

Nick and Sheila Court – Serving the LORD in South Africa



Dear Family & Friends,

May 2007
SWYM Prayer Letter 9

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

This is our second newsletter for this year and we pray that you will know and experience the grace of God throughout 2007. During our **recent deputation visit** to the UK in March/ April, Nick & I were very pleased to be welcomed at the churches some of you attend. We were very encouraged by your response to the work of SWYM in South Africa and thank you for taking such a keen interest in the souls of these young people and agreeing to pray for this ministry. Some people, both old & young, have committed themselves to short term mission opportunities with SWYM. Nick & I are looking forward to your involvement in ministry. God is a good God!

On the morning of our departure from the UK, Emirates airlines gave us an **additional baggage allowance of 60kg**. Praise the Lord; we were able to bring the majority of gifts given by Welsh children for the children in South Africa! **Thank you** all once again for your welcome, generosity & kindness. We thank God for keeping us and getting us to the airport on time, even though the **transport broke down** three times on the journey to Gatwick Airport. On the second occasion, Nick “jiggled something” in the engine and the car got going but broke down some kilometres later. Pastor Spencer Shaw was able to call a church elder whose office was nearby to take Nick & me to the airport as Pastor Shaw awaited the **rescue truck**. When we got to check in, we were told that the Emirates **flight was delayed** which would mean we would miss our connection in Dubai! The airline at their expense whisked us off **in a taxi to Heathrow**, to catch a flight from there. We boarded with a few minutes to spare. We connected with our Dubai flight alright. Thank God!

You may recall we began in January with Nora taking over the Mamelodi Schools and Sunnyside Primary. Nick & I then negotiated **new schools** nearer to home in **Birchacres**, which is on the outskirts of **Tembisa**. We are **sorry to say** that during our deputation visit in the UK, **Nora’s employment changed** which impacted upon her availability to continue with the schools ministry. With our already **established commitment** to the Birchacres schools, we are **in a dilemma** as to how to cover Nora’s schools. **Sarah remains willing** but she requires further training and monitoring and she has **no transport**. The formal training she requires we can give, but monitoring and transport **remain a challenge**. We are **thankful** though for **Danelle’s joy** and confidence in taking over Busy Bee and she would love to do other schools but her work commitment allows only for Mondays at present. **Danelle will also be leaving** for her UK Govt sponsored Masters Degree at Durham University at the end of August. Meanwhile, she is delighted to participate in the schools ministry as demonstrated with the recent **Prefects Leadership Training** held at Ora et Labara for **60 learners**. Two schools were represented, namely, Busy Bee and Saffola Primary.

Thank you for praying and helping in practical ways. We **had assistance** with equipment for games, cakes and other goodies in large quantities, financial and practical help in the kitchen. Remember, we had made the **cooking a matter for prayer?** Well, **Air Stewardess Wilma and Louise** got an able team together for all the camp catering. Wilma did a presentation of a journey to Hong Kong with the help of air stewardess Louise & “Captain Nick Court”. Wilma spoke of herself as a Christian leader and servant of the Lord. The learners **analysed biblical leaders** taught such as Nehemiah, Moses, Joshua and Queen Esther. They were exhorted to **follow the greatest leader** of all, the Lord Jesus Christ as their role model for perfect leadership and life itself.

Thomas & Danelle gave much of themselves in Bible teachings and practical activities. **Not all our helpers** at camp are named here but we are **equally thankful** for their much needed input. The **feedback from the two Educators**, which included the Principal of Saffola, was **very positive indeed**. They felt that SWYM had kept the **learners occupied and learning** throughout the camp, that the learners were fed well, even too well, and that we did not try to get rid of the learners by sending them off on their own. The Principal thought that we were not like other places, interested only in the money and not in their learners. Thomas had opportunities to enquire if the Gospel **means** anything to them. One said that he did not believe at all, the other said that he would “like to find out more about this thing”. We noted that one Educator **took some tracts** away without any prompting. We

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would love to go to Saffola School, but it does seem almost impossible at the moment. Please **pray urgently** about Nora's schools and Saffola School.

Clarens Combined Primary and the High School **met** with Professor Dons, from the Clarens Organising team. The schools have presented us with a **proposal to run a Leadership Programme** for an hour a day for 5 days from **June 11th to 15th**. **Pray** that we will have the much needed wisdom to tailor and modify the residential training programme to suit the needs of the schools. We plan to **conduct school assemblies** and or take a **few classes** at the Intermediate School also.

We are **pleased to announce** that Gayle Staegemann has joined us to assist with the **correspondence course** booklets. She commences by writing an introductory bible course book. Before Gayle embarked on this important project, she accompanied Nick & me to Mamelodi and one of the school's assemblies. Gayle will also be visiting Busy Bee Primary with Danelle. **Praise God for Gayle's writing skills.** The Mamelodi schools will also like us to run Prefects Training for their prefects. A residential course could be organised for late July.

June is a particularly busy month. Following **Clarens outreach** in June, we take a **Holiday Bible club** at Bethany Baptist Church, from **Monday to Thursday, 25th – 28th June 07**. On Friday **29th June**, we travel to the **annual Skogheim Conference** to take the **Young People's programme** for a week. **Do pray** that we will have all our materials ready and packed in advance to move from one programme to the next!

Friday **JUMP (Jesus Understands Me Perfectly)** continues to be an encouragement and a challenge. With Nora's departure, that puts a lot of pressure on us to find helpers from Constantia Park Baptist Church to adequately cover every Friday evening and to sustain our outreach absences as well.

Items for Praise:

- For a truly blessed and healthy UK deputation visit
- That we made our UK flights and Dubai connecting flights, despite severe car problems
- For the recent ,successful Prefects Leadership Training Camp when all our needs were met
- For Danelle's joy and commitment to Busy Bee Primary at present
- For a second opportunity this year, to facilitate Leadership Training at the Clarens Schools
- For Gayle who has joined SWYM to write Bible Correspondence books

Items for Prayer:

- That the regular assemblies will have an impact upon the lives of the learners
- For the forthcoming Clarens outreach and Prefects Leadership Training classes
- That the Holiday Bible Club at Bethany will be a good example of teamwork & blessing as young lives are turned around for Jesus
- For wisdom and skills in getting all our Youth teaching materials prepared in advance for the Skogheim Conference, near Durban
- That Gayle will have much wisdom as she drafts the Bible Correspondence books and that these books will help young people understand the Gospel and come to faith
- That a replacement will be found for Nora in the Mamelodi Schools
- Our ongoing personal and travelling safety everyday
- For another appropriate and mechanically sound vehicle (Nick is at the garage as I write with some car problems)
- **For more SWYM workers** ,full time or part time

Friends, we cannot do this ministry without your involvement and commitment. We thank you for your prayers. Be encouraged, look and see how God undertook for the Prefects Leadership Training Camp! Did any go hungry? No, not one! Please continue to pray for the minor challenges we are facing at the moment. It is our desire that all the schools that we have contact with should have regular Christian assemblies. Thank you for praying.

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.

Telephone: 011 391 5905 **Mobile telephone:** 072 959 5743.

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

Website: www.swym.org