

# *Best Times*

## *South Africa Edition: Home Assignment*

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“How do you spell ESPECIALLY?”

“ES...PE..CA.no, no I mean..CIA..LLY”

“That’s correct Mack, do well on your spelling test, everyone out of the van and have a good day.”

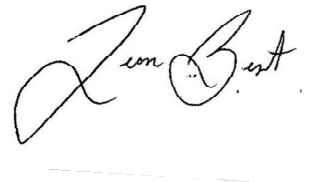
“Girls, you look nice in your cowboy hats, enjoy ‘Go, Texan Day’ at school today, bye.”

The automatic side door to our minivan closes, and I departed to begin my day. Because of our late night at track practice and doing homework, Melanie and I decided to let the children sleep in and not have to catch the early big yellow bus. This new routine is five weeks old, and our kids have adjusted. I am home, but not at home.

In South Africa, the campus ministry (SLM) recently completed their 2013 stint orientation. This SLM event trained 7 new American stinters how to live well in South Africa. This group will be dispersed throughout the country; however, none will be assigned to the Western Province. My province will have only one South African staff member who will continue to build upon the foundation God had started in the Cape Town area. His name is Nicholas.

Nicholas last week sent me an e-mail with a book report he asked me to review. This submission was the final step to completion of his new staff training. As his trainer for the past year and a half, I have seen this young man grow in maturity not only in life, but in his relationship with God. This young man was given a label by society that affected his self-esteem. The detriment was he allowed this label to hinder his personal development. As his mentor, we walked through the Bible together and I challenged him to trust God at times he felt weak. The Lord opened up Nicholas’ eyes and he is realizing his identity is in Christ. It was great to read the final task I gave him before I left on home assignment. Nicholas has also shed the label of new staff and now is ready for the challenge of full staff responsibilities in the Western Cape.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Leon Best". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "L" and "B".