



February 2016

SWYM Prayer Letter 65

Dear Family & Friends

## 2 Corinthians 2:14

Thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ.

### **REFLECTIONS**

*God wins His greatest victories through apparent defeats. Very often the enemy seems to triumph for a season, and our Sovereign Lord allows it. But then He comes in and upsets the work of the enemy, overthrows the apparent victory, and as the Bible says, God “frustrates the ways of the wicked” Psalm 146:9*

Since my sudden and major spinal surgery last October, Nick & I have had plenty time for reflection. We are learning that in all the difficult places God is taking us, He is giving us opportunity to exercise our faith in Him that will bring about blessed results and greatly glorify His name. We accept that God’s plans for us are the best and **by His grace**, we are thankful. His best is for us to be “grounded” in South Africa, right now.

Meanwhile, **Professionals are pleased** with my healing. The *second* X- Ray in January was proof of my healing progress. However, my right foot remains restricted in movements & in walking. I am having to re-learn to negotiate walking on uneven carpets, rough roads etc., always being careful not to stumble or fall. This foot complication came prior to my surgery and it was that, plus the extreme pain down my lower back & right leg which compelled me to seek professional help at the hospital. God in His goodness & mercy sent the right professionals and people to help me. **Praise be to God!** He also sent **you, His beloved people** to help & encourage us along the way. God always sends encouragements to us, at just the right times, by way of personal visits, emails, letters, cards, etc. from you. We **praise God** for each one of you!

*You are precious and honoured in my, (God’s), sight. Isaiah 43:4*



### **NICK ON WHAT NEXT?**

This may come as a surprise to you but we have been praying for some years about the “what next”. And Yes - the Lord is leading us **out** of South Africa. **When might you ask?** When the Surgeon gives Sheila the go ahead to do a long **flight**, and without her having her **sit for long** periods. *That is going to be a travel challenge!* Our visas for being in South Africa **end** in December 2016 and we are NOT planning to seek renewal. We would have been **12 years in South Africa**, two years more than we had envisaged, way back in 2004. Health has become a challenge for Sheila. We have truly enjoyed the years of working together in this part of the Lord’s vineyard. We are entering **another phase of SWYM**, where we are looking to be based in the UK, with returns to South Africa, as *finances allow* for ministry travel.

**Do PRAY** that we will walk *only* in the path God has ordained for us.



### **DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES**

Meanwhile, Nick and I remain busy going through our large accumulation of teaching resources, games, equipment, household goods etc. with a view to keeping some resources & house hold goods, and giving away and clearing the rest of the resources & house hold goods. This is similar to when we left the UK in 2004 and nostalgia often stops us to look at a diary, a book, a flyer etc. and to reminisce for a bit, before deciding what to do with the item. Not easy!

### **SWYM BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE**

Please pray that this ministry will continue to have ownership & management whether we are present in South Africa or not. Anita does a wonderful job of administration and we will like her to continue with it, but she will need *additional funding* from time to time.

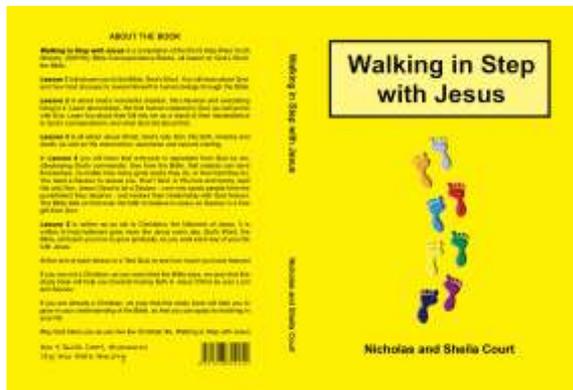
### **CLARENS OUTREACH & SCHOOLS` MINISTRY**

Sadly, we had to **cancel** our March appointment to Clarens, on account of me not being unable to travel/sit for distances. Our desire is to visit our friends there as soon as I am able to travel. Joseph is continuing to serve the schools in his own community, on behalf of the Clarens` Churches in Action.

The **Kempton Park Schools** are faithfully being served by *Freddie & Leon*. Do **pray for them** to remain zealous for the Word and for the Word getting into the heart of the Learners.

## **WRITING MINISTRY**

Our third book **“Walking in Step with Jesus”** is now available, which is an update & compilation of the first 5 books of our SWYM Bible Correspondence Book Series, into one manual. It is to mark our years in South Africa from 2004 to 2016. Nick certainly keeps occupied in a different way and I help by standing mostly at the computer for reading & editing the manuscripts. You can order, **Whose Truth? God's Truth!** (based on the 1689 Confession of Faith for Children & Young People); **Understanding the Heart** based on **Dr Tedd Tripp's** books *Shepherding and Instructing a Child's Heart* AND **Walking in Step with Jesus**



**Latest book now out**



**Carrie's departure**



**Pat's arrival**

## **ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES**

It is good to have visits from our Church “family” here in South Africa, which we have had ever since I went into hospital, and after I came out. Others in our world-wide church “family” have also kept in touch at this time by email, phone calls and letters, as have our natural family, some of whom have also been able to visit us in person too, God sends both to give us support and encouragement.

My niece, **Carrie**, arrived in person for 3 weeks. She took over the daily physio massages of my right foot. We missed her when she departed back to the UK. Yes, we reminisced a lot on our family spread across oceans, drank tea & coffee, shared devotions and spoke of the Lord. My sister, **Pat**, has now arrived, for 2 weeks stay.

### *Praise/Prayer items*

#### **Praise God for the following:**

For the personal, supportive family visits from Carrie & Pat, UK

For the third book - Walking in Step with Jesus, which was first piloted in 2006, at a local Farm School and with a younger Learner from Wiltshire, UK.

That the hospital team continues to be pleased with Sheila's progress, and the Insurance Company continues paying up all the associated bills, (sometimes with added prompting)

For the continued distribution of Books & Teaching Resources

For personal peace in the changing phases of our lives & ministry

#### **Pray for the following:**

That God in His wisdom, will guide us into the next phase of SWYM ministry

That Anita will be blessed in her commitment to the Bible Correspondence Books and that finances will come in to help her with this work, in the months/years ahead.

That Sheila will continue to make improvements, and that her right foot might regain strength & full movement

To also attend, without too much discomfort, the Biblical Counselling Course @ Lynnwood Baptist Church

**Family & Friends** – *We continue to covet your prayers and encouragements – Be encouraged yourself, for God is at work in South Africa and in our personal lives. Tribulation is the door to triumph!*

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#### **FINANCIAL DETAILS:-**

**UK -** Lloyds TSB Bank, Chippenham Branch, Account Name: Step Wise Youth Ministry, Account Number: 03217242, Branch Code: 30-91-99