

Dear Family & Friends

♥ *I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord... Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage (Psalm 27:13-14 NASB)* ♥

### Introduction

Do not despair! The temptation to despair is great at times. Our soul becomes depressed and disheartened, and our faith staggers under the severe trials and testing that come into our lives; especially during times of bereavement and suffering. Yet - God tells us not to despair. He wants us to *“Be strong and courageous”* (Joshua 1: 6). After all, it was God Himself who allowed the circumstances to come our way. As I write, **the testing** of the last six months, and the **loss & bereavement** of packing up in South Africa, the flooding memories, the goodbyes, the sadness of leaving our friends and the fellowship of Lynnwood Baptist Church, the Biblical Counselling and other supportive friends are all weighing rather heavily upon us. Even writing this Prayer Letter is not easy for us - And our Heavenly Father is quietly saying *“Be still and know that I am God”* (Psalm 46: 10). We **thank God** for His unchanging words and promises and the **blessed hope** that He will sustain us through this part of life’s journey. We arrive back in the UK on the 17<sup>th</sup> May. **Oh, we are so glad for the prayers of God’s people - thank you!**

### Before and After – Shipping Boxes!!

Nick has been *incredibly busy* - no doubt about that. Observing him, I see that he runs from one task to another, or from one place to another. *He does not walk*. I, on the other hand, must take a **measured** approach to sorting, and helping Nick to pack the boxes, without bending, twisting or straining my back. We are thankful that together, we can talk, pray, acknowledge our sorrows and joys, and can be a support one to another. Truly this is a blessing from the Lord. ♥ ♥

We are thankful to **Pastor Irving** for allowing us to use his lower lounge to order & reorder our boxes. The place looked a mess whilst working through the process of forsaking goods and keeping goods. We had to be ruthless and not let emotions or memories get in the way of keeping stuff. Then gradually, we felt hopeful as we began to see the lounge floor tiles again. **Finally the boxes were all ready... collected and en-route to the UK**



### Pak-A-Bags- Other Goodies and Farm Schools

Finally, Nick was able to **load up the vehicle** with the previously filled Pak-A-Bags and other Goodies, courtesy of *Caersalem & Chippenham* folks. We joyfully set off to visit three local Farm Schools. (“Leon’s Schools”) The excitement was great! The **Educators** who took time out to greet us and to speak with us were so surprised and exuberant that we had *“remembered”* them.

They wanted us to convey their **enormous thanks to all** who had made it possible for them to receive so many *“quality”* gifts. They had ideas straightaway for the bags, the many finger puppets, hair bands, woollen brooches, stationery, book marks, games and new clothing.

All the Educators expressed their **gratitude** for the weekly Bible teaching at their schools. They **reminded** about our early days and the beginning of our Assemblies/ Bible teaching, and Partnership with them. They were grateful that we did not forget them and that Leon is continuing the Bible teaching with them.



Busy Bee School



Saffola School



Mehlareng School

## Clarens

One **BIG** regret we have is that we were NOT able to visit our **dear friends** in Clarens, since my surgery last October. Generally, we conducted outreaches there five times per year. As we talked about this to Pastor Irving, he expressed a hope that when we **return in September** that there should be a vehicle available for us to travel to Clarens. Ah - such faithful friends! We will remember their love, practical help and kindness to us. We were strangers and they took us into their community. Clarens people will always have a special place in our hearts.



*(Nick had to tell me that the number of hearts inserted here were enough, but like a child, I wanted to go on....)*

## Future Plans



**Ministry continues:** Upon our arrival back in the UK on the 17<sup>th</sup> May, we have a few quiet days to get over the long flight, reflect and catch our breath. Then Nick will also have some **sermons to complete** and a **SWYM power point**, to put together. After which, we should be **ready** to commence booked Church Visitation, in between getting our car serviced & functioning, medical check- ups, dentals etc. We will continue **to write** our *Assignments* on Biblical Counselling in the UK and plan to **complete** more chapters on the book- **Communication - God’s Way**, before our return to South Africa on the **17<sup>th</sup> September** for 6 weeks only. We are looking forward to meeting with the UK churches and **UK Trustees**, to get input into the future direction and shape of SWYM Ministry. **Pray** that our talks & visits together might be uplifting and God honoring. Pray that Nick & I will be kept physically and spiritually buoyant; and **open** to the Lord’s direction in our lives & ministry.



## Praise/Prayer Items

### Praise God for the following:

For the much needed emotional, physical & spiritual strength during these last months  
For the discipline of sorting and packing shipping boxes  
For the many Pak - A - Bags and other Goodies delivered to the Farm Schools  
That God’s amazing grace is sufficient for us

### Pray for the following:

That the flight back to the UK will be safe & straight forward for Sheila, especially  
That the SWYM Ministry, including the Correspondence Books will continue to bear fruit in RSA  
Our UK Church Visitations will be a joyful reunion and blessing  
That Sheila & I will know the Lord’s leadership and future direction for SWYM



**We thank you** for the on - going **prayers, material & financial support** of us over the 12 years! And we truly covet the prayers of God’s people, everywhere. Be encouraged - for God is at work in South Africa. Glory to His Name!

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

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**UK Charity Number:** 1124118

### FINANCIAL DETAILS:-

**RSA -** First National Bank, Account Name: Step Wise Youth Ministry, Account Number: 62149844559,  
Branch: Lynnwood, Branch Code: 252045, Swift code: FIRNZAJJ

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