

SWYM Deputation 2009 Report – by Nick and Sheila Court

During the month of April we were in the United Kingdom on deputation or church visitation. Although prayer/news letters keep people informed of the ways in which the work is progressing, it is also very important and valuable to be able to share information “face to face”.

The deputation trip gave us the opportunity to meet with the SWYM (UK), Trustees, and also to share about the work and ministry of SWYM in Southern Africa with a number of churches in England and Wales. We did this at after church service meetings, mid week prayer meetings, meetings with individuals, and also after Nick preached at some Sunday Services.

In total we travelled more than 3,500km in 4 weeks, and visited 16 churches, (some for several different meetings), and 5 of which were new to us. We also went to an after school bible club which we had been involved in before leaving the UK.

We stayed with Sheila’s niece, Carrie, in a town called Trowbridge, near Chippenham, in the West of England. When travelling a distance from our “home”, we were given overnight hospitality by church members. We were also able to spend time with a number of individuals who have particular interest in the SWYM ministry.

The churches ranged in size from large ones like CPBC to small village or rural churches where there might be just a dozen or so members, often mainly elderly, but who faithfully pray for the ministry.

One thing that struck us in particular was where we visited a number of the smaller churches, especially in the old mining villages of Southern Wales. There in the Chapel you find a large world map, with pictures of missionaries and arrows going to parts of Asia, Europe, Africa, South America, in fact all over the world! We must all keep a world vision for praying for the sharing of the gospel like them!

We were able to meet with two young ladies, (14 years old), from Emmanuel Evangelical Church, Chippenham, who had organised a Christmas concert by children, to raise money for SWYM to buy bibles for Grade 7 children in South Africa, particularly in “our” farm schools.

We spent some time as well with several folk who provide crafts and craft materials for the ministry, and particularly with an elderly lady who is housebound in a small village in Wales, but who prays faithfully for the ministry.

It is humbling to know just how many people, young and old alike, are praying and supporting the ministry in various ways.

We were sad to leave the UK, having met up with many familiar friends and made new ones, but we were also eager to get back to South Africa and pick up on the many areas of ministry.

Our years programme is busy and exciting, and we look forward to being able to go on deputation again and share about how God is answering people’s prayers in amazing ways!