



Dear Family & Friends,

December 2007
SWYM Prayer Letter 12

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

This Christmas, let us give thanks for Jesus, God’s son, the most precious gift to all mankind. Rejoice and celebrate our Saviour’s birth.

Let me reflect back **starting with September. The Inter-School Youth Camp 24th to 27th September 2007** was a truly blessed camp. **Rachel Webster** joined us from **Woodgreen Evangelical Church** and she not only cooked but led devotions, gave her testimony, supervised the girls and was camp first aider. Together, Thomas, Rachel, Alishea Cloete & Ronel Grobler led the devotional classes and Sophia & Louise assisted Rachel in the kitchen. They felt privileged & blessed to teach the young people, the majority of whom were very responsive to God’s word. **Nick taught on the Armour of God** and was helped by a life size visual aid of a Roman Soldier made by Kirsty.

In October & November, **Nick & I concentrated on the schools** assemblies and life skill classes. FF Riberio Primary School had to cancel planned Prefects Training in October because of no funding. **Alishea Cloete**, from Constantia Park Baptist Church has been shadowing and assisting us in the Mamelodi and Sunny Side Schools in particular. Alishea **does not drive**, so we are praying that someone will be able to accompany her to these schools in the New Year. **Pray urgently** for the right person or persons to step forward and help Alishea. Busy Bee Primary asked us to **help in their school library**. We agreed, providing we can **donate Bibles and Christian books for all ages**. Gayle Staegemann promptly bought us some **books for Busy Bee** which further encouraged us. This is a **new project** with enormous opportunities for the gospel at Busy Bee and later on at Soffalo Primary. Both are farm schools with some **very needy** children. Do pray for regular helpers and books.

We were in **Clarens early November**. On this occasion, not many bookings were confirmed beforehand but upon our arrival, we were at work straightaway at the Families in Need centre and with a **four day After School Bible Club** with the Bible Study Group which we had started during previous outreaches. It was encouraging to meet the current Bible Study **Group Leader** and to teach the Bible Study Group. We met with the **Clarens Witness Committee** at their meeting and **they approved** our February 2008 visit and plans for conducting Prefects Leadership Training. The schools welcomed us for assemblies and we took numerous **Life Orientation classes** at the Primary and Middle Schools. Nick conducted assemblies at the High School and the Deputy Principal agreed to leadership training in February 08. The Clarens Organisers do not want to duplicate services in Clarens and **would value prayers** for the ongoing format of the bible study group. **Wisdom is needed** to know whether foods should be served at the weekly Bible Study and to encourage the right age groups, with language and reading skills to study the Bible. Clarens is a well organised town and anyone in need is fitted into the established feeding/care programme.

Upon our return from Clarens, we took more appointments at our local schools for assemblies, and **special classes with all the schools Grade 7** who are leaving for High Schools. What an **opportunity to share** the gospel through Fear & Faith attitudes and to prepare them for “Changing Places /Schools”.

We also **accepted many invitations** to end of term concerts, prize giving and award ceremonies. On two occasions, we were officially **on the programme** to open in prayers, give a word of scripture and valedictory speech. Schools closed at the end of November.

Early December, we led a 4 day **Holiday Bible Club at Birchleigh Baptist Church**. What a blessing! We had 36 children in total, enough to have 5 lively teams, each representing the **Wordless Book** colours. The kids were so keen to learn and repeat their bible verses (at any time to us) and answer quiz questions that they kept us busy and alert. On the last day of club, we had a **Family Service in the evening**. What an unknown! We were wonderfully rewarded to have the majority of children and parents/guardians back at 6.00pm. **The children** each presented what their colour of the wordless book represented and repeated their corresponding bible verses. **Alishea** stayed the week with us and helped with registration each morning, make up the wordless books and headed up a group. **Lance, a Grade 7 and Prefect** from Jeug Park Primary, who had attended our September camp, came to club and ably **helped to lead** a group. **Kirsty did the crafts** and enjoyed doing so with the

Nick and Sheila Court – Serving the LORD in South Africa

children. Other church members worked in the kitchen producing appreciated refreshments for the children during the break.

It was altogether, very good **teamwork**. Gayle Staegemann put together a **booklet of all the bible verses** taught at Club for the children to take home and each were **given a small wordless book** to remind them of what they learnt at club.

The children enjoyed singing the related songs and seeing their pictures which were taken naturally at the various sessions, as a slide show. **Pastor Irving** did a short talk to the children & adults, linking the week's teaching to the birth of Jesus.

As Club finished, Nick & I turned our attentions to organising the **African Pastors Conference in January 2008**.

Nick designed the leaflets and booking forms and I got them into envelopes for posting. We are **recruiting helpers** for the various jobs at the conference, including the daily cooking and last meal's sheep roast.

We are **busy catching up** with some administrative and some innovative tasks. **Nick is preaching** on the evening of the 23rd December and he has turned his attentions to sermon preparations. On Saturday 15th December, we have "Open House". Pastor Irving, Nick & I have invited folks from Constantia Park Baptist and Birchleigh Baptist Church to drop in for light refreshments any time from 12.30pm onwards. We have simply made time to have visitors, many of whom **pray and support us** in our ministries. You have probably guessed that Nick & I find it difficult to offer much hospitality during the year as we seem to be always on the run. Last year, we had a wonderful relaxed open house day with our visitors and anticipate the same again this year.

Nick & I are "house sitting" over the Christmas & New Year. We hope that Whiskers, a white cat and Muffin, the Spaniel, will appreciate our presence and the hands that will feed them.

In 2008, we have the African Pastors Conference in January, Prefects Leadership Training in February at Clarens and a Residential Prefects Leadership Training Camp in March at Ora et Labora. We are also looking forward to welcoming **Matthew Elson** from Emmanuel Evangelical Church **Chippenham** in January 2008. He will be ministering with SWYM for three months. Do pray for him as he comes out to South Africa.

We commence **deputation late March** in the UK, but before that we have to apply for **visa extensions**. Quite a process and we need your prayers for swift handling of our applications and for full 3 year visas. The rules have changed in the last three years and some people are given less than the three years very often – maybe a form of income generation?

Items for Praise:

- Good health and daily protection
- The September Camp and Rachel Webster's ministry at camp
- Alishea Cloete and her desire to work with SWYM
- For the additional people that help with SWYM ministries
- For the additional opportunities for classes & assemblies at schools
- Being included in the life of the schools at concerts, prize giving ceremonies and graduations
- Camp at Ora et Labora at affordable prices
- Matthew Elson's 3 months of ministry with SWYM, from January 08

Items for Prayer:

- That the seeds sown at Camps, Clubs, Special Classes and Assemblies will bear fruit
- For good attendance and anointed teaching at the African Pastors Conference 17 to 19th January 2008
- That Matthew Elson will make full use of his mission trip to advance the gospel
- That Busy Bee Library Project will take off with available Christian books and committed helpers
- That the learners will have enough funding for Prefects Leadership Training in Feb/March and that these workshops will produce exemplary Christian leaders
- For another person or persons to assist Alishea at the Mamelodi & Sunny Side Schools
- Pray that a further three year visa will be granted to Nick & I
- For more **SWYM** workers, short term or long term

Friends, together, we have had many answers to prayer. We know that without your help, the gospel in this part of the vineyard will not flourish. Please be encouraged and continue to pray for the work of SWYM and for more workers to take up gospel opportunities in Southern Africa.

With our love & prayers

Nick and Sheila Court

Contact details:

Postal Address:

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

Land lines still out of order

Mobile telephone: 072 959 5743.

Email nick.sheilacourt@tiscali.co.uk and/or nick.sheilacourt@yahoo.co.uk

Website: www.swym.org