

Nick and Sheila Court – Serving the LORD in South Africa



Dear Family & Friends,

March 2007
SWYM Prayer Letter 8

“The fear of the Lord - that is wisdom....” Job 28:28

This is our first newsletter for this year and we pray that you will know and experience the grace of God in 2007. We began in January with Nora taking over the Mamelodi Schools and Sunnyside Primary. Nick & I negotiated **4 new schools** nearer to home in **Birchacres**, which is on the outskirts of **Tembisa**. We received the somewhat usual reserved invitation and immediately after one of the assemblies, the Head of Dept rushed over to say that we would be most welcome in their school and could we also do the junior assembly. We agreed of course and we have been going to Jeug Park twice a week most weeks, to do the Christian Union group as well.

Busy Bees Primary has asked us to facilitate the **Prefects` Leadership Training** for their school. We did not hesitate to say yes and now we are in the process of planning that training for May` 07, when we return from deputation work in the UK. **Danelle du Plessis**, whom we invited to do **JUMP** with us on Fridays, is delighted to be asked to join us on this residential course as one of the **Facilitators**. As this is breaking new ground, we have to research the subject, and put together application forms, detailed programme of activities, objectives and learning outcomes etc, menus, certificates of attendance, purchase equipment and so on. Busy Bees also gave us four sessions, Life Orientation Classes and we used it to introduce the Bible Correspondence Course. One of the Teachers and two of the Garden Staff asked us for books to do the course as well. Nick is **busy marking** the course work, in addition to his other work. Early January, we had the joy of being part of the **first African Pastors` conference** held in this province. This was the vision of Pastor Errol Hulse and plans are underway for many more such conferences in Africa.

In **February**, we were at **Clarens** for an outreach. What a blessing! The Primary, Middle and High School kept us busy with **Assemblies and Life Orientation Classes**. The Bible was our text book. In the late afternoon, we attended the Orphans Programme and After School Bible Club. Nick and I conducted another **Saturday morning Bible School** with 20 youth. The Bible Correspondence Course was done with some of the ones from last October and some new ones. We had to turn away about a dozen kids who were too young for the course, but who had probably heard about the lunch afterwards. We returned physically tired but very thankful for the additional classroom work. All **three schools** have asked us to help them with their **Prefects` Leadership Training** and the earliest date we can offer is in June. In Clarens, Pastor/Domini Sakki is following up the Bible Correspondence learners. In total we did , 1 Sunday school class, 7 Assemblies, 19 Life Orientation Class Periods, 4 Orphans Family Short Sessions, 5 After School Bible Club and 1 Saturday morning Bible School. Praise His Name!!

Later in February, Sheila went with Pastor Irving and Nora Hayman to **Zimbabwe**. God showed us His grace in the details of that mission trip. It was indeed an encouragement to us to observe and to be part of the **Bulawayo** Church ministries for a week. That included schools, preaching and bible studies, safe houses for abused kids, the elderly, small business projects, the homeless, garden projects, preschools, outpost churches and Pastors etc. We have been asked to return again in **August**, to run **Holiday Bible Clubs**, and to give other spiritual and practical help. Hopefully, Nick will also be able to go as the new schools should be better established and well able to bear our absence by then. Nick did keep busy when we were away as he did Nora and our schools, as well as JUMP.

We had **safe journeying** mercies there and back. It was a peculiar way by which we **got unleaded petrol** to return from Zimbabwe. At the **Botswana border** a stranger paid our 50 Pulus transit tax, as we all had Rand, except Nora who had 10 Pulus left over. The stranger did not take any money from us in exchange.

We had our first **SWYM meeting** since gaining registration as a **Section 21**, non profit organisation. Pastor Irving chaired the meeting and it was a time to give thanks to the Lord for His faithfulness. Some new folks attended the meeting. Four new supporters have agreed to be **Office Bearers**. Pastor Joseph Hewitt & his wife Elizabeth were visiting Irving Steggles here in South Africa. Apart from preaching engagements, **Pastor Hewitt** took time to see some of SWYM work. They went with us to Busy Bees Primary and Pastor Joseph took one of the assemblies there and also told the Bible Story at Jump. Nick was thankful to have his experienced input.

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Friday **JUMP (Jesus Understands Me perfectly)** continues to be a great encouragement and blessing. Danelle du Plessis is keen on helping with the games and that is a big help. Nora enjoys telling the bible stories. Nick and I are busy planning or finishing off work whilst preparing for our deputation visit at the same time. Thank you for praying that we will have strength, energy and good health throughout our visit.

Items for Praise:

- For the successful African Pastors` Conference in SA and especially so in the province
- That the new & local schools have accepted us so quickly
- For the numerous Life Orientation classes conducted at Clarens & at Busy Bees Primary
- That the kids at Clarens attended again the Saturday morning Bible School
- For our mission trip to Zimbabwe and our safe return
- For Nora`s commitment to SWYM and her enthusiasm in the Mamelodi schools

Items for Prayer:

- That the Assemblies will have an impact upon the lives of the Learners
- For the planning and implementation of the Prefects Leadership
- That future African Pastors` Conference will be organised with appropriate speakers
- For our future visit to Clarens in June and the possibility of facilitating Prefects` Leadership Training for the Primary, Middle and High Schools
- That the Bible Correspondence Course will help young people understand the Gospel and come to faith
- **For more SWYM workers ,full time or part time**
- For our ongoing personal and travelling safety everyday
- For another appropriate and mechanically sound vehicle

Once again, we hope that this letter will reveal to you just how much your prayers have been answered. We cannot do this ministry without your involvement and commitment. We particularly thank you for praying for our safety on the Zimbabwe mission trip. God heard and answered prayers. Please continue to pray that together, our efforts will grow strong and bear lasting spiritual fruit. Be encouraged for God is answering your prayers.

*With our love & prayers
Nick and Sheila Court*

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