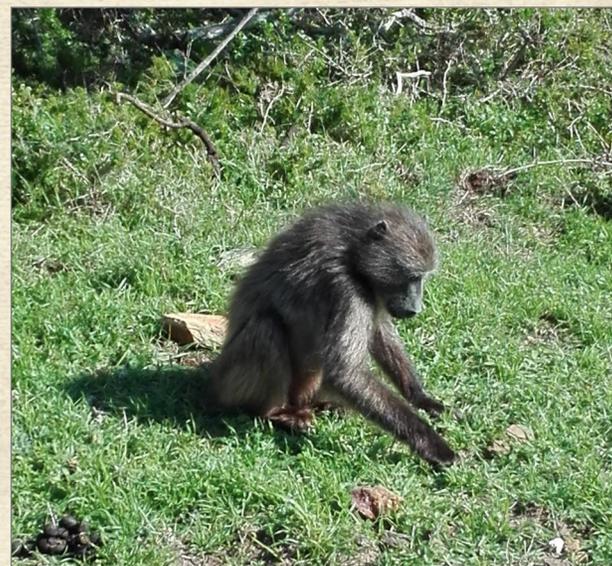
*Photos: *

- Baboons are bad, bad, bad. Not

good pets. - Mom and I during our first week in Cape Town - Lion Head mountain in the background.

Have a great day making good choices. We will do the same. Love,

Dad and Mom



Baboons are bad, bad, bad. Not good pets.

Mom and I during our first week in Cape Town - Lion Head mountain in the background.



2019 MAY 15 }

May_15_2019_Update

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

Sorry about no update yesterday. We ran out of data which means we had no access to the Internet.

We had an enjoyable time reading this morning to the Learners at Phakamile School. however, this age group understands very little English. So, I find myself not reading the story but trying to tell the story with the pictures in the book, my acting things out and making sounds like the wind, the animals, the birds, etc. We hope they get something out of it. They seem to enjoy our time with them.

We ran some errands and had lunch at home. Then, Mom jumped back into her sewing projects and I went to the doctor for a check-up. We did a urine test, blood work-up, blood pressure check, and, a resting and

treadmill EKG. So far, it looks like things are in good shape. We are still waiting for the blood results.

We have been roughing it for a few days. We had no running water for three mornings in a row. When that happens, you bath like the South Africans in the townships. Take a jug of water into the bathroom and wipe yourself down with a washcloth.

Photos:

- For the equivalent of \$4.20, you can get a very good car wash - outside, wheels, tyres, windows, vacuum inside and trunk vacuumed. - The reason we have been without water is a broken line that needed to be repaired. They had to dig a lot to get to the leaking pipe. This trench is about 8 feet deep. You can see the condition of the pipe they removed.

Have a great day. Be thankful. We

love you,

Dad and Mom



For the equivalent of \$4.20, you can get a very good car wash - outside, wheels, tyres, windows, vacuum inside and trunk vacuumed.



The reason we have been without water is a broken line that needed to be repaired.



This trench is about 8 feet deep.

2019 MAY 16 }

May_16_2019_Update

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

I spent virtually the whole day trying to help Brother Shakes get some medical attention for his Sciatica (?). We went to a chiropractor, but it seems the treatment did not do much to relieve his pain. The bone cracker suggested getting a CT Scan so they might be able to pinpoint the problem and then treat it as necessary. Two hospitals later, still no CT Scan. We need to get a GP doctor referral first.

Mom has everything ready for district meeting tomorrow. The cinnamon rolls she made are always a big hit! Yes, she spoils them.

Photos:

- Shakes getting the vibrator massage, then, pins in his back, then, the Doc yanking on his leg and putting him through all kinds of contortions.

Do good today. Make wise choices.
We love you,

Dad and Mom



Shakes getting the vibrator massage, then, pins in his back, then, the Doc yanking on his leg and putting him through all kinds of contortions.

2019

MAY 17 }

May_17_2019_Update

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

We had a good training today in district meeting about maintaining an Area Book. This is a very important part of the work. Sometimes it takes several visits from different missionaries before a person is genuinely ready to accept baptis. The area book helps missionaries know who has been taught in the past and to what extent. Maybe they were not ready a year ago, but today they are ready to listen and accept.

Mom and I spent a couple hours looking for a new missionary board- ing without any success. We just read about Nephi and his brothers working to get the Plates of Brass. One of the lessons is "Don't give up!" So, we will be out again tomorrow if time permits.

I called a doctor in Mdantsane who

is a member of the Church. She is less active, but very nice and friend- ly. I was able to get her to see Broth- er Shakes today and to start the process to get a CT Scan or MRI. She also loaded him up with some strong pain medication that just might help him get a good night's sleep for once. And, to get relief right away, she gave him a couple injections of pain killer. When it was time to leave, I asked if they take a credit card at the front desk. "No charge," was they re- ply.

This woman is definitely a candidate for cookies on our next visit.

On our way home from the 4 Church where Mom was doing her music lessons, we stopped to see Bishop Jada at the hospital in Beacon Bay. He is out of ICU and in a regular hospital ward. He was awake, alert, sitting up and visiting with family. All his tubes and lines were gone and

he looked very good. He thinks he will be released from the hospital on Monday. It is really good to see a close knit family supporting him during this ordeal.

Dad and Mom

Photos:

- I found it interesting that the South African Communist Party drives an Isuzu truck made under the economic banner of capitalism and not some communist-made piece of junk from Russia or China. - The Jada Family surrounding Tata.

We love you! Be good 25/7.



The Jada Family surrounding Tata.



I found it interesting that the South African Communist Party drives an Isuzu truck made under the economic banner of capitalism and not some communist-made piece of junk from Russia or China.

2019 MAY 18 }

May_18_2019_Update

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

We had a busy morning cleaning up here and there because we were going to have guests, Gary and Lindz, our favorite panel beaters, in the evening for dinner. Mom also got some of her delicious rolls started. For the record, I cleaned the bathrooms.

There was an Elder's Quorum and Relief Society service project scheduled for 11 AM. How any one knows about these things is news to us. They do not seem to announce the activities in Sacrament Meeting, RS or EQ. There is a serious lack of communication. So, we showed up (with snacks for the group) and four of our younger missionaries were there dressed to go to work. As far as we know, that was all that was there for the project plus the EQ President. Mom and I had other things we had to do.

Mom had to begin a choir practice with the other ward. I had to meet missionaries at the airport with passports and boarding passes. Mom had brought baggies of cookies for those that were on time. If they were more than 15 minutes late, no cookies. She is doing the same thing tomorrow for a practice right before the start of our ward conference.

After the choir practice, she held a knitting class for a bunch of RS sisters. They all jumped in and got right to learning how to knit. They love Mom and are now asking her to have a baking class in a few weeks!

At 6 PM, Gary and Lindz came over. They are not members of the Church, but we wanted them to see us at home and where we could have a friendly visit. We are hoping that they enjoyed themselves. Mom made a great beef roast with carrots and potatoes, gravy, green beans and a

fruit salad. To top it off, an apple upside down cake with vanilla ice cream!

Photos:

- The ladies learning from the master knitter.

Have a great day! We love you,

Dad and Mom





The ladies learning from the master knitter.



Tid Bits

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

1. Word of the week: "vicissitudes," a change of circumstances or fortune, typically one that is unwelcome or unpleasant. *Example:* The gospel of Jesus Christ helps us manage the vicissitudes of life by giving us hope and understanding of the eternal scheme of things.

2. Quote of the week:

"When Jesus asks you and me to 'repent,' He is inviting us to change our mind, our knowledge, our spirit — even the way we breathe. He is asking us to change the way we love, think, serve, spend our time, treat our wives, teach our children and even care for our bodies."

Daily repentance is the pathway to purity, and personal purity can make one a powerful tool in God's hands.

(Pres. Russell M. Nelson)

3. Scripture of the week:

And he beheld Satan; and he had a great chain in his hand, and it veiled the whole face of the earth with darkness; and he looked up and laughed, and his angels rejoiced. (Moses 7:26) *4. Joke of the week:*

Q: Dad, did you get a hair cut?
A: No, I had all of them cut.

5. Bee's Knees Award: This little girl is now a young lady and is beautiful inside and out. She is super kind and is a fantastic friend if you are lucky enough to have her as a friend. She loves Young Womens. She radiates beauty, more than ten beauty queens all smushed together. She loves animals. She is smart. She is a great example of the gospel at home and in public. She has a testimony. She has even spoken in sacra-

ment meeting. Everyone loves her. Nora, you are the bee's Knees, sis-tah!!!

6. Gospel question of the week: Can you name three Anti-Christ characters in the Book of Mormon?

*7. If I were you (Advice to grand kids): * If I were you I would read the Joseph Smith History in the Pearl of Great Price everyday for a long time so that the account of his vision is imprinted on your mind. Try it. I think you will like it.

*8. What I learned this week: *Missions are as much for the missionaries as it is for finding, teaching and baptizing new members. The ideal is to have young men come back to their home wards as strong, powerful priesthood holders that will marry and make valuable contributions to the building up of the Church.

9. What I'm grateful for: The Sacrament. What a beautiful, wonderful and sacred ordinance we have the privilege to experience each week.





10: Goal for the week: Distribute books and CD's with thank you notes to those in our wards that helped us during the big two ward party we had back in January.

11. Photo of the week: Look at this happy, fun, crazy beautiful, really cool girl!!!

Have fun living the gospel this week!
We love you,

Dad and Mom

May19_2019_Update

Dear Family,

For choir practice this morning, Mom had just a handful of choir members. Fortunately, they were able to get in a couple of minutes to practice their song before the meeting. Mom had a sister from her conducting class that was going to lead the choir, but when it was time to perform, she did not come up to the stand. We suspect she had to leave with her young child that may have

been acting unruly.

Our ward conference was good. We were a little scared as the time rolled around for the start of the meeting. We had a lot of empty pews. However, as usual, by ten minutes past, we had a fair amount of people. "On time" means anywhere from 15 - 30 minutes late.

I was so impressed with our stake president. He did a great job of speaking to the ward and emphasized the importance of building the kingdom. It is obvious he knows the scriptures as he frequently will paraphrase them into his remarks. We can see that he is a man the Lord raised up for this calling. He and his family are great examples to the rest of the stake.

And, he is a humble man even though he has a thriving and profitable construction business. He knows the doctrine of the Church, the administration of the Church and the way to set a proper example for those around him. All of us can benefit from the way he lives his life. When we serve because of the charity we feel for others, people will al-

ways want to be better, always want to improve.

Photos:

- Another beautiful sunset at Hazy Ridge - This is our kitchen counter. Mom suggested I take a photo of it because it is rarely clear of clutter and junk stacked 3 feet high. - This is Bishop and Sister Lalendle's daughter. She is getting ready to cry, which she does regularly when she sees me.

Have a wonderful Sabbath Day! We love you,

Dad and Mom



This is Bishop and Sister Lalendle's daughter. She is getting ready to cry, which she does regularly when she sees me.

May_20_2019_Update

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

Mom and I made a trip this morning out to King Williams Town to visit four of our missionaries. We took a wooden bed frame, some fruit, some rolls, some cookies, our mission newsletter, new Preach My Gospel manuals, and, conference talk issues of the Liahona. They were happy to see us.

On the way to and returning from KWT, Mom read to me from the book, "The Covenant. Driving down the highway, it dawned on me once again, how fortunate and truly blessed I am to have a wife that is such a wonderful companion like Mom. For both of us to be involved with the most important work on the face of the earth, the gathering of Israel, and to do our little part in helping to establish and advance the Church in South Africa has been not only been a testimony-building ex-

perience, but also a strengthening of the bonds of our relationship. We have drawn closer together and consequently, closer to our Heavenly Father. The return on investment from the last couple years is inestimable.

Mom has spent a good part of the day putting together a little recipe booklet we can print up and give to various members who want to replicate Mom's baking/cooking. In typing the booklet she has had to do all the conversions from U.S. standards of measurement to metric measurements.

I spent most of this afternoon with Brother Shakes. I took him to the doctor and she filled out a referral for him to have an MRI on Thursday. I delivered to her a bag of Mom's delicious chocolate chip cookies. She was so happy to get them!

I then, helped Shakes purchase some corrugated tin and timber so he can build a shack out behind his house. His mission president from some years ago sent us \$100 USD to help out and Mom and I threw in a little. He now has all the supplies he needs to build his own place and move out of the two bedroom house where he has been living with 4 - 5 female types. He will be happy and they will be happy about the new arrangement.

come up out of the Indian Ocean last night. You cannot tell from the photo, but it was big, orange and beautiful. - People in the township are smart to grow a garden. Surprisingly, produce does not get stolen very often. However, most are good to share with their neighbors.

Have a good day. We love you. We are thinking and praying about you.

Dad and Mom

Photos:

- We went to see the full moon



We went to see the full moon come up out of the Indian Ocean last night. You cannot tell from the photo, but it was big, orange and beautiful.



People in the township are smart to grow a garden. Surprisingly, produce does not get stolen very often. However, most are good to share with their neighbors.

2019 MAY 22 }

May_22_2019_Update

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

Sorry about no update yesterday. We had gone out of town to Port Elizabeth, about three hours from here. We went to pick up some passports for some of the missionaries that are now here in our area. While we were there we had lunch with five other senior couples. It was fun to meet some of the newer senior couples and to learn more about them.

We can empathize with these new senior missionaries, having gone through what they are experiencing now almost two years ago. It seems that each assignment is a little different. Our best advice is to: 1) evaluate where the ward or branch is and see where you can assist the most, 2) earn the trust and confidence of the leaders in the ward, and 3) Teach and train, do not do things for them and simply prop them up.

Mom and I had a pleasant time with Mike and Diana West from Palos Verdes, California. We did a little sight-seeing with them and made arrangements for them to stay at the same B&B with us (separate rooms). They have been here for about two months. Mike and I discovered we are both gearheads.

Photos:

- Cool lighthouse in PE. Armed security people there to protect against Abalone poachers. - Mom and I and Mike and Diana West.

Have a good day. We love you,

Dad and Mom



Mom and I and Mike and Diana West.



2019 MAY 23 }

May_23_2019_Update

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

I had quite the experience today at the local government-run hospital. I took Shakes in very early this morning, thinking we would get an MRI done quickly. All I can say is, this is Africa, things do not work that smoothly.

We had a letter from a doctor in Mdantsane requesting the MRI. That would not do. We had to go all over this massive hospital to get several paperwork and other procedural things in order. At our first stop, there was a mama there that works at the hospital and knows Shakes well. She is also the mother of the bishop in King Williams Town. Well, this was one of those tender mercies of the Lord. She jetted us around to all these different departments and saved us hours and hours of waiting in line. And, she usually does not go to that work station where we met

her. She usually is buried in a storage room/office. She just happened to be there at the same time we showed up.

We were at the hospital for five hours as it was. The real bad news was that the doctors felt he does not need an MRI and that his situation cannot be helped. His spine is curved at such a horrific angle, the doctor was surprised he could even walk, use his legs at all, control bladder and bowel functions, etc. And, he mentioned to Shakes that things will not get better. He can expect to have more problems over the years and probably be in a wheelchair before he is 50.

We go back Monday for a second opinion with a spinal specialist.

Mom has put together a really neat recipe booklet that she will be giving out to members who want one. She

has a reputation as an expert baker/cook. We only printed up 20, but I am sure we will be handing out a lot more than that.

Photos:

- Shakes is building a shack behind his house. He is very excited about having his own place. It is about 10 feet by 6 feet. - What is this man doing? We see this all the time, but usually in more detail. I don't think Mom is use to it even after two years. - Mom's recipe booklet. Please do not copy it, we have copyright privileges. We don't

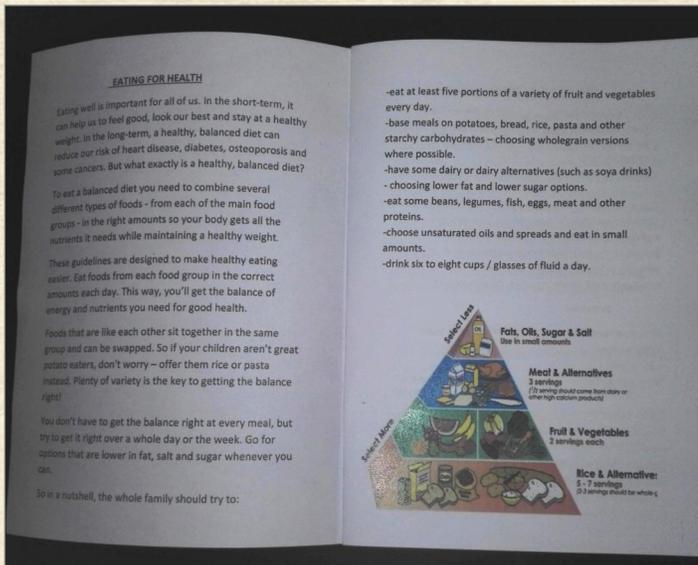
want to take you to court!

We love you,

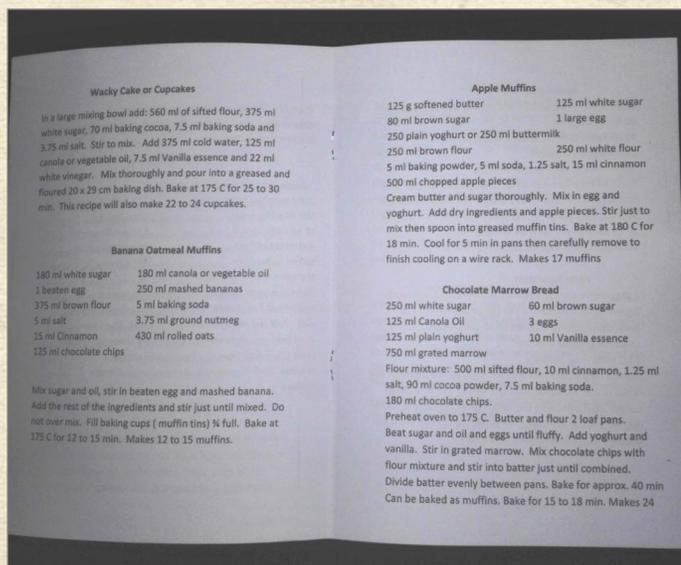
Dad and Mom



What is this man doing? We see this all the time, but usually in more detail. I don't think Mom is use to it even after two years.



Shakes is building a shack behind his house. He is very excited about having his own place. It is about 10 feet by 6 feet.



2019

MAY 24 }

May_24_2019_Update

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

We have had a full day, but also a very rich and edifying day. We had zone conference with 28 of our younger missionaries and President Lebethoa. The zone training by our zone leaders was excellent. The training from President Lebethoa was very, very good as usual. We are convinced he is a man chosen and foreordained to be where he is today, managing the affairs of this mission.

At the end of his training, Elder Dos Santos, Mom and I were asked to share our testimonies. I wish I could have recorded Mom's testimony. It was sweet and from the heart, just what these young men needed to hear. Now they have a good idea of the type of person they need to court and marry in the temple. Then, 50 years later, go on a mission with her!

I went out to King Williams Town early this morning to pick up the four missionaries we had there to bring them to the zone conference. Then, after the conference I took them back. They kind of get forgotten out where they are sometimes. Next Friday we will be going to their district council. We are going to order them each a large pizza of their choice. You might say, they are a wee bit excited for that meeting.

We learned yesterday evening from our mission president that there is not a senior couple coming in immediately behind us. It may be a few months before the mission gets a new senior couple, if at all. The plan is to keep our boarding under lease and turn over all of our assignments to the Hodges. They are feeling a little overwhelmed with it all, but they are experienced Provo MTC people (branch president and wife for five years) and will do a great job.

Photos:

- The coast line near the Port Elizabeth lighthouse. Someone in the family asked, "What is Abalone?"

Technically, it is a large marine snail.

Here is a link for those that want to know all about Abalone: - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abalone> - Sorry, we don't mean to bore you with the beautiful sunsets we get to enjoy most evenings when we are home.

We love you very much,

Dad and Mom





2019

MAY 25 }

May_25_2019_Update

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

I went out to NU 1 this morning to hook up the plumbing for water-to-the-house for Phumlani. About \$35 and we were all hooked up with water to a kitchen tap, bathroom sink and bathroom tub. We had to tap into the water line from his neighbor's yard since the water department did not extend the community pipe down to his yard. The new faucets were plastic! I am not sure how long they will last? Phumlani is a very happy man.

Mom had a cooking/baking class today with some of the sisters in the 4th Ward Relief Society. They learned how to make chocolate chip cookies and oatmeal peanut butter bars with a chocolate topping. I sampled several of the cookies and they were very delicious. We invited some of the kids playing soccer in the gym to come sample cookies. By a unani-

mous vote, the cookies were judged to be outstanding.

We had 8 baptisms today. All of them were young people 8 years of age to maybe three of them that were 14 years old. Now, the challenge to keep them active and engaged in Church. They are all future missionaries.

Photos:

- Mom's gourmet cooking class.

Each person received one of her recipe books and a plate full of goodies to take home.

We love you,

Dad and Mom



Each person received one of her recipe books and a plate full of goodies to take home.



Mom's gourmet cooking class.



Tid Bits

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

*1. Word of the week: * "besmirch," damage (some one's reputation). Disobedient missionaries can besmirch the Church if not careful.

*2. Quote of the week: *

3. Scripture of the week:

Wherefore, men are afree <<https://www.lds.org/study/scriptures/bofm/2-ne/2?lang=eng#note27a>> according to the b'flesh <<https://www.lds.org/study/scriptures/bofm/2-ne/2?lang=eng#note27b>>; and c all <<https://www.lds.org/study/scriptures/bofm/2-ne/2?lang=eng#note27c>> things are d'given <<https://www.lds.org/study/scriptures/bofm/2-ne/2?lang=eng#note27d>> them which are expedient unto man. And they are free to e'choose <<https://www.lds.org/study/scriptures/bofm/2-ne/2?lang=eng#note27e>> f'liberty <<https://www.lds.org/study/scriptures/bofm/2-ne/2?lang=eng#note27f>> and eternal glife <<https://www.lds.org/study/scriptures/bofm/2-ne/2?lang=eng#note27g>>, through the great Mediator of all men, or to choose captivity and death, according to the captivity and power of the devil; for he seeketh that all men might be hmiserable <<https://www.lds.org/study/scriptures/bofm/2-ne/2?lang=eng#note27h>> like unto himself. (2 Nephi 2:27)

*4. Joke of the week: *

Q: What do you call a Mexican that has lost his car?

A: Carlos

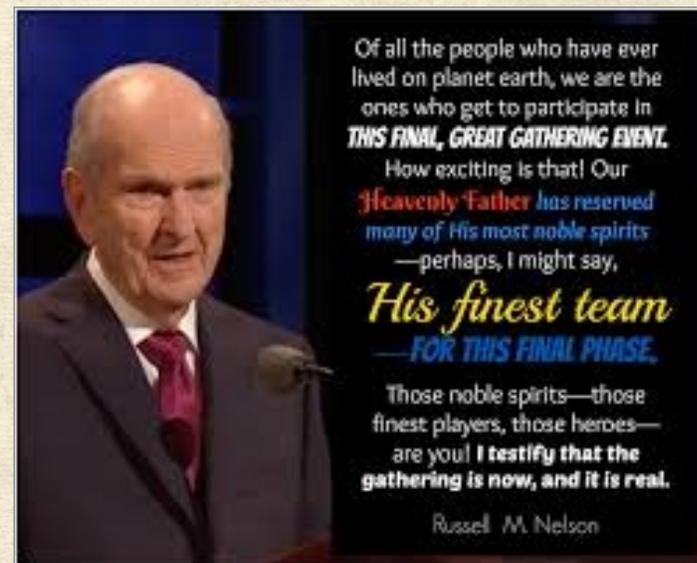
*5. Bee's Knees Award: *This kid is the complete package. You name it, handsome, brilliant, athletic, creative, fun, happy...everything. He loves his family like crazy. He especially loves his younger brother and

typically is wrestling with him on the living room floor. All the girls chase him at recess. He can outplay Chris Paul or any other basketball point guard on planet earth. Best of all, he has a testimony of the gospel and will make an outstanding missionary. He is respectful of others and kind-hearted. Barret, you are the Bee's Knees, Brother!!!

*6. Gospel Question of the week: * Last week, Michael Stevenson was first to answer the question about the three "Anti-Christ" characters in the Book of Mormon - Sherem, Ko-

rihor, Nehor. This week's question: Two parts: A) What did they call the world when all the land mass was together, no separate continents? B) What did the Nephites call the Red Sea when they camped there to build a ship?

*7. If I were you (Advice to grand kids): * If I were you, I would make sure I ate a good breakfast each morning to make sure you had the right amount of nourishment and energy as you go to school to exercise your brain. Try it. I think you will like it.





May26_2019_update

Dear Family,

It dawned on us after we returned home from church that we only have two more Sundays in our Mdantsane wards. Our last Sunday meetings will be in the Mowbry Ward in Cape Town. This particular area is where Nicolas Paul lived when WHW stayed in his home. About 2 AM, one rainy night, great grandfather challenged Nicholas to be baptized. Nicholas consented to baptism, but, pointed out the fact that it was raining and late and dark. Elder Walker said he did not care. They both walked down to the Liesbeek River and Nicholas Paul was baptized as the first or second member of the Church in South Africa.

The Liesbeek River flows in front of the present Cape Town mission office. Then, of course, Nicholas and his wife had a daughter by the name of Harriet Paul. The Paul family immigrated to Utah and WHW married Harriet, the mother of our grandmother, and Stanley W. Stevenson's mother, Emma Walker.

We had a baptism today in the 4th ward. What made this extra special was that Oyinthando Lubelwana, a Priest-aged Aaronic priesthood holder, baptized Musa. This is the way it should be. We do not like to see the missionaries doing all the baptisms. Missionaries come and go, fellow members in the ward will be here for years to come.

The 1st Ward had a "New Beginnings" program this afternoon. The YW President needed some help, so Mom volunteered to help out. Spur of the moment (Saturday night), Mom bought rolls and made the fixings for deviled egg sandwiches. She made fruit kabobs and African Bean Salad. Well, something got mixed up because today they had brought chicken wings, pork, fruit salad....bottom line, they had an awful lot of food to feed about 20 people. Mom deserves brownie points for really pulling out the stops to do what she could to help out.

Photos:

- Oyinthando on the left, Musa (short for a really long name) on the right.

8. What I learned this week: Mission Presidents are taught by the brethren that each missionary coming to their mission is sent by the Lord to "Them."

*9. What I am grateful for: *The glorious opportunity for old folks like us to go on a mission and be part of the greatest work taking place in this day and age, the gathering of Israel. How wonderful to be so blessed to be a part of it.

10. My goal for the week: I still have until midnight Sunday to get

letters and gifts out to some of those that helped us with the two-ward party. This week's goal: Follow up and get things done in case I don't make this week's goal.

11. Photo of the week: Stop pinching that poor baby!!!

Have fun living the gospel this week! Repent daily. (Daniel, hourly)

We love you,

Dad and Mom

Have an enjoyable and delightful
Sabbath. Love,

Dad and Mom



Oyinthando on
the left, Musa
(short for a
really long
name) on the
right.

2019 MAY 27 }

May_27_2019_Update

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

Mom did a bunch of special cleaning, in preparation for our eventual departure, while I took Brother Shakes in for an early morning second opinion from a spinal specialist at the government hospital. Unfortunately, the specialist confirmed that there is nothing they can do surgically to help correct his problem. They did prescribe some pain medication, but when Shakes looked at it, he was unimpressed. He has tried this particular medication before and it does very little for him in the way of pain relief.

As we talked on the way home, his best friend is the doctor we went to see a week ago in Mdantsane, NU 17. She has given him some medication that seems to work for him at night. At least he can get some sleep. We will go back to her next Monday and

report our experience we had at the hospital.

I helped one of our missionaries today who needed his passport to convert some of his Brazilian money to South African Rand. He came to the mission knowing very little English. He has been bound and determined to learn and speak English. Since day one, he has spoken nothing but English and now does an admirable job communicating with others. Proof, that missionaries can do hard things.

Mom and I had one last get together with the Steenbeek's. We went to have a late lunch here in East London and then, to the movies to see "Avengers." It was a very long movie. We hope the Steenbeek's know we love them and we hope they will stay true and faithful to their covenants. They are a little different, but we love them anyway. (Of course, a lot of people look at me as being a little

different, strange.)

Photos:

- Brother Shakes' new shack is coming along! Now has a roof of sorts. - Photo from our last zone conference. - It's the law.

We hope you have a wonderful day.

We love you,

Dad and Mom



May 2019 Zone
Conference



2019 MAY 28 }

May_28_2019_Update

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

I spent the whole day running errands, fixing plumbing problems, handing out passports, being a temporary missionary companion while waiting for the real one to come in from Cape Town, opening the church for Seminary, trying to fix a headlight on a missionary car, delivering supplies to missionary boardings, meeting with an Elder's Quorum Counselor, etc.

Mom had projects he needed to work on at home. I think we are both worried about the mad scramble to get things done around our boarding before we leave. That means Mom will clean every corner of the house. My positive outlook: I only have to pull weeds one more time in the front and back yards.

Mom and I are doing the mission program of reading the Book of

Mormon in 100 days. We are enjoying it and presently on schedule. We are half way through 2 Nephi and should be completely through the book by August 15th. Each day we read this marvelous book our testimonies are strengthened. It is convincing, palpable, empirical evidence that the Restoration took place, Joseph Smith is a true prophet of God and that the Lord's priesthood authority to perform saving ordinances is here upon the earth for the blessing of all mankind.

"The book is blue and the Church is true!"

Photos:

- This is one of those sensational headlines to increase readership. Translation: "I am a black white person." I have been told that "Mlungu" is slang for a white person. The term comes from the white scum that accumulates on a pond or

stagnant body of water.

Have a great day honoring your covenants and choosing the right. We love you,

Dad and Mom



2019

MAY 29 }

May_29_2019_Update

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

Mom and I had a very enjoyable morning reading to elementary kids at the Phakamile School. We read "The Tortoise and the Hare" to them. When I asked my groups who is the fastest between the hare and the tortoise, they all acknowledge the hare as the fastest. But, when I asked them who wins the race, they almost all said the tortoise. I am suspecting that other classmates I had already read to, told them the outcome of the story before I could read it to them.

We stopped at a school that recently had four new classrooms built since the first of the year. The walls are made from some kind of pre-fabricated panels. The rooms were clean, spacious and comfortably held 36 "learners." The principal was kind enough to pass along the name of the construction company that built

the classrooms. I am visiting them tomorrow at 1 PM.

We spent some time with Nandi Xamane. Mom showed her how to make a pom pom for the top of the ski cap Nandi knitted. Then, Mom gave her some ear rings. Then, we gave her a book about raising families with a good bye note in it. Then, we told her we loved her and we will always remember her. And, how impressed we are with her progress in the gospel since we met her a couple years ago. It was a tearful moment.

About two years ago we found it difficult to say good bye to our family. Now, we are also finding it difficult to say goodbye to our South African family. We have met great people here, great members of the church. We love them. We have laughed with them, cried with them, and lived with them. We are excited for what the future holds for them.

*Photos: *

- This young boy was having a blast on his skid board in front of his house. - Beautiful rainbow over the Indian Ocean

We hope you have a great day. Make good choices. We love you,

Dad and Mom





This young boy was having a blast on his skid board in front of his house.

2019 JUNE 1 }

June_01_2019_Update

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

Sorry about no update yesterday. I forgot. However, a good day as we went to King Williams Town and attended their district council. They do not come into East London or Mdantsane very often. We don't want them to feel neglected, so we visited them and bought them each a large pizza for lunch. Then, before we left, Mom had two pieces of fruit and some of her Jungle Oats cookies.

In the afternoon Mom had her music classes. While she was teaching, I spoke with a recent convert to the Church, Siyolise. She was baptized about 6 months ago and is a bright young lady. She was recently called to be a Seminary teacher. On Friday, she was teaching her first class. Afterward, walking home as it was getting dark, she was robbed. They came from behind, had her in a

choke hold and searched her pockets. They took her phone and then beat her with her umbrella. So unfortunate, yet she is a strong person and remains faithful to her calling.

This morning I met with Brother Maseti, a well-known attorney in this part of the world. I had some questions about the approval letters we had received a while back for construction of classrooms at the Phakamile School. He was very cordial, answered our questions, visited about Mdantsane and how his wife attended the Phakamile School, and we exchanged contact information so we can stay in touch.

Mom met some sisters this afternoon to continue on with some knitting instruction. Some catch on quickly and others quickly move on. Mom also took some of her clothing she will not be taking home and had the sisters look through them for

what they might want.

I am hesitant to share the following account with you. Some of you may think I am forgetful, old, a dunce, a bona fide idiot or just plain stupid. That's alright. I can take the criticism.

WARNING: The following contains a graphic description of a serious accident. Viewer discretion is advised.

Today I had backed the car out of the garage. I hit the remote button to

shut the garage door when I remembered something I needed from the garage. I hit the button again and the door stopped half way. I ducked under the door and retrieved what I needed. I guess I forgot the door was down half way. When I turned around to leave the garage, I whacked my head right into the garage door. Immediate pain and suffering! Most men would have fainted from this horrific collision of skull against metal, but I managed to stumble to the car and go about my business.



Mom is thinking about buying me a full face helmet for my birthday!

June_02_2019_Update

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

We had a delightful day attending Church today. We heard wonderful testimonies and we have come away spiritually edified. One testimony seemed to strongly resonate with me.

Brother Ovayo mentioned the importance of standing and sharing our testimonies. He cited the experience of the First Vision when Joseph Smith first started to pray vocally to God. Satan bound his tongue, trying to prevent him from speaking. We cannot let Satan do this with us. If we feel prompted to share our testimony, we need to do it. Satan does not want us to open our mouths and witness to the glorious message of the Restored Gospel.

Can you believe the pace President Nelson is setting for the rest of us. I wish I had half the energy that man

does. I remembering him saying in the press conference when he first became the president of the Church, that he would serve to best of his ability until "his last breath."

For whoso is faithful unto the obtaining these two priesthoods of which I have spoken, and the magnifying their calling, are sanctified by the Spirit unto the renewing of their bodies. (D&C 84:33)

Yesterday we visited some families and gave away some books and jewelry that Annie and Michael brought over to us when they came in February for the real South African family tour (the other was just practice). We had an opportunity to tell these good people how much we love them and appreciate all they do for building up the Kingdom. They are good examples to us in so many ways.

Photos:

- The MD 1st Ward Primary - President and Sister Dinana and their children, Singa and Sibon. He is the 1st counselor in the Stake Presidency. Simply put, a delightful, faithful, wonderful family!

We love you, we love you, we love you!

Dad and Mom

Tid Bits

Dear Family,

*1. Word of the week: * "obfuscate," make obscure, unclear, or unintelligible. *Example:* Those who fear the truth will sometimes obfuscate the true facts of a matter.

2. Quote of the week:

3. Scripture of the week: For behold, this is my awork <<https://www.lds.org/study/scriptures/pgp/moses/>



The MD 1st Ward Primary



President and Sister Dinana and their children, Singa and Sibó. He is the 1st counselor in the Stake Presidency. Simply put, a delightful, faithful, wonderful family!

and my glory
<https://www.lds.org/study/scriptures/pgp/moses/1?lang=eng#note39b>
 —to bring to pass the immortality
<https://www.lds.org/study/scriptures/pgp/moses/1?lang=eng#note39c>
 and eternal
<https://www.lds.org/study/scriptures/pgp/moses/1?lang=eng#note39d>
 elife
<https://www.lds.org/study/scriptures/pgp/moses/1?lang=eng#note39e>
 of man. (Moses 1:39)

4. Joke of the week:

*Q: * Why don't skeletons ever go

trick or treating?

*A: *Because they have no body to go with.

*5. Bee's Knees Award: * You have to love this girl. She is a happy and fun person with a boundless imagination and hyper-active mind for creativity. She can throw a tea party better than the royal family of England. She has a beautiful smile. She is kind and can make friends with anyone. She is always trying to be like Jesus at home or in public. She loves her family and playing with her sisters. She can play the piano, sing like an

angel and she never chases boys at recess. Oh, and she is more beautiful than 10 princesses all smushed together. Audrey, you are the Bee's Knees, sistah!!!

*6. Gospel Question of the week:

*Congratulations to Michael Beckstead for answering last weeks question about the name used to describe the Red Sea by Lehi and his family (Irreantum) and the term for the earth when it was all one land mass (Pangea). This week's question: Give the scripture and verse for where the sacramental prayers are found in the scriptures.

7. If I were you (Advice for grand kids): If I were you, I would take time to share your testimony of the gospel with others when it is appropriate. Your testimony will strengthen and you never know what influence it may be on another person. Try it. I think you will like it.

*8. What I learned this week: * We are all at different stages in our progression. When the Lord created the earth, it was accomplished in 7 periods of time. Likewise, in our personal progression, some of us are at day

2 and others may be at day 4 or 5.

The most important element to consider and recognize is that we are moving forward and trying to be a little better each day.

9. What I am grateful for:

Oyinthando Lubelwana. This young man was at the church house yesterday working to help make the church look clean and organized for our meetings today. It was just him and the bishop. I will be buying a candy bar for him this week, delivered with a nice slap on the back for doing a good job.

*10. My goal for the week: * I will be repairing a broken bed frame this week from one of the missionary flats.

*11. Photo of the week: * I wish we had 100 of this type of missionary in our mission!

Have fun living the gospel this week! We think you are wonderful. We love you a lot more today than we did yesterday!

Love, Dad and Mom



Here is the real photo of Pres. Dinana and his family



June_03_2019_Update

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

First thing this morning was to once again try to fix the headlight in one of our missionary cars. After multiple tries to make something to hold the bulb in place (because the original part was lost), several sleepless nights, a bleeding ulcer and spreading toe fungus due to stress, I came up with "Plan G." When all your ideas fail, resort back to supper glue and duct tape. So far, so good. I will know more tomorrow.

I had an interesting meeting with a construction company that built some pre-fab classrooms in Mdantsane. It was clear that pre-fab may not be a good approach as the municipality will only certify the classrooms for five years. Then, the re-inspect to see if they can provide another certification for an additional five years. The good news, they can also build the traditional

block classrooms. Just doing a little homework prior to returning home.

I took Brother Shakes to the doctor today. She was so crazy busy, she asked us to come back on Wednesday. Basically, at this point, Shakes needs to focus on pain management because surgery is out of the question.

Mom is staying busy with multiple requests for knitting, sewing, baking, etc. For example, the Young Women are interested in making some scripture carrying bags. Mom could probably sew up a prototype, but would not have the time to help them make 12 bags. And, of course, there are the cookie requests (one of which is from me for a doctor's office).

Here are some interesting tid bits of news from South Africa:

- The government employs ap-

proximately 2% of the population and spend 45% of collected taxes on salaries and wages. - Judge Anton Steenkamp of the Labour Court in Johannesburg was on holiday with his family in a remote part of Zambia. He was bitten by a Black Mamba and subsequently died. This is why Mom and I do not go tracting in remote jungles of South Africa. - The CEO's of the government owned airline and the government owned power company have resigned in the last two weeks. They complain of non-cooperation from the government in attempting to

turn around the financially-bleeding enterprises which have lost billions of Rand to malfeasance and mismanagement - that's with a "b" and it is plural. And we have people in the U.S. that want a socialistic government???

I had an interesting conversation with Mama Keya, an elderly lady in the MD 4th Ward. We were discussing some of the senior couples that had come through Mdantsane over the years. She said, you are all so kind, warm, loving, happy, spiritual and so on. Then, she said, "It's



Elder Carlisle after hanging up the sheer curtains Mom labored over to get them white again. Next he put up the black out curtains that Mom also washed and ironed. Now she is doing the curtains from the next bedroom!



Shakes and his shack.

like you all come from the same parent." How profound! Seniors do come from the same parent. As we are born again, the Savior becomes our Father spiritually and we naturally acquire similar qualities from Him. That is one reason we seem so homogeneous.

Photos:

- Elder Carlisle after hanging up the sheer curtains Mom labored over to get them white again. Next he put up the black out curtains that Mom also washed and ironed. Now she is doing the curtains from the

next bedroom! - Mom was elated to find a recycle dump for glass very close to our house. - Shakes and his shack. He is really proud of it. Now, he has to add a bunch of dirt and sand for the floor, packed it down and then try to put down a layer of cement. We have a broken down bed frame in the garage that I think we can repair and give it to him.

Have a great day! Love,

Dad and Mom



June_04_2019_Update

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

We had an amazing and incredible surprise this morning. Last night, the principal of the Phakamile JP School asked us if we could come by today to have our picture taken. We arranged to be there at 9 AM since the rest of our day was taken up.

When we arrived, out on the foundation where new classrooms might be built someday, were over 700 children all lined up, standing straight and ready to greet Mom and I. It was an overwhelming sight! One of the school administration asked us to say a prayer. We asked the Lord to bless the school, the administration, the School Governing Board, the Faculty and especially the "learners." We prayed that we might all follow the example of the Savior and love one another.

Then, the children started to sing. It was beautiful and it was an emotional moment for us. We love them. As little children of God, we hope they grow up bright, strong and followers of the Savior. After their singing, each class peeled off to go to their rooms. As they left, Mom and I were able to give many of them a "High Five."

But Wait! That's not all. After that portion of the program, We took staged photos of Mom and I reading with some of the learners. Then, photos with all the faculty and administration. We were touched by their expressions of love and gratitude.

But Wait! That's not all. Then we went into the Principal's office. There, everyone started signing in Xhosa. "Siyabonga, hallelujah, amen, amen." Siyabonga means "Thank You."

But Wait! That's not all. Then, we all joined hands in a prayer circle. Someone prayed and we all said, "amen."

But Wait! That's not all. All of us held hands again and suddenly, each person was saying their own prayer aloud. It was a strange sensation because one could not discern any one prayer that was being said. It sounded like a bunch of people speaking all at once right after the Lord confounded the people at the Tower of Babel. Eventually it ended with each person saying their own amen after they finished praying.

But wait! That's not all. Mom and I had the privilege of shaking hands and hugging each of these women before we left. There were a lot of kind words and expressions of love from both sides. The morning was a very gracious, thoughtful and kind gesture on their part. We are blessed to have our association with them.

The rest of the day was rather boring after that experience. Mom was back to cleaning missionary curtains/drapes. I met 6 missionaries at the airport to deliver their passports

and boarding passes. I then went to Kidd's Beach, about 20 minutes from the airport to meet Rollo and Char Steenbeek. They wanted one last lunch together. I passed on Mom's apologies that she could not be there.

Rollo and I had a good conversation about redrawing school classroom plans and how do you find a reliable builder. A common problem in South Africa is a contractor receiving a draw for work to be done, and then, he disappears. You have to find someone with a history and good reputation. He recommended one to me that he has worked with several times and I will meet him tomorrow morning.

Photos:

Here is a link to a few photos and a couple of videos from this morning's Phakamile farewell (copy and paste the address into your url search field):

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1iewtYCjHJI5gUiB72M_TzIEJORTX-K2h?usp=sharing

Have a great day making good choices

es. Life is much easier when we live
the principles of the gospel and obey
the Lord's commandments. Love,

Dad and Mom

2019 JUNE 5 }

June_05_2019_Update

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

I had an enlightening meeting with Brian Bartosch, a local contractor/builder, regarding any interest he might have in helping to construct Phakamile classrooms - when that project materializes after our return home.

We made one last trip to the doctor with Brother Shakes. It is amazing how we entered into a very crowded waiting room, delivered pumpkin chocolate chip cookies to the counter girl, the nurse and one plate for the doctor, and then, we were immediately ushered in to see the doctor. Of course, the visit, shots and medication were "No charge."

Basically, for our friend Brother Shakes, the medical focus will be on pain management since any type of corrective surgery has been ruled out as an option.

I stopped by Bishop Lalendle's house and had him try on my two suits. According to him, they fit perfectly. So I am getting them cleaned and pressed and will give them to him next week. My goal is to come home with very little clothing and see who in our wards might be able to fit into my size.

Mom has a couple boxes of clothing to leave behind. She has also been giving out some jewelry that Annie brought over on her trip here. We have been giving books away also, mostly on family relations. It's not much, but we hope they will remember we enjoy our association with them and they will be a part of our lives for a long, long time.

Photos:

- Another snake on our Gonubie Main Road walking path. Maybe 18 inches long. Anyway, they need to stay outside and not in houses.

Have a great day! We love you,

Dad and Mom



2019

JUNE 7 }

June_07_2019_Update

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

We had a very good district council this morning. We discussed a very important attribute, gratitude. Certainly, something we all can work on.

Speaking of gratitude, we were invited to the Phakamile School this afternoon. We were ushered into one of the classrooms and there was a head table set up with other tables in the room for the administration, school governing board and faculty. They also had about 6 learners there. The next hour and a half was singing, crying, speeches and the learners coming forward and expressing their gratitude to Mom and I. Then, lunch. We were touched by their kindness and demonstration of love.

I was asked to pray to start the program. The songs they sang were very

cool. Of course, each song was accompanied with clapping and swaying. The learners were so very sweet. Three of the girls that read their cards to us broke down and cried. We could not help but give them a big hug and tell them thank you.

Mom was presented with a beautiful beaded necklace. I was given a beaded sceptre and royal necklace. We were getting a whole lot more attention than we deserved.

My writing has been interrupted because we had to meet some missionaries at the emergency room. One of the missionaries was playing soccer and collided with another player-head to nose. Despite the mission nurse advising the Elder to just wait and it will be better tomorrow, his companions felt like he needed to go anyway. 2 1/2 hours later and \$210 USD, we found out the nurse was right. Everything is just fine. No bro-

ken nose. Bleeding had stopped before they arrived at the hospital....now it's 11 PM.

*Photos: *

- Here is link to some photos and videos:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/12-Qi2_NVoaxPe981oO7a_3HgN879h-T8?usp=sharing

Have a good day! We love you,

Dad and Mom

2019 JUNE 8 }

June_08_2019_Update

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

Mom had a very busy day. She first helped with the Primary learning quite a few new songs. That was the first two hours. Then, working with several women on knitting for quite a while. Then, talking to a bishop from another ward who is going to take over her music conducting and keyboard classes through August. Then, it was back to knitting.

Around 3:30 the MD 4th Ward had a "send off" gathering for us. There were a lot of nice things said, Mom and I bore our testimonies and we ate some sausage rolls and chicken wings. We also took some boxes of clothing we are not going to take home and let the members pick through them. They are all gone.

Photos:

- Mrs. Gadlela (non-member) that

is a sister to an older brother who has passed away. Mom and she have a pretty good little friendship. Mom dropped off some delicious chocolate zucchini bread to her. - Crazy children at the church house. Mom taught new Primary songs to about 30 children. - Zimbini trying on one of the hats that was knitted by one of the sisters in the ward.

Have a great day preparing for the Sabbath! We love you very much,

Dad and Mom



Zimbini trying on one of the hats that was knitted by one of the sisters in the ward.



Mrs. Gadlela (non-member) that is a sister to an older brother who has passed away. Mom and she have a pretty good little friendship. Mom dropped off some delicious chocolate zucchini bread to her.



Crazy children at the church house. Mom taught new Primary songs to about 30 children.

Tid Bits

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

*1. Word of the week: * "catalyst," a substance that increases the rate of a chemical reaction without itself undergoing any permanent chemical change. *Example: * Prepared missionaries can be a great catalyst for hastening the work of the Lord in these last days.

*2. Quote of the week: * Live in such a way that those who know you, but do not know Christ, will come to know Christ, because they know you.

3. Scripture of the week:

For the anatural <<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/bofm/mosiah/3?lang=eng#note19a>> bman <<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/bofm/mosiah/3?lang=eng#note19b>> is an cenemy <<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/bofm/mosiah/3?lang=eng#note19c>> to God, and has been from the dfall <<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/bofm/mosiah/3?lang=eng#note19d>> of Adam, and will be, forever and ever, unless he eyields <<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/bofm/mosiah/3?lang=eng#note19e>> to the enticings of the fHoly Spirit <<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/bofm/mosiah/3?lang=eng#note19f>>, and gputteth <<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/bofm/mosiah/3?lang=eng#note19g>> off the hnatural <<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/bofm/mosiah/3?lang=eng#note19h>> man and becometh a isaint <<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/bofm/mosiah/3?lang=eng#note19i>> through

the atonement of Christ the Lord, and becometh as a jchild <<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/bofm/mosiah/3?lang=eng#note19j>> , ksubmissive <<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/bofm/mosiah/3?lang=eng#note19k>>, meek, humble, patient, full of love, willing to submit to all things which the Lord seeth fit to inflict upon him, even as a child doth submit to his father. (Mosiah 3:19)

*4. Joke of the week: *
*Q: * What do you call an elephant that does not matter?

*A: * Irrelephant

*5. Bee's Knees Award: *She is the round mound of pound. She is a happy, beautiful and funny little girl. She has a fire plug figure. She is tough as nails to take what her brother dishes out to her. She eats dirt. She can now stand on her two own feet. She loves her parents. She loves her brother. We can hardly wait to see her! Molly, you are the Bee's Knees, sistah!!!

*6. Gospel question of the week: *
*Congratulations to Grace for being

the atonement of Christ the Lord, and becometh as a jchild <<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/bofm/mosiah/3?lang=eng#note19j>> , ksubmissive <<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/bofm/mosiah/3?lang=eng#note19k>>, meek, humble, patient, full of love, willing to submit to all things which the Lord seeth fit to inflict upon him, even as a child doth submit to his father. (Mosiah 3:19)

*4. Joke of the week: *
*Q: * What do you call an elephant that does not matter?

*A: * Irrelephant

*5. Bee's Knees Award: *She is the round mound of pound. She is a happy, beautiful and funny little girl. She has a fire plug figure. She is tough as nails to take what her brother dishes out to her. She eats dirt. She can now stand on her two own feet. She loves her parents. She loves her brother. We can hardly wait to see her! Molly, you are the Bee's Knees, sistah!!!

*6. Gospel question of the week: *
*Congratulations to Grace for being



the first to answer the gospel question of the week, "Where do we find the sacrament prayers in the scriptures?" D&C 20 and Moroni 4 and 5. (4 x 5 = 20). This week's question: Name at least three ways Jesus Christ is considered the "Father."

living the gospel this week!

Dad and Mom

7. If I were you (Advice to grand kids): If I were you, I would learn another language. It is amazing what you will discover in the process. Try it. I think you will like it.

*8. What I learned this week: *There is a "divine design" in everything.

*9. What I am grateful for: * Mom and I love to have a grand son on a mission. We are excited to see other grand sons and grand daughters go on missions.

10: My goal for the week: Work like a crazed animal to get things cleaned up and our belongings all packed for the trip home.

*11. Photo of the week: * Signing the National Anthem to open up the Stevenson Family Olympics!

We love you very much. Have fun

2019 JUNE 10 }

June_10_2019_Update

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

I will not bore you with the details - just a lot of running around.

However, I will share two good things we did today:

1. Mom hemmed some drapes for a missionary boarding and they came out a little too long. We took them down today and Mom has unpicked the hem and will adjust them to the right size tomorrow. It takes time!
2. I got out the mission drill gun, glue and screws and put together a broken down wooden bed frame. We plan to take that to Shakes tomorrow along with a give away mattress in the garage of one of our missionary boardings. The frame and mattress will go well in his newly built mansion! Plus, he can't weigh more than 125 pounds. This old bed frame has had plenty of 200 pound missionaries abusing it over the years.

Photos:

- Bishop Jada bestowing me with a royal necklace that the young men usually get when they come back from the bush. It means they can now "Dance with the Men." Young men get the necklace after their three week initiation in the bush. I have to spend two years in Mdantsane to get mine! - All the the 1st Ward priesthood holders singing "Ye Elders of Israel." (I was just moving my lips.)

Have a great day doing what is right.
We love you,

Dad and Mom



All the the 1st Ward priesthood holders singing "Ye Elders of Israel." (I was just moving my lips.)



Bishop Jada bestowing me with a royal necklace that the young men usually get when they come back from the bush. It means they can now "Dance with the Men." Young men get the necklace after their three week initiation in the bush. I have to spend two years in Mdantsane to get mine!

2019 JUNE 11 }

June_11_2019_Update

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

Busy, busy day. We got a walk in first thing this morning.

Then, off to a missionary boarding to pick up a couple old mattresses (strapped them to the roof of the car). Then, to another boarding so Mom could remeasure drapes to make sure she cut and hemmed them correctly this time.

This afternoon, we took the bed frame and mattresses to Shakes. He was most grateful We also dropped of a box of food. Then, suits, and some other clothes to Bishop Lelendle's house. Mom also showed Sister Lelendle how to make chicken salad and left the mayo, pickles, green onions, celery and seasoning there for her to use again some day.

Mom had one last specially-arranged music conducting class for about four boys to wrap up their

learning. Mom wants them to earn a certificate. Mom took about two hours to work with them. Then, they each walked out of the chapel with a bag of chocolate chip cookies! Certificate will be handed out on Sunday.

I ran white shirts around to a few people. Shoes to Brother Mpiyaki. Ties to some other people. Slacks to Melikhaya. Three long sleeve white shirts to Pres. Dinana. Our collection of brown coins in jars (missionary money) to the Goza boys and another container to Ephriam. We challenged each boy to set their goals high and to make sure a mission is part of the plans. Then, off to see Sinethemba and Zine's new baby. They are planning to go to the temple next month! Then, more stops....gone all day and home before 7:30 PM.

We are too busy to get trunkie!

Photos:

- Mom working with her four boys. - Mom, Sinethemba and Zine and their new baby, Abonga, meaning "Gift from God"

We love you, plain and simple!

Dad and Mom



Mom, Sinethemba and Zine and their new baby, Abonga, meaning "Gift from God"



Mom working with her four boys.

2019

JUNE 12 }

Travel Plans

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

We thought, for safety reasons, it would be advisable to provide you with our travel plans for coming home and places we will be staying along the way. The attached documents should allow you to piece together our route, timetable, flights and lodging.

We look forward to seeing you guys sometime soon!

Love,

Dad and Mom

Jun12_2019_Update

Dear Family,

IMPORTANT NOTE: *Beginning on Saturday, Mom and I might be a little unreachable. We turn in our mission phones and do not have service with any U.S. cell phone providers. Also, Internet access might be a little sketchy in Zimbabwe and Qatar.*

We have had a good day cleaning out drawers, closets, cupboards, etc. We have not had any pressure to really be anywhere. We did go out and purchased a few things from the fabric store and, my favorite, China Town. If they do not have it, then, you do not need it!

This evening, Mom and I went to Sanook's Restaurant for dinner. Mom had her usual, the Buddah Bowl Salad. I had the Ostrich Medal-

lions with fired sweet potato skins. Good groceries. This may be the last time I ever have Ostrich. I guess I will just have to settle for a regular In-n-Out cheeseburger!

Photos:

- Mom teaching her last specially-arranged class to boys she wants to have receive a graduation certificate. As you can see, some boys catch on faster than others.

Love,

Dad and Mom

June_14_2019_Update

FROM: *Elder and Sister Stevenson*



Dear Family,

*Note: *Starting tomorrow (Saturday), Mom and I will be on the road. Don't expect any updates or Tid Bits for a couple weeks.

We had such a fun time in District Council this morning. Elder Fullmer created a "Jeopardy Scripture Chase" game. It was fun to see who could locate the correct scriptures first and rack up the points to win candy bars. It was very creative and encouraged the missionaries to really get into their scriptures. Of course, Mom and I would have won the game had we not been called out by a member who came to bestow a duc on Mom's head.

The missionaries will sure miss Mom's baking. Every district council she makes them some type of baked goods (muffins, cookies, cinnamon rolls, Rice Krispie treats, etc.) and

two pieces of fruit. That will not happen now that we are gone. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth!

Sister Fawa, who came to put the duc on Mom, was so giddy dressing mom up in her new duc. She travelled far to meet us there at the church. What a sweet, kind and generous lady. She used me, as a guinea pig, to show Mom how to put the Duc on. They both thought that was funny. I still have hurt feelings. It will take a while.

We had the chance to do some last minute visiting where we took some banana bread or chocolate zucchini bread to members. A few of these were less active members and we encouraged them to get back to church.

I ran about 300 errands this afternoon while Mom continued to clean every nook and cranny of this house.

It is Summer in Utah and Winter in South Africa. Why is she doing Spring cleaning? It is a shame that no one will be staying here for a while. As of yet, there is not a senior couple coming in behind us. We are hoping someone will be assigned soon to live here and attend the Mdantsane 1st and 4th Wards.

Photos:

- Imkhahita and Salizwa Fikiso - less active youth from the Mdantsane 1st Ward. Mother is a member, but the father is not. Things started off very good with

them a couple years ago. We really thought we were making some excellent headway with the father, but then they really shied away from us. - Maculu Lucy with her granddaughter and great granddaughter. Lucy went to the temple last year. Granddaughter has been to church once that we can remember. - Mom with the Solomon girls - Sister Soloman, Pakama (daughter) and the Grandma, or, GoGo, sitting in front who is 93 years old. - Dale Bicknell with his 5 dogs. He is the gentleman that has done some leather work for me.



Imkhahita and Salizwa Fikiso - less active youth from the Mdantsane 1st Ward.



Mom with the Solomon girls - Sister Soloman, Pakama (daughter) and the Grandma, or, GoGo, sitting in front who is 93 years old.



We miss you. We love you. We will be hugging and kissing you all soon!

Dad and Mom

P.S. I am embarrassed to tell you that I whacked my head again on the same sliding garage door as I did before! And, yes, Mom did laugh. But, in her defense, she was also very sad and sympathetic for me.





Maculu Lucy with her granddaughter and great granddaughter. Lucy went to the temple last year. Granddaughter has been to church once that we can remember.



Dale Bicknell with his 5 dogs. He is the gentleman that has done some leather work for me.

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

SOUTH AFRICA CAPE TOWN MISSION

16 June 2019

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President David L. Wadman
6175 N 1950 E
PO Bo 338
Liberty UT 84310

Dear President David L. Wadman,

On 16 June 2019, Elder Christopher Wayne Stevenson and Sister Mavis Mc Kay Stevenson will be returning from the South Africa Cape Town Mission where they have served honourably and faithfully.

Elder and Sister Stevenson have been devoted missionaries and will be dearly missed. In fact, if it were in my power, I would extend them for another year, because they have been so invaluable. They have been a strength to the mission, the missionaries and the people in the area of the mission where they have served. They have been a great support to the young full-time missionaries, helping with missionary travel, housing and medical needs. They have also played an important role in supporting and strengthening our missionaries and have likewise watched them grow and develop as instruments in the Lord's hands.

Elder and Sister Stevenson have done an excellent job in their member leader support as they worked with wards within the Mdantsane Stake. They worked closely with bishops, quorum and auxiliary leaders. They spent time working to locate, visit and minister to less active members and assisted with updating ward membership records. They helped to organize the ward library and taught members how to effectively use library resources. They worked with primary leaders and supported the ward nursery with appropriate resources as needed. They taught temple preparation classes, keyboarding and conducting courses and helped train primary music leaders.

Elder and Sister Stevenson have worked side by side and have been a great example of selfless service, love for fellow men and devotion to the Lord.

Please know of our love and appreciation for Elder and Sister Stevenson and thank you for encouraging them as they have spent this time on the Lord's errand. May the Lord continue to bless you as you joyfully greet them as they return home. If you have any more couples like Elder and Sister Stevenson, please encourage them to enter the mission field.

Thank you for all you do.

Most Sincerely,



President Thabo K.J. Lebethoa
South Africa Cape Town Mission

Letter from President
Lebethoa

Letter from Matuli
Bridgeman

TO THE STEVENSON FAMILY WITH LOVE

I am sorry to have taken a long time to write these few lines. I am grateful to our father in heaven for sending your parents to a far country that is South Africa to serve their mission. You are blessed in the most high to have them as parents. They came and saw and serve the good God and they were very helpful to most challenges that people are facing that spiritually and in matters of temporality. I am also grateful to you for visiting your parents whilst they were in in South Africa thank you may you all be blessed with the best things in all the years of your lives with love.

All from

Matuli Bridgeman. Magwaca
9926 NU 2 Mdantsane
East London, 5219
South Africa