



Dear Family & Friends,

July 2007  
SWYM Prayer Letter 10

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

The weather for us here in South Africa, (and in the UK), is a sure reminder of the winds of change. One morning we awoke to snow! **Yes, real snow.** Just to make sure, we walked on it, touched it, and wrote our names in it. Nick took some pictures. It last snowed in the Johannesburg area in 1981! A whole generation has grown up not experiencing these phenomena! Anyway, we could not linger because we had to travel to Bethany Baptist Church for Holiday Bible Club. There was no sign of the snow as we drove to Pretoria and it was all gone by the time we returned home. On the way though, a bolt or some similar **hard object flew off** the top of a lorry, it just missed our windscreen, but made a dent on the roof of our car! We are **thankful for God’s protection** on the roads where often loads or partial loads fall from vehicles in front of you, or where drivers suddenly overtake you on the hard shoulder. **Thank you for praying** for our safety, we appreciate your prayers.

The **Bible Club at Bethany Baptist Church** did not seem like work at all. It makes a BIG difference working with a team of people. There were about 30-35 children. They were attentive listeners to the bible messages through the **Wordless Book**. The daily visit of **“Postman Pat”** (Pastor Watson) was popular with the children and it provided the opportunity for posting letters and comments for delivery. One of the comments/ feedback was from **a young boy who asked how an Arab boy** could come to know Jesus Christ if there is no one to tell him. Nick & I delighted in sharing with him, simply, from Romans 1.

I identified with his question as I myself, had pondered with some sadness the plight of lost souls in far off lands. It was **only as an adult in 2003** when the book of Romans was carefully explained in the Adult Bible Classes, by Pastors Spencer Shaw and Irving Steggle, that I could fully accept God’s grace & mercy in the matter and that “man is without excuse.”

Upon completing the Club on Thursday, we drove the **next day to Skogheim**, south of Durban, for the Annual Reformed Baptist Conference. It took us well over the anticipated 8 hours journey. We heard **an odd noise in the car** at certain revs. We immediately prayed and Nick pulled off at the next service station. He undid the left front wheel and checked the brakes/wheel. No sooner when we were **on the road again**, we heard the noise! This brought some uneasiness and periods of silence in the car as we were both alert and praying quietly at the same time. However, we were greatly encouraged when we received **a text message from a widow**, who told us that we were on her mind most of the day and that **she was praying for us!** We arrived safely and just in time to join for a lovely dinner.

Once again at Skogheim, we were rewarded by the **28-30 children who attended our club twice a day**, (once on Sunday). Our **joy** increased when Pastor Spencer Cunnagh, (visiting speaker), addressed the children in the Sunday service. He **built upon** our earlier session with the children on the meaning of **ALL** in **Rom 3: 23**. We had **positive feedback from parents**. It was encouraging having parents sit in on each our sessions. We used the **same programme we had used at Bethany**. We had **two young teenagers** help us each day. They were great helpers. We have been asked by the Organisers to take the **Youth Programme again next year**. Thank you for praying. God granted us energy, enthusiasm and sound knowledge of the bible messages and application.

**Schools were on strike** most of the last term. Some schools were open but most township schools were closed. Those that were open had their gates/buildings locked for fear of reprisals. We managed to do some assemblies, but not all that were booked. **Sunnyside was delighted to have us back**. The learners and teachers gave us such a welcome that we felt obliged to make room in our assembly schedules to visit them.

We **did not go to Clarens** at the end of June. The organisers advised against the **Prefects Leadership Training** as both the schools we were booked to do the training in were on **strike and demonstrations** were expected during that week. We shall reschedule after discussions with the organisers and when the schools are reopened. No one has come forward for the Mamelodi Schools as yet and **Danelle will be leaving** for her UK Govt sponsored Masters Degree at Durham University at the end of August.

Gayle Staegemann, who assists with the **correspondence course** booklets, has **completed the introductory bible course book** which is being piloted. She is busy with drafts for other books.

*Nick and Sheila Court – Serving the LORD in South Africa*

We are struggling to keep Friday **JUMP (Jesus Understands Me Perfectly)** adequately staffed. There is a lot of pressure to find helpers to cover every Friday evening and during our outreach absences as well. **Sarah was helping** at JUMP but she moved away during the school holidays, we are not sure for how long.

**Zimbabwe Mission Trip**- We are helping to organise and encourage church members to accompany us on a mission trip at the end of August/early September. Some folks have shown interest and we pray that the situation in Zimbabwe will allow us to travel with Pastor Irving Steggles on **August 23<sup>rd</sup> to Bulawayo**. Nick & I will be running **Holiday Bible clubs in two areas there**. One in the morning and the other in the afternoon. We can use the **same programme for both Clubs**. In between, we shall be facilitating a **similar type Bible Club**, without the hoola hoops **for the retired ladies in a residential complex**. We aim to do table top crafts, bible teaching, quiz etc **and keep it age appropriate**. We plan to **go on to Lusaka, Zambia** from there for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Solar 5 Conference.

As I was writing this newsletter, we had a **phone call from Pastor Harry Davies**. He was looking for a **driver** to accompany two missionaries from his church and a team for an **Orphanage Building Ministry in Zambia**. It is in a very rural part. No running water or electricity and a lot of manual labour thrown in. Nick is needed to drive a 4x4 and double trailer with loads of cement. A couple hours later and I was fitted in also. Some Americans and 1 Russian are flying over for this ministry and there will be 15 of us altogether in 3 vehicles. We shall be travelling through Botswana to Zambia, on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> July to 4<sup>th</sup> August**.

**Items for Praise:**

- Good health and daily protection in ministry
- For safety and good teamwork at Bethany Holiday Bible Club. The children participated well and demonstrated thinking and memorisation of scripture
- That we travelled safely to Skogheim despite undiagnosed car problems and had all the right resources for use despite the quick turn around from Bethany Club
- For the attentiveness of the children at Skogheim and their willingness to apply the bible teachings to their own lives
- For Danelle's commitment to Busy Bee Primary right up until she finishes her employment
- For Gayle who is such an encouragement and willing writer of SWYM Bible Correspondence books
- The opportunity for the end of August/Sept Zimbabwe Mission trip
- The unexpected opportunity to minister in Zambia from 18<sup>th</sup> July to 4<sup>th</sup> August 07

**Items for Prayer:**

- That the regular bible assemblies will make disciples of learners
- That Gayle will have much wisdom as she drafts the Bible Correspondence books and that these books will help young people come to faith
- For appropriate helpers for Friday JUMP
- Our ongoing personal and travelling safety everyday
- For another appropriate/mechanically sound car, (Danelle is selling hers which is in very good condition)
- For personnel, opportunity and guidance to minister in Zimbabwe
- For the unexpected Zambia ministry and that the team will be free from accidents and incidents
- That the youth will be able to afford the minimal R50.00 for a week of Inter Church camp from 24th Sept
- For Rachel Webster, Woodgreen Evangelical Church, who is coming to assist with Sept Camp
- **For more SWYM workers**, full time or part time

Friends, we thank you for your prayers. God hears and answers the prayers of His people. Please continue to pray for additional workers to join us in the ministry of SWYM.

*With our love & prayers*

*Nick and Sheila Court*

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