

Nick and Sheila Court – Serving the LORD in South Africa



Dear Friends,

July 2006

SWYM Prayer letter 4

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

It is winter. We have extreme cold, dry weather through the night until the early morning and from late afternoon. The frost has killed off a few plants in the garden. The weather did not stop the kids from both Tembisa and Constantia Park Baptist Church (CPBC) from enjoying camp. The blazing camp fire outdoors drew the 30 youths together for impromptu singing, hot chocolate and chatting. All the bible teaching took place indoors.

Pastor Musa from Tembisa led the morning devotions. Nick took four sessions of teaching, Sheila and Nick jointly did two sessions and Pieter Swanepoel, CPBC Youth Pastor, led two sessions. We mention these details because “black & white” leaders did the teaching. This is breaking new ground. Judging from the searching questions asked at the Q & A session, we were encouraged by the level of understanding gained from each of the teaching sessions. Remember, the teaching was done in English which is not the first language of the CPBC and Tembisa youth. Afrikaans and Zulu are their first languages respectively. Nevertheless, the feedback was positive and the young people found “Baba Nick’s English accent easy to understand”. One of the girls spoke to Sheila about personal problems at University and another teenager who felt unwell during camp is HIV positive. She used to be a prostitute.

The annual Christian conference at Skogheim has been going for 35 years. This year the main speakers were Pastor Philip Arthur and Pastor Mark Johnstone from the UK. The children’s programmes were conducted by Nick and Sheila. We were sponsored (lovely surprise) by CPBC to attend the conference and later recommended by Pastor Martin Holdt to run the children’s ministry at the conference. This was an unexpected invitation on both counts and we thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity of working with the children. We were thankful that people were praying for us.

The Lord has opened up new opportunities because of the Skogheim conference. One of these is a confirmed booking to go to Swaziland on the 5th – 7th September 06. The purpose is to assess the current young people’s ministry at the church, make and implement recommendations. A tall order! We need God’s wisdom. Do pray for us.

We also had requests from two other Pastors at the conference to help with their young people’s work and to organise camps for them. Please pray that Sheila and I might be able to negotiate economical venues and provide sound biblical teaching.

We have continued with Training Sessions at Tembisa. The attendance was good at each session, ranging from 15 - 26 people. One of the women has begun to teach at Bible Club. That is one more than before and we thank God.

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A church at Walkersville invited us to do two training sessions with their 6 Sunday School Teachers. They would like to have the Holiday Bible Club at a later date. The teachers requested further training and advice on suitable Sunday school literature.

The Youth Rally in Krugersdorp had over 100 young people from 4 local churches. It was lively with lots of singing. The message from Nick was well received and Sheila led a group session with the youths responding to situational, lifestyle questions.

Items for Praise:

That the mixed camp, the youth rally and ongoing training sessions all took place

For the strength and wisdom to conduct the children's ministry at Skogheim

The many new ministry openings from Skogheim and training programmes

For the two recent opportunities Nick had to preach at Birchleigh Church

For God's mercies and kindness to us through the growth of SWYM ministry

For safe personal and travelling mercies everyday

Items for Prayer:

Wisdom and insight for the Swaziland assignment

Wisdom and insight in planning future joint camps for the many churches

Sheila is organising for Women's Day, a mini camp for the women at Pastor Musa's church in Tembisa, (another first). Nick will be taking the bible teaching

For further joint weekend outreaches in Tembisa

That God would use our regular school assemblies to save learners

For safe personal and travelling mercies everyday

We cannot say it enough; we covet your interest and your prayers to meet the challenges and encouragements of Step Wise Youth Ministry

In His Service

Nick and Sheila Court

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