

Dear Family & Friends



2 Thess. 3:16 Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace at all times in every way....

UNEXPECTED EVENTS

Out of the blue Sheila went from a Doctor's visit to hospital admission to going into theatre for **emergency** back surgery - all in just one week! How did this all happen...?

We had returned from the two week outreach in Clarens and Durban, and whilst I unpacked, Sheila was resting and doing "light duties" following her recent Sciatica pains in her right leg.



Over the weekend the **pains returned** and went **off the scale** Sunday night. Monday morning we knew we had to do something urgently as Sheila's right foot had started to lose all feeling. Early morning we called our regular GP, Jurica, but could not get hold of her. The next person we called was Dr Tommy Gray, who had been a SWYM Trustee in South Africa in our early years here.

He said to come in at 1.00 pm and he would see Sheila, "it is not my speciality, but I will see what I can do." We did so, and the result was he **immediately** organised a **CT scan**, and when he saw the results he said it was not good, and he would get Sheila admitted, and then get a colleague, who is an Orthopaedic Surgeon to see her. He confirmed that immediate surgery was necessary, based on the CT scan, but that she would need a **MRI scan** as well for more detail. Sheila was admitted, and they began immediate pain control and inflammation reduction, as her whole right leg was now **becoming paralysed**. That was Monday 12th October.

There followed a few days of **sorting out** with the Medical Insurance to get their approval for the surgery, which came through at the last moment. By Friday 16th October Sheila had gone to theatre for a "L5/S1 lumbar fusion and decompression."

Sheila spent a total of 14 days in High Care/ General Orthopaedic Ward before the medical/surgical Teams were happy to let her come out for **home recuperation**. As the Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon had said before surgery, Sheila was now on "**home arrest**" – in other words she had to be on her back, or standing, but **no sitting** and **definitely no travelling!**



Sheila has to wear a **back brace**, which has to be worn **24/7** all the time, even for sleeping and showering. She also has a foot splint for her right foot, which has suffered from what they call "drop foot." It may take **up to 2 years** for the nerve control to re-establish to the foot; otherwise this may be a permanent condition.

We wrote to a number of people around the world for **prayer support** during this time, and we were very much aware of God giving us peace and comfort at a time of great uncertainty.

God provided godly Doctors to care for Sheila, and He guided the hands of the Surgeons as well. The time in hospital gave us opportunity to be a Christian witness to some of the staff, and to receive visits from a number of Christian friends as well. We are so **much aware** of God's family surrounding us with love and prayers and practical support, for which we are truly grateful.



God has also provided a wonderful oasis for Sheila to recuperate in during November, as we are house sitting for our Pastor and his family in **Pretoria**, which puts us not far from our Church, (Lynnwood Baptist Church), and immediate Church family, and is nearer to the Hospital and Doctors if necessary. A peaceful setting.

The next "**milestone**" is when Sheila sees the Medical and Surgical Teams again on **Monday 23rd November**, for X-Rays and **assessment** of progress. This will be her **first trip out** of the house that day, and if they are pleased with the results, she will then be allowed short periods of sitting, and short car journeys. Also she will then only need to wear the back brace to sleep in and for showering – which will be a great relief as we have had very high temperatures over the past weeks. **Pray** for the much needed rains to come.

The Consultant has also advised that Sheila should **not fly long distances** for at least 4-6 months, which has had a major impact on our plans to be back in the UK in December, and for what we do during 2016.

MEANWHILE - THE WORK GOES ON

We were able to **give out** a lot of sports equipment left by the hard working **Sports Reach Team**, to the Clarens schools, especially to **Leralla Intermediate School**. Sports Reach had visited from the UK and worked alongside us, particularly in the Clarens area. The Sports teacher at Leralla was over the moon, as they were wondering how they could afford some much needed sports equipment for the school, it was an answer to their prayers. This was the same story in the other Clarens schools, where we were able to give out lesser amounts of Soccer and Netball balls, etc.

Although all these events have meant a disruption to our regular work and life, **Leon Harmse** was able to collect **Bibles** from our SWYM Office, and to **distribute to Grade 7's** in three of his regular Farm schools, (Primary children finishing their school year and now going to High school next year).

Also, once I could leave Sheila for a short time, I was able to collect **Bibles** and **Pak-A-Bags**, and other "goodies" from Kempton Park for **Freddy Mogashua**, and to get them to him in time to give out in the Pretoria Schools before the Exam period starts, as once they start their exams, not all the Grade 7's will be in the schools at any one time. Freddy has worked faithfully in the Sunnyside area for **over 7 years** now, and so the Grade 7's who are leaving the Primary Schools in December were in Reception class **when he started the work**, quite a milestone for him too.

Some of the Pak-A-Bags were given to Freddy for distribution to Sunnyside children, and for children in his rural village church.

Leralla receiving Sports equipment



Freddy taking delivery of Bibles & Pak-A-Bags



Praise/Prayer items

Praise God for the following:

For God's care & attention to Sheila, (& Nick too), during this testing time
For God's guidance of the Surgeons, Doctors and Nursing staff who cared for Sheila
For the prayerful support of our friends around the world, and from our local friends at Lynnwood Baptist Church
For the provision of a peaceful place for Sheila to recuperate in
That God sustained and kept Nick strong during this time too, so that he could be a "helpmeet" to Sheila
For the distribution of Bibles and Pak-A- Bags to needy children

Pray for the following:

That the hospital team will be pleased with Sheila's progress on 23rd Nov., and she will have peace.
That the Bibles will be read, bringing eternal spiritual impact on these young readers.
That God will bless the church family, who have been providing for us in so many different ways
That we will have godly wisdom for what we do in 2016

Friends & Family – *We continue to covet your prayers and encouragements –*

God is at work in our lives and in South Africa

With our love, prayers & grateful thanks, Nick & Sheila

SWYM South Africa Postal Address: Nick & Sheila Court, PostNet Suite C335, Private Bag X 18, Lynnwood Ridge, 0040, South Africa.

SWYM UK Postal Address:   **NEW ADDRESS IN UK** IS: SWYM UK, c/o. Emmanuel Church. Goldney Avenue. Chippenham Wilts. SN15 1ND, UK

Mobile telephone: 072 959 5743, (South Africa).

Email nick.sheilacourt@gmail.com or swym.org@gmail.com

Website: www.swym.org

UK Charity Number: 1124118



FINANCIAL DETAILS:-

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