

Nick and Sheila Court – Serving the LORD in South Africa



Dear Family & Friends,

October 2006

SWYM Prayer letter 6

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

This will have to be a briefer letter because we are busy with school assemblies and preparing for the youth outreach in the township near **Clarens**. Nick has been busy developing and laminating large size visual aids for our bible stories and developing a youth friendly **bible correspondence course**. We plan to launch this correspondence course at Clarens in two days time. We have reached the stage where we are relatively happy with the contents but would like to have more youth friendly pictures included. Anyway, we will pilot it and make the changes following that bit of research.

We have also been invited to talk about our ministry at **a church in Clarens** itself and to address their youth! That was an unexpected surprise and dare I say it so soon into this letter. As I am far away from you, you can't throw something at me so here goes – Yes, being invited to speak at the Clarens church is a first! Exciting isn't? We have packed a box of bibles, pens, notebooks, prizes of bible verses, books, headscarves etc and we thank you all for such useful and helpful goodies for the kids. So much has happened since August and I must just update you.

From the **“POWER” Camp** we attended at the end of August, two very good contacts were made. A young man, (camper), Thomas, and a couple who help organise Power Camp. I will tell you about them later on.

The number of kids attending Friday **JUMP (Jesus Understands Me perfectly)** has risen from the regular 3 to 4 kids to over 16 at times. Most of them are “Home Schoolers” and not all from CPBC. We are managing to get other church folks involved as leaders or providing mature “cover” to our young leaders. This is especially useful for when we are away on outreaches and we are really encouraged by that!

The **Swaziland assignment** turned out to be a real blessing. The people were most welcoming and we worked all through the day. Irving Steggles lectured to the Leadership and Nick and I taught the Sunday School and Youth workers from 8.30am to 5.30pm. Yes, we did stop for lunch but we were being asked questions at the breaks as well. When we got back to our host family's house, I dropped down on the bed and could have stayed there for a long time. After a refreshing shower, we joined our family for dinner and prayers and appreciated the time together. We departed the next morning for home. We believe our friends were pleased that we could have been of help to them and heard our recommendations, eagerly. They are keen to have us back again.

What a nice relief! The annual **Church Family Camp** is over and all went well. Pastor Irving Steggles was the speaker and the seminars on “Living Together as the people of God.” were well received.

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Family Camp ended on Sunday and the **Interchurch/School Camp** commenced on the Monday. There were 58 of us in all, 48 being campers. There were no untoward incidents and **all our needs were met** for a safe and successful camp. No one went hungry! The bible teaching and morning devotions went well. Nick led these sessions and he was greatly helped by the Lord. The young people were interested, asked questions in and outside of sessions. God willing, we plan to have more camps. **Thomas**, the young man, we met at Power Camp, and who was seeking opportunities to for mission, came as a leader. He was exceptionally good and mature spiritually for a 19 year old. He will like to be involved with any future camps we organise. From the couple, Elaine attended as a leader and William was the “chauffeur” for both Elaine and Thomas.

The majority of kids who attended camp had never been to camp before! Two teachers who came from “**Busy Bees Primary School** had also never been to a camp. Neither of them is a Christians but they attended all the teaching and devotional sessions. We do assemblies at this private “Christian” school. This happened when Irving Steggle was phoned to ask if he knew anyone wanting a Principal’s post at this school. Irving did not know any potential principals but he knew two Schools` workers! We were interviewed the next day and commenced assemblies. The kids who attend this school all come from Tembisa!

When camps finished, we had a few days break in Cape Town, courtesy of our friends who had given us the Mabalingwe holiday. How glad we were to relax for a few days!

School Assemblies

We are very pleased with Busy Bees which is located nearer to us. We also had opportunity to do an assembly at a local school, less than 2 kilometres from home. An exciting development with the school assemblies is that **Nora from Church** has been going with us to see how we do assemblies in the Mamelodi Schools and Sunnyside Primary. Then she very quietly said after one school visit that she could do the Mamelodi schools and Sunnyside for us! We replied that we would need to get someone else to accompany her to Mamelodi. “No, that won’t be necessary, I know the way now.” Guess what? **Nora did the bible story this week** and next week when we are at Clarens, she will be going to Sunnyside on her own. What a blessing!

Nora works full time in the CPBC Augustine Book room. It began when we were talking at the book table over the discounted children’s books. She started telling Sheila about a children’s story and Sheila could see at once an animation and sparkle, not seen before. Sheila remarked about it and invited her to see some of our schools work. Nora agreed.

The invitation to Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, is on and off the agenda. The church will like us and Irving to visit when our input into the schools and Theological College can be to its maximum. The time planned for in November would not have allowed maximum input and another date has been suggested by the church, early 2007.

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Items for Praise:

That the Swaziland assignment was a blessing to them and us

That the outcome of CPBC Family Camp has led to increased “friendliness”

For the wonderful opportunity to share the gospel at the interchurch/school youth camp and the mission opportunities it gave to several young adults, like Thomas

That the monies and goods were sufficient to fund the camp

For God’s kindness to us in increasing the numbers at the weekly JUMP group

Praise God for Nora and her skill in telling bible stories in the School Assemblies

Items for Prayer:

For the Clarens outreach from Saturday 21st October to Sunday 29th. We need strength and wisdom to do intensive teaching during the outreach

That the Bible Correspondence Course will be a means of maturing young people in the faith, not only in Clarens but in other areas

That God would use Nora, and us, at the regular school assemblies to guide learners to a saving faith in the Lord Jesus

For safe personal and travelling mercies everyday (the car is a little troublesome)

You remain vital to the work of Step Wise Youth Ministry. Please pray that together, our efforts will continue to grow and bear good spiritual fruit. Be encouraged for God is answering your prayers.

In His Service

Nick and Sheila Court

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