



"For no one can lay the foundation that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ." 1 Cor. 3: 11



Karen & Andrew Suderman

MC Canada Witness South Africa

Croft News

Flat 4
17 Croft Road
Pietermaritzburg,
KwaZulu-Natal
South Africa, 3201

aksuderman@gmail.com

December 2011

2011 Retrospective...

Our year at a glance, and what a year!!

Take a look at our website! www.anisa.org.za

2011 in Hindsight

To say the least this past year has gone quickly. Very quickly. We've had a wonderful year meeting people across the country, sparking discussion, being sparked into discussion, learning, teaching, and making friends.

January saw us move into our current office and library space. This was an exciting move! It offered more space to grow and grow we did!!

Early this year also marked the formation of the steering committee for the Anabaptist Network in South Africa (ANiSA). This group has been key to the formation and direction of the network.



Committee Members Brainstorming

Over the year we've held five different theological forums in three different cities across the country. These have been engaging and lively. This has also resulted in the release of podcasts of the speakers which can be downloaded from our website.

This Easter we attended the annual conference of the Brethren in Christ (BIC) Church. It was a wonderful event where over 500 people were in attendance representing just under half of the BIC church in South Africa!

Between Andrew and Karen four seminary courses and four workshops have been taught.



ANiSA has begun publishing and selling books from an Anabaptist Brethren in Christ Church Conference perspective. So far we have six titles printed. We are very excited to make these available to people here in South Africa at an affordable price.

The Peace Library and Resource Centre has grown in leaps and bounds thanks to your generosity and direct involvement with our work here. The shelves fill more and more as Karen continues to catalogue the books and resources.



Study Group sharing a meal

The reading and study group that we started in Pietermaritzburg has now been meeting for over a year! This has been a group that has come together every two weeks to share a meal and discuss books that we're reading together. So far we've read *The Politics of Jesus*, *Reconciling All Things*, and *Jesus Matters*.



We welcome your contributions for our support and invite you to send these to:
Mennonite Church Canada Witness, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd, Winnipeg, MB R3P 0M4

Andrew presented a paper at a Transforming Traditions conference in Stellenbosch this September.

Also, this September we began a role accompanying two participants in the Radical Journey program. We have loved walking with them exploring issues of faith in a cross cultural context.

The past six weeks were spent at a traditional Zulu homestead where we



Karen trying to carry water

spent some concentrated time in Zulu immersion. It was wonderful in that it pushed us out of our comfort zones and challenged us to speak Zulu more. To our

amazement we found that we were able to communicate a message (albeit slowly) and carry on a basic conversation! It was amazing to see just how quickly our skills and vocabulary improved when we were forced to use Zulu. We also tried our hand at traditional Zulu dancing, stick fighting, and carrying water on our heads- all of

which are much harder than meets the eye!

A sad note sounded on December 2 as we said goodbye to our colleagues Phil and Christine who moved back to the U.S.



First Day

astounded at how much she has grown and changed this year. She's transformed into an amazing little person and we are continually grateful for the gift that she is in our lives!



First Birthday

That was our year in a nutshell. We are thankful for all that was and joyfully look to the year ahead!

Sanibonani! Kunzima ukulinda. That means it is difficult to wait.

When something big is coming I have a hard time waiting. I feel wiggly and I can't sit still. It feels like the clock slows down. I get impatient.

Advent is a time for waiting. We wait for Christmas. This is a special time and that means there is a special way to wait. During Advent we don't impatiently tap our toes and watch the clock. We get ready. Sometimes that getting ready can mean a lot of baking and cooking and running around to buy special things.

But there is another way we get ready. During Advent we need to get our minds and hearts ready for what we are celebrating. We are getting ready to celebrate the best gift that God ever gave us-Himself! Just like when Grandma and Grandpa come for a visit, we have to be ready to welcome Jesus into our homes and lives. That means taking time to create a special place that helps us to remember what an amazing gift Jesus is.

I would love to hear how you and your family wait during Advent, what are the ways you get ready for Jesus?

Love,

IMVU



P.S. Don't forget that you can ask your Mom or Dad to help you write an e-mail to me! askimvu@gmail.com



Sharing Prayer:

Thanksgivings....

- ❖ for the wealth of experiences and relationships we've been gifted with this year.
- ❖ for the energy, momentum and excitement growing for the network.
- ❖ for joy of the Advent season and the privilege of celebrating Christmas with Karen's parents.

Prayer Requests....

- ❖ Awareness and grace as we continue to balance work and parenthood.
- ❖ The New Year and what it may hold.
- ❖ For continued transition as we said goodbye to coworkers who moved back to the United States and hello to coworkers who are returning.

As partners in ministry and members of the body of Christ we welcome and respond to your Thanksgivings & Prayer Requests.

Guess the Zulu Word:

- Thandaza- a) cow
b) ear
c) pray

Answer in next letter...

Last letter: Umfundisi- pastor.



We welcome your contributions for our support and invite you to send these to:
Mennonite Church Canada Witness, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd, Winnipeg, MB R3P 0M4