

## SOUTH AFRICA

Continued from previous page

computers is limited, and there are no computer classes or qualified teachers to provide basic computer literacy.”

Their project takes them to many impoverished black neighborhoods in the area. Tennille said that crime is part of high unemployment and lack of good education, a carry-over from the apartheid years. “These are the very issues we are trying to change.”

The effects of apartheid, Tennille says, will take decades to erase. Blacks make up 76 percent of the population, but earn only 29 percent of the country’s total income. Whites constitute 13 percent of the population and 58 percent of the total income.

Unemployment, lack of housing, poverty and crime are the most prevalent problems. Twice Tennille and Keen have been held up while traveling to schools in the poorest areas. “Both times we had car loads of volunteers. Both times we were surrounded by young men carrying guns and we had to hand over our valuables — cameras, cell phones, money, etc. We did manage to hold on to our wedding rings.”

Tennille said in a day’s work, he is often reminded of the opportunities he had while attending Reynolds and wishes that the young people they are working with could have similar ones.

He has used the debating skills that he learned in high school to begin teams in high schools there. “Debating teaches kids how to think critically and how

“The fact that we have more than 300 students in 20 black high schools involved in debating is a tribute to the training and coaching in debating I got at Reynolds High School from Evelyn Garrison. Wouldn’t she be surprised and pleased to know what she started!”

### Norton Tennille

to respect two sides,” he said. They have also brought Latin into the schools, as well as poetry and journalism.

“The fact that we have more than 300 students in 20 black high schools involved in debating is a tribute to the training and coaching in debating I got at Reynolds High School from Evelyn Garrison. Wouldn’t she be surprised and pleased to know what she started!”

One turning point in their program happened in 2002 when some students who had finished school and were not headed for jobs or college were facing an empty year. They asked if they could spend a year working with SAEP “while we explore our future.” Now, in what they call the “Gap Program,” many students, paid a small stipend, are filling in their “gap year” by working with the schools. Tennille said they are at the same time “maturing and finding their direction.”

The SAEP project has grown to include, among many things, early-childhood development programs, computer-literacy classes, nature excursions and environmental projects. After-school programs provide academic and career counseling and activities focused on developing English language skills.

Volunteers, including

some students and retired people, have come from the United States and other countries, and now a growing number are from Cape Town itself.

Offices for the project and many of the programs are operated out of Tennille’s home in Rosemont and a house next door.

But Tennille and Keen agree that it’s not all work. Their surroundings remind them every day of the unique beauty of the area of the country in which they live and their hopes of seeing it preserved.

Tennille describes it: “The Cape Peninsula

where we live is an area of remarkable beauty. We live between dramatic coastlines with rock cliffs and sandy beaches in the middle of one of the richest areas in the world in terms of its diversity of plants. Flowers of hundreds of different types bloom all year — many of the most interesting in the winter. From our backyard we look up to Table Mountain, and we are 5 minutes from Table Mountain National Park. A few hours by plane and we can be on a game preserve watching lions, elephants and giraffes, or be in the spectacular

desert-scapes of Namibia.”

They enjoy coming back to the States, visiting with family, friends, and the organizations and groups who support the project with funds or volunteers. And they explain how the project hopes to expand even further and why SAEP’s original motto, “Green Your World,” has evolved into “Green Your Mind, Green Your World.”

When Tennille and Keen visit his mother, they know she will ask as she always does, “What are you and Jane doing now?” It’s a question that takes longer and longer to answer.

*If you would like to contact Norton Tennille or want to know more about the project, e-mail SAEP@worldonline.co.za or write to SAEP, 10 Surbiton Road, Rosebank, 7700 South Africa.*



**BAKERY**

**295 Mill Street  
Winston-Salem**

*(Just off Stratford Road beside Hanes Mill Outlet)*

**(336) 519-5912**

Mon.-Fri. 9-8; Sat. 9-6; Sun. 12-6

**We Feature:**

• Cakes	• Croissants	• Cheese Cakes
• Pies	• Muffins	• Sheet Cakes
• Entrees	• Pizzas	

**Senior Day Every Tuesday — Save 10%**



**BAKERY**

**15% OFF**

**Total Purchase**

• Not valid with any other discount, coupon or offer  
• Offer valid September 16th-30th

Zip # 53471