

Croft News

Karen &
Andrew
Suderman

MC Canada Witness
South Africa

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

aksuderman@gmail.com

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FIFA World Cup festivities and competitions have captured the attention of the country, and dare I say the world, over the last month. The air on June 11, the opening day of the tournament, was crackling with excitement and echoing with the honk of the ubiquitous vuvuzela. Experiencing the tournament was amazing.

It is interesting, however, to see what world-wide sporting events can be and what they have become.

On one hand, events such as FIFA can and do show how people can gather from all corners of the earth to celebrate sport. This inevitably sees the building of relationships. People come together, overcoming racial, cultural and language barriers with ease and joy.

The other side of FIFA is the corporate and advertising side. Coca-Cola had exclusive rights to selling beverages in stadiums. Only corporate sponsors are allowed in Fan Parks. Almost everything had a trademark or copyright symbol on it.

Most disturbing of these trademarks were advertisements and posters that show a young person calling the words, "Ke nako" (which means 'we can'). The tag line after this call is "Celebrate Africa's Humanity." The full-stop at the end of the sentence was topped by the trademark symbol. I found this to be a



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

What You'll Find:

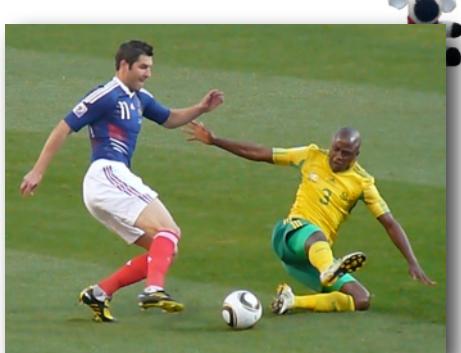
- ❖ Humanity Trademarked...
- ❖ Family Expansion
- ❖ Imvu
- ❖ Sharing Prayers

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

Humanity Trademarked...

sad
reminder of
the money-
driven side
of events
such as
these.

While I
very much
agree that
Africa's,
even the world's humanity needs to be celebrated, I
can't help but wonder, how is it that the celebration of
humanity can be owned? There is nothing as commonly
held between peoples, no matter how different, than
humanity. It seems that owning a statement such as this
serves to undermine exactly the message it calls us to.
Owning a statement such as this serves to
disenfranchise those who cannot afford, financially or
otherwise, to celebrate humanity in the way the owning
body wants us to.



Let's do celebrate humanity, and let's do celebrate Africa's humanity. There is much to be celebrated here. But let us celebrate, not as consumers of an advertised product. Let us celebrate with one another as commonly human.



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

Family Expansion

It becomes more evident everyday that our family is growing.

Kicks, nudges, wiggles and stretches are felt on a daily basis. Planning for our new arrival continues daily, even if it is more in thought than action at this point. Karen's ever growing belly is also a constant reminder of the 'already and not yet' presence of this little one. Already it is changing our lives. So far this is a wonderful and exciting adventure.

Our family is also expanding in other ways. Family in South Africa is anyone you meet. Familial terms are used to greet anyone, including strangers. These terms include: Mama, Baba (father), Sisi (sister), Buthi (brother).



Regarding people first as family throws open the doors for relationship far more than one would otherwise expect. This is also risky. We risk caring more and investing more of ourselves in relationship when we first regard people as family.

Our family is also growing in the number of people who have welcomed us into their lives. From Pietermaritzburg, to Johannesburg and Cape Town, and many, many stops along the way we have met people who we think of daily,

communicate with regularly, and are happy to visit and spend time with as we travel across this wonderful land. People with whom we work are more than just colleagues and partners, they comprise the body of people who add richness, depth and texture to our lives here; they are our family.

Sanibona! Ngithanda ibholi, that means I love soccer!!

Over the last month we got to watch the World Cup Soccer Tournament. It has been fun to watch soccer and cheer with friends.

Karen and Andrew were lucky to see a game live! They had a lot of fun. They also learned something important- ear plugs are very useful. At all of the games people were cheering

loudly, music was playing on big speakers, and almost everyone was honking on their vuvuzelas (those funny looking horns). It was a big celebration and it was VERY loud.

The most amazing things was to see how many people came together from all over the world to see this event. Everyone that Karen and Andrew saw looked like they were friendly and having a good time. They were also laughing and talking with each other. They were dressed up and had their faces painted to show what team they were cheering for. It was great to see so many people having so much fun. The thoughts I am putting into my backpack today are questions. I wonder, can people be as excited about church as they were about the World Cup? Can the church capture a uniting spirit in the same way events like the World Cup does?

Love,



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



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Sharing Prayer:

Thanksgivings....

- ❖ for the continued health of baby and Karen.
- ❖ for the richness new friends from all over South Africa have brought to our lives.
- ❖ for the challenging experiences we've had. They open our minds to new realities and points of view.

Prayer Requests....

- ❖ Focus as Andrew prepares workshops and papers for August.
- ❖ Centeredness as we prepare to become parents.
- ❖ Attentive ears to listen and to learn from those we meet.

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

Guess the Zulu Word:

- uxolo- a) peace
b) forgiveness
c) excuse me

Answer in next letter...

Last letter: itiye- tea