



# Africa



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## Youth Camp

*Remember your Creator in the days of your youth... (Ecclesiastes 12:1)*



There's nothing like leading a youth camp to help you realize that when you are past 50, you aren't young anymore! When your batteries are ready for a re-charge, there's still plenty of energy left in young legs and their enthusiasm for doing more remains high.

The site for Scripture Union's most recent camp for high school youth was Masitise High School (panoramic view at the top). Along with the high school director for SU, I assisted in directing the camp which involved about twenty youth and a dozen leaders. The latter were a mixture of teachers and university students. Among these leaders were some of my former SU members. At right is Liketso Sekalaka. She was one of my top math students when I taught her during the years 1997-2001. She went on to graduate from the national university and is currently teaching math at a nearby high school and hoping to soon continue her studies in South Africa. She did a great job with her group of kids and helped out in every way. It was very rewarding to see her in action!



The camp encompassed a wide range of activities as you can see from the photos. In a world in which there is so much vying for the attention of our youth, we tried to remember our Creator in all that we did. And since we spent a good deal of the time outside, that was easy to do amidst the wonderful summer weather we enjoyed over the four days of the camp. A number of the activities involved games requiring problem-solving and teamwork. The emphasis on teamwork helped remind us that we need one another in order to grow in our Christian faith.



Every day there was time for prayer and reading God's Word. The biblical characters we looked at were Joseph and Ruth. Small groups read and discussed their stories each morning before breakfast seeking to learn from their examples of dealing with temptation, being faithful, and facing difficulties in life. At the end of the day the groups would gather again to reflect about the day's activities.



One morning we visited the historic Masitise Cave House Museum (shown at right) to learn about the missionary David Ellenberger who came to Masitise in 1866 and started the Masitise Mission of the Paris Evangelical Missionary Society.



One thing the group learned about Ellenberger was his Sesotho nickname, “Se-tima-mollo”, that is, the “Fire Extinguisher.” He earned this title through his ability to settle disputes and resolve problems both within and outside the churches.

After touring the museum we hiked a couple miles over to the Qomoqomong River and found a nice shady spot. A few hours were spent there with games and group activities, as well as a picnic lunch. Then it was back to the school where the swimming pool proved to be a popular place to cool off and refresh.



One thing young people especially need to know is that they are loved and cared for. With a small group of campers and a good number of leaders we were able to make sure each camper knew they were special and share God’s love with them. What a difference there would be in this world of ours if we could just learn to get a long a little better with each other. For those of us who claim to be followers of Jesus, let us remember his words as we follow in his steps: *A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. (John 13:34)*

Yours in Christ,  
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