

Society's Seminary), at the Rhenish Mission Church, Okahandja, Namibia, by the well-known Missionary Dr Heinrich Vedder (later Senator in the S.A. Parliament).

From 1935-1951 the Esslingers lived in Okahandja where their seven children were born. Pastor Esslinger was involved in the training of teachers, teaching mainly Nama-Damara, Otjherero and Afrikaans. He soon became principal of the Augustineum, a Training College owned and run by the Rhenish Mission Society (until 1943), also working as a school inspector. Maria Esslinger brought up her family, supported her husband's work and was involved in teaching the women domestic skills (needlework & cooking). In Omaruru (1951-1955), Pastor Esslinger served both the mission and the German congregation (so-called "zebra pastor"). From 1957-1966, Pastor Esslinger was stationed at Wupperthal, near Clanwilliam, as missionary and later also as manager (until it was taken over by the Moravian Church).

In this period contact with the Cape Church began. The Esslingers made friends with Pastor F. Hoberg and family of St. Martini, Cape Town. After a last posting in Lüderitz (1967-1971), the couple retired to the Cape and found a spiritual home in the congregations Bellville (1972-1986) and Cape Town (1986-2000). Pastor Esslinger remained involved for some time through teaching at the Moravian Bible School, Strand, and occasional preaching. He died in 1992. Ria Esslinger actively participated in Bible study groups and did occasional visiting. In her frail years she found comfort and sympathetic care in St. Johannes Heim.

Maria Esslinger is survived by six of her children and their families, two with links to the Cape Church. Hannelore Sachse was secretary of St. Martini, nursery school teacher, member of the church committee for many years and is a serving delegate to the circuit conference and synod; recently she also joined the staff of St. Johannes Heim part-time as a bookkeeper. Dieter Esslinger was active in the Stellenbosch congregation in his student years. He was the chairperson of the Synod of DELK, our sister church in Namibia, for many years and is presently the chairperson of the UELCSA General Synod and a member of the UELCSA Church Council.

*UP*