

Dear Family & Friends,

March 2008

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

SWYM Prayer Letter13

The first three months in 2008 have been full of blessings and challenges. We attended the **annual Grace Ministers Conference** 7-9th January 08. We were **particularly blessed** through Stuart Olyott's teaching and that of Dr. Glendon Thompson from Toronto.

Mathew Elson, from Emmanuel Evangelical Church, Chippenham (EECC), arrived for 3 months of ministry on the 9th of January. His orientation was speeded up. When he played his trumpet at Busy Bee assembly, **immediately** his ministry opportunities rocketed! Matthew has been doing the **library classes, music** lessons and teaching some of the learners **how to play chess** as part of their sports & culture programme. Matthew has been taking in **Christian books** almost each week to Busy Bee library. For the books, **we thank EECC** for their kind gift of money. Matthew has been doing the music at all our other assemblies and he has been giving the talks at **Christian Union** at Jeug Park Primary. Again, when the learners hear the trumpet, they just keep on coming into the CU classroom. The numbers at CU have gone up to just under/over **100!**

We **praise & thank God** for such wonderful blessings.

Our heavenly Father **opened the doors** much more than we could have ever imagined or think for Matthew's ministry with us. He will be greatly missed when he leaves on the 1st April. **We are praying** that one or two other people might step in to help at Busy Bee when Matthew returns to the UK. Those are some of the blessings. What about the **challenges?** We have had some serious car troubles. By God's grace and goodness to us, we purchased a **SWYM second-hand vehicle**, mostly for Matthew's use to go to Busy Bee Primary. At least that car was working fine amongst the many and **repeated visits to the garage** to get the original problem with the Mazda fixed and subsequent ones following their “fixing”. After Nick brought the car back from the garage on one of these occasions, Nick turned off the ignition and got out of the car to speak to Matthew in the newly acquired, second hand car. Imagine Nick's surprise when he realised that he was holding the **car keys in his hand and the car engine was still running!** You guessed it; back they went to the garage again.

The African Pastors Conference took place at **Ora et Labora** from the 17th to 19th January. SWYM was responsible for the advertising, registration, accommodation, catering and book table. The number of Pastors attending **increased** from last year, with a request from many of the Pastors for conferences nearer to their abode, like those from Botswana. **Gayle Staegemann & Matthew** took charge of the **ever popular book table**. These books were **donated** from Publishers and individuals in the UK. **Pastor Errol Hulse** has a vision for getting as many reformed books into the hands of African Pastors and at very subsidized, affordable, prices. We thank God for his vision. **Wilna** Jansen Van Rensburg and her team did all the catering. **Louise, Thomas, Alishea & Matthew** also served meals and did a lot of washing up after meals. **Wilna's husband, Dawid**, loaned and set up the recording equipment for us at Ora et Labora and **David Peyton from Birchleigh Baptist Church** did all the recordings of teaching sessions and the production of CDs for just 3 Rand per CD! He also set up a **website** for the African Pastors Conferences in record time. **Gayle** Staegemann also had a number of the SWYM bible **correspondence course books** available, which we gave out to several Pastors for use with their congregation & contacts. We all worked so well together and the whole atmosphere at the conference was pleasant & friendly. If someone was late or wanted a drink from the kitchen, “out of hours”, **Wilna always served them with warmth & friendliness**. We are truly blessed to have Wilna in charge of the SWYM catering and kitchen duties. But, there is always room for more helpers. **Do you want to help?**

Clarens Outreach - We went to Clarens to conduct Prefects Leadership Training from a Biblical perspective, in February. Prefects from the High School, Intermediate & Primary Schools participated in the Leadership Training. The **venue** - the family feeding centre - was **neutral** territory for all the prefects. **Joseph Mokena** joined us from Clarens, as usual. This time Joseph stepped into the **teaching** role at assembly more readily, sharing the bible teaching with me, (Sheila), for the five morning assemblies at the Primary School. **Nick & Matthew** conducted assemblies at the High School. Joseph was also a big help at the Prefects Training, **supervising activities** and sharing in the bible teaching. **Matthew's musical abilities** came in handy again at the Intermediate School where he led in four Arts & Culture lessons and assisted us in the English lessons. They all **just loved** the trumpet! We went to the Wednesday Bible Study which we initially started for the Clarens young people. It was **so encouraging** to see that they have two local, African ladies helping Louise by teaching the bible in local language at the study group and to see **spiritual growth** in the young people. The afternoon we attended, four new boys attended the group. We **praise** God. We are scheduled to return to Clarens, the first week of June.

Nick and Sheila Court – Serving the LORD in South Africa

Alishea Cloete, from Constantia Park Baptist Church has been taking the assemblies at Mamelodi and Sunny Side Schools. **God heard** our prayers and provided **two** drivers plus prayer partners & assembly assistance for Alishea. They are **Bev** Rowlands & **Wilna** Jansen Van Rensburg, both of whom are SWYM trustees. Alishea says that she “**does not sing**”, so should we pray for a joyful singing voice for Alishea? I remember so well saying those very words when we started in the Schools Ministry in the UK. **The Lord has helped us** there, and the learners do like to sing the gospel messages/bible verses through the songs that we teach them.

Residential Prefects Leadership Training took place from the 5th -7th March. FF Riberio & Busy Bee Schools` prefects all participated. Last minute, Saffola Primary said that they could not send their prefects. As usual, Nick, Matthew & Alishea were there to help with teaching and/or leading with activity based teachings. David Sage & Nathan Zakariasen joined us for the first time but Thomas did not attend on this occasion. **Ronel Grobler & David Sage** also helped in presenting the bible leader profiles and activities. Wilna & Louise took charge of the kitchen and I, (Sheila), led the Handling Conflict & Debriefing Sessions with some unexpected and useful help from Ronel G. The three accompanying Schools teachers also heard the gospel and learnt about `THE BIG FIVE` - Teamwork, Leadership, Communication, Problem Solving & Thinking Skills. We are **thankful to Dr Gray** for allowing us the free use of Ora et Labora, as we partner together in gospel ministry.

Visa Extensions – Praise the Lord! We got our full three years visas in record time! This could only be from the Lord and how we thank Him!

BUSY BEE HELPER- Let me introduce Mrs. Ronel O`Donovan, or Aunty Ronel. She is Matthew`s replacement, so to speak! Ronel will be going into Busy Bee on Mondays to do the Assemblies and to take all four library classes. The school is willing to make full use of Ronel`s presence on Mondays. Do pray for her. What an answer to prayers! Praise His Holy name! Thank you for praying and do keep on praying. The Lord is blessing tremendously.

We commence **deputation from 15th March to end of April 2008, in the UK**. We look forward to seeing some of you and/or presenting about SWYM at your church. Do **pray** that all our journeys will go well; that prayer support and awareness of the work will increase and short term or long term missionaries might join SWYM, in Southern Africa.

Items for Praise:

- Good health and daily protection – remains top of the list
- The safe arrival of Matthew Elson and his ministries, particularly at Busy Bee
- That Busy Bee Library Project took off swiftly and with the funds for Christian books
- For getting a SWYM vehicle, for short termers like Matthew to use for ministry
- Alishea Cloete and “drivers” Wilna & Bev for the Mamelodi & Sunnyside schools
- For other people who help with SWYM ministries, like Louise, Gayle, Ronel & Ronel G; Thomas & David
- For the non residential & residential Prefects Leadership Training opportunities
- The growth of the African Pastors Conferences in Pretoria and throughout Africa
- Praise God for our visas being granted in record time
- For the continuation of Busy Bee assembly & Library ministry, through Ronel O`Donovan

• **Items for Prayer:**

- That the seeds sown at assemblies, non residential & residential training camps ,classes, clubs, correspondence courses etc will bear fruit in the lives of the learners
- That we will have good ,safe reliable vehicles and trustworthy servicing garages
- Do pray for Alishea & Ronel, Bev & Wilna as they continue with some schools during our UK deputation
- Pray that we will have reliable transport, stamina and good health throughout our deputation
- For more **prayer** supporters & **SWYM** workers, short term or long term

Friends you will agree that, together, we have had many answers to prayers. We know that without your help, the gospel will not advance quickly. Please be encouraged and continue to pray with us, for the work of SWYM and for more workers to take up the many gospel opportunities still available in Southern Africa.

With our love & prayers

Nick and Sheila Court

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