

Nick and Sheila Court – Serving the LORD in South Africa



Dear Family & Friends,

October 2008

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

SWYM Prayer Letter 17

CAMP

Philippians 4:4, Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice. We are certainly rejoicing in the God & Father of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. The reason for such joy & thankfulness is that we have seen the glory of our Lord in his kind provisions at our recent **Inter School Youth camp held at Ora et Labora, 27th to the 30th September**. We expected about 50 Learners for the most but we had a record 86 young people + helpers = over 100!

You might remember that we had a **major problem** before camp. Camp was announced. The **kitchen equipment** at the camp had been **stolen!** We thought that there was a gas stove available but by the time we visited the camp site, there was not a gas stove, nor any other kind of stoves left to cook on. We prayed. You prayed. Members of our congregations prayed and God heard and answered our prayers in delightful ways. **Never before** were so many people involved in helping us out in financial & practical ways. **An army style gas stove** was loaned to us and all the right kitchen equipment by the Family Upliftment Centre.

Nick & I discovered we had some dry goods in a box from our last big training. **Gayle**, who was doing the registration, asked her husband Peter to bring out to the camp some extra chairs, tin foods and long life milk etc. **Wilna & Louise** had not catered for a 100 people before but they made **the food stretch** with all the extra baked beans & tin stuff that Wilna had also put into her camp boxes for *just in case*. Nick had to make an **extra trip back home** to get additional SWYM Bible Correspondence Books for our Devotional study and some more chairs.

To get the gas cooker & gas bottles to & from the campsite, **Malvin & Keith** used their 4x4 bakkies for transport. Keith also provided Sam, as **Security Guard** and once camp was set up, Leon, Nick & I stayed over at the campsite the night before camp. We did not want to lose any of the equipment kept in the unlocked kitchen. (locks broken by the thieves)

The **86 young people** were thrilled to be at camp, many of whom had never been to camp before! **Two teachers** accompanied the Learners from their schools In Tembisa. The main teaching was on the Life of Paul, the missionary story was on Eric Liddell following which we showed the Eric Liddell DVD. **Leon & Freddy** led the main teaching on Paul and we were blessed through their teaching sessions.

The **Devotional Study** times were hourly sessions held twice per day. On completion of the study books, 75% of the youth completed their **Test Quiz Sheets** and handed them in to **Nick for marking** and issuing of certificates. Nick also acted as **site manager**, fixing taps or mending pipes. **Rod** helped to connect the gas cooker and him & Nick moved extra & heavy mattresses into the dormitories. **Jenni** led the singing with the help of her guitar, **Alishea** helped in the devotions & in the kitchen. **Dawid** came and cooked the sausages & ministered to us in song. **Patric** unexpectedly arrived and ably took on almost all of the 86 young people in sports with some help from **Aubrey**, who also helped generally around the camp and in a Study Group with Freddy. **One learner** stayed out of sports as he was deeply engaged with Freddy with biblical questions of his own.

During camp, one youth **said “the bible means more to me now than before”**. Two girls said **“we will read our bibles regularly when we get home”** This desire was later confirmed by another adult.

There were several other encouraging comments and many of the youths requested other study books in the **SWYM Bible correspondence** series. Nick was busy for a while marking & issuing certificates. **Gayle** is busy printing additional books and compiling other books at present. Do pray that God will grant her much wisdom in this ministry. Do rejoice with us in God’s faithfulness & greatness to us.

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CONFERENCE We attended the **Sola 5 conference** from the 4th to 7th September, in Cape Town. Thank you for praying. We had safe journeying mercies with the **Kombi Van**. Even when we were stopped by a Policeman who was **clearly looking for a bribe**, we managed to take our leave of him on friendly terms and without handing over any monies. The meeting with the Youth Team at **Goodwood Baptist Church**, Cape Town was positive and we made several useful links with Sola 5 Pastors. Do pray that we will have **Godly wisdom** to know whether we should consider going to help a brother called Monday, in Tanzania.

SCHOOLS

We were so excited to be included in Merit Awards Celebrations at two schools. At **Birchacres Primary**, I assisted the Principal in giving out the awards after the Assembly Talk. At **Jeug Park**, we were there by special invitation **to address the parents & learners** after the award ceremony. **Freddy** is conducting assemblies on his own at Sunnyside. The teachers told us “he is so helpful to us and he is like a grand father to the children”. I do not think that Freddy is a grand father as yet. **Jenni** is developing her SWYM ministry at Tembisa. She will soon have regular help from **Kessia Simelane** for two of her Tembisa clubs. Kessia is the wife of Pastor Musa and they have a church plant ministry in Tembisa. **Alishea & Wilna** continue at Mamelodi and their relationship with the Principal & Staff is very positive. **Ronel** remains with Busy Bee. She has participated in **assessing** the reading abilities of some of the children.

Resources Nick received our **big order** of teaching materials last week from the Augustine Book Room at Constantia Park Baptist Church. We have met with a “glitch” for the **SWYM Resource Centre** at the Afrikaans Baptist Seminarium. **Do pray** that SWYM will find an appropriate place to establish a **Centre** as soon as possible.

Immediately after camp

We should have been getting ready for **Clarens Outreach**, but as Nick had lots of marking of test quiz papers etc, I got on with the preparations for the **Clarens Outreach** 5th to 9th October. **What a blessing!** When the Bibles were given out to the Grade 7 class and the 3 teachers at Mojolefa farm school, I could have wept. It would have been tears of joy & gratitude. **Joy** because the bibles were so graciously & “reverently” received. **Gratitude** for the **Pastor in Abersychan, Wales** who gifted money for bibles and for **Joseph Mokoena** who had the vision for us to give Bibles to the learners at Mojolefa from our very first visit to them. **Pray** that the Grade 7 learners will **read their bibles** as promised.

There were more blessings to come. Joseph, Alina, Rebecca & Tuba surprised us in “classroom” work by studying the SWYM Bible Correspondence Books. Tuba & Rebecca completed Books 1& 2 and have commenced Book 3 whilst Alina & Joseph have already commenced Book 4. **The group worked long & hard in English when Sesotho is their first language.** Nick worked with Alina & I worked with the rest of the group. Joseph will continue to lead the group in their bible studies and in preparation to kick start a Sunday School/Club at Uniting Reformed Church, located in Kgubetswana Township, which Pastor Dons Kritzinger is pastoring. **Gayle Staegemann** is producing teaching materials that will be suitable for this group to eventually teach. **Pray that Gayle** will have Godly wisdom & time to produce SWYM teaching materials. Nick has given Joseph the relevant teaching materials to commence Assemblies at the Combined Primary. **Joseph works diligently** at two jobs as a Gardener. **Please pray** that he will be able to manage morning assemblies and his regular work commitments.

From the **14th to the 16th November**, we have an outreach booked with one of the SWYM Trustees, Bert Pienaar in Badplass, which is about 4 hours North East of Pretoria. Freddy will be joining Nick & me for this outreach. We have a couple of hours of radio broadcast /outreach to do, plus most of Saturday & Sunday to do teaching. We will appreciate prayers for the radio, adult, youth & women ministries. It will be our **first visit** to Badplass but Bert has organised visiting teams on previous occasions.

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Amazing new developments are taking place. Pastor Jonathan Holdt of Bethany Baptist church has invited us to work in partnership with his church to further develop the Youth Ministry and to later initiate a schools ministry in his area. The **Organisers in Clarens** have also agreed in principle for us to further develop the Children & Youth work in Kgubetswana, Clarens. That would involve us visiting Clarens about 8 times a year. **ALL these new developments** will have to be in conjunction with our ongoing SWYM ministry. **Do pray** that we will have strength, stamina and good health to meet all our commitments. Once again, if you are considering the mission field, we have plenty of gospel opportunities in Southern Africa.

Items for Praise:

- For the wonderful answers to prayers for the recent SWYM Camp
- For the 40 + people who helped in practical & financial ways to make camp possible
- That Gayle is able to compile & print the SWYM Correspondence Course Books
- For the involvement of Kessia Simelane at two Tembisa clubs with Jenni Meyer
- For Freddy's acceptance at Sunnyside Primary for weekly assemblies
- Safe journeying mercies to the Sola 5 Conference in Cape Town
- For Dr Gray's generosity in allowing SWYM to use the campsite, without charge
- The unexpected new opportunities for SWYM partnerships with Bethany Baptist Church & Clarens Churches
- The Badplass outreach in November

- **Items for Prayer:**

- That the seeds sown at the camp will grow & bear fruit in season
- That Gayle will know God's wisdom in producing & printing the SWYM Correspondence Course Books (fast growing demands & expenses)
- Freddy will establish his role at Sunnyside AND take on another nearby school
- That petrol monies will come in for additional SWYM travel costs, (now more than double with ministry opportunities)
- Do pray for Alishea ,Wilna, Ronel, Freddy & Jenni as they labour in the schools ministry
- That the outreaches at Badplass will be a blessing
- We will be able to set up the SWYM Resource Centre, at the right place with the right materials and additional helpers
- That the adult bible study group in Clarens will grow in faith & numbers
- For more **prayer** supporters & **SWYM** workers, short term or long term
- That Nick & I and all SWYM missionaries will know safety and good health

We do covet your prayers and thank you for praying for the work of SWYM. Be encouraged, for the Lord surely hears and answers our prayers. Praise His holy name.

With our love & prayers

Nick and Sheila Court

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