

Nick and Sheila Court – Serving the LORD in South Africa



Dear Family & Friends,

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

December 2008
SWYM Prayer Letter 18

Come and let us celebrate the birth of God's own son, the gift of life eternal to all who believe.

BADPLASS OUTREACH 14th to the 16th November. It was our **first visit** to Badplass but SWYM Trustee, Bert Pienaar is a very good organiser. Freddy and his wife Lydia, Clive Randall, Nick & I and Bert of course appreciated the opportunity that God gave to us to share the gospel directly to adults and the children and **over the air waves**. There were **over 150 young people** and we taught them in English though on the radio, we had translation to local language. All went well and we thank you for praying for us. I have to say that we had no briefing, just rushed into the radio station and away we went. Thankfully, Freddy, Nick & I had **prepared our talks** well and my previous experience of radio in Romania proved very useful. We hope to return to Badplass some time in the next few months to minister to the children at Pastor Sibaya`s church.

SCHOOLS

We have been **enjoying** the many end of year plays and award ceremonies at our regular schools where we have been special guests. Ronell and her husband Malvin **will be leaving** our area to live in Hennenman, nearer to their two sons and their families. We have a **vacancy** for the assembly and library ministry at Busy Bee Primary. However, Ronell is hoping to start a SWYM ministry in Hennenman some 2-3 hours away from us. **Do pray** that some one will come forward for Busy Bee and that soon Ronell will become established in new schools. She is prayerful and diligent in her preparations and delivery of the bible stories. We plan to visit her & husband Malvin in January and will go calling with her to the local schools.

Mamelodi School is very keen and receptive to Wilna & Alishea bringing the gospel to their learners. When Nick & I went in to help prepare the **Grade 7`s** for attending High School, the Principal ,teachers and learners were pleased to report how “fortunate” they are to have Aunty Alishea & Aunty Wilna come in faithfully to them. **Gladys** was able to go for the **first time** with Wilna for an assembly. She was warmly welcomed at the school. We had **several opportunities** to minister to the Grade 7`s, do some crafts with some of them and give them some incentives like the bible book marks, cards, scarves, toothbrushes etc.

Freddy and his wife Lydia was invited to **Sunnyside** Nativity Play and the children felt bold enough when they had to throw some “snow dust” to throw it heartily at us in the front row! We saw something of our influence into that school when **Scripture** was learnt & quoted during the play. Also, we had a **surprise** when Sunnyside presented us with Christmas presents and lots and lots of thank you letters from Grade 1-3. How enlightening to read of the **spiritual awakening** in the hearts of these learners. Almost all of them wrote that they know that the Bible is the **Word of God** ,that there is only **one God** to worship, they understand the **true** meaning of Christmas, have learnt memory verses, songs and not to swear, lie and to obey their parents and teachers. In a country where many spirits and ancestors are worshipped, **we were humbled** to read that many have come to know that there is only one God, the “Bible God” that must be worshipped. What an encouragement! Be encouraged and continue to pray for these young people.

Nick and Sheila Court – Serving the LORD in South Africa

SWYM Correspondence Books- **Gayle Staegemann** has produced Book 5 and she has also written some gospel songs! Charmaine at Birchleigh Baptist Church has put music to the words and the results are biblical & delightful. Really Gayle is kept busy producing materials for teaching Sunday school or Clubs and **please pray** that God will guide her in the process.

Jenni Meyer

Jenni, Pastor Musa & Kessia, and a few Tembisa teachers have planned an **outreach in Tembisa** from the 8th to the 12th December for the children & young people. This is underway as I write. Jenni has the use of a local school and a willing band of helpers. **Jenni produced** the teaching materials and **Gayle** has printed the booklets for the purpose of this outreach. **Do pray** that many young people will come to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and those who are already Christians will grow in their faith and walk with the Lord.

SWYM Thanksgiving & Prayer

On the 6th December, a good number of us met for lunch, and for a time of praise & prayers at Gayle & Peter's house. This was a **FIRST** such occasion and we thank God for His faithfulness in supplying all our needs and growing the ministry of SWYM.

NEW PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENTS_We have met with Pastor Jonathan Holdt of Bethany Baptist church and the Sunday school teachers for two meetings already. We have attended their Sunday school meetings and were introduced to the church. We have joined in few formal and informal meetings before Sunday school went into recess for the holidays. We **do need your prayers** to help grow this Sunday School outreach, lead communal singing, motivate the present group of children, facilitate some teaching sessions, the first of which is booked for **the 24th January** and generally plan Holiday Bible Club and Camp for the next eight months.

The **CLAREN'S ORGANISERS** felt that it was best that we did not come down in December as everything shuts down in South Africa for the holidays but we are invited to visit them from the **27th January to the 31st**. The aim is to further develop the Children & Youth work in Clarens Kgubetswana Township, which Pastor Dons Kritzinger is pastoring. **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.

We **commence 2009** by attending the Grace Ministers Conference and we are pleased to be asked to **assist** with the registrations. After which, we hit the ground running! We **need your prayers** for strength and Godly wisdom.

AFRICAN PASTORS` CONFERENCE 19th to 21st January at Ora et Labora. A team is in place to assist with this conference. Nick did the brochure and advertising. **Wilna & Louise** will do the catering. Do pray that all the books needed for the conference will be here on time for **Gayle** to catalogue and have ready for the Pastors.

In February, we have **Prefects Leadership Camp** booked. We are definitely going to need extra helpers to run this training programme. How about you, are you free to help?

RESOURCES

Do pray that SWYM will find an appropriate place to establish a **Resource Centre** as soon as possible and that additional workers will be available to help in this ministry. Once again, if you are considering the mission field, we have plenty of direct & indirect gospel opportunities in Southern Africa.

Nick and Sheila Court – Serving the LORD in South Africa

Items for Praise:

- That the Badplass outreach provided so many opportunities to share the Gospel
- For the wonderful relationships and invitations to the various schools
- That Gayle is able to compile SWYM Correspondence Course Books, other teaching materials and write appropriate songs
- For Jenni Meyer and the partnership of Pastor Musa & Kessia Simelane and team at the Holiday Bible Club in the Tembisa School
- For Freddy's assembly ministry at Sunnyside Primary and hopefully a new school in 2009
- Safety and journeying mercies everyday
- For Dr Gray's generosity in allowing SWYM to use the campsite, without charge
- For the SWYM partnerships with Bethany Baptist Church & Clarens Churches

Items for Prayer:

- That the seeds sown at all the assemblies and clubs and outreaches will grow & bear fruit in season
- That the children will be kept safe during the holidays and that they might remember and respond to God's word
- Freddy's possible new opening at Oostende School in 2009
- Do pray for that a replacement helper or two will be found for Ronell at Busy Bee primary
- That Ronell will establish a SWYM ministry in Hennenman
- That Gladys Sithole will make a regular commitment to Mamelodi
- We do need a 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 need your prayers and thank you for praying for the work of SWYM. You are important to the ministry and we thank you for praying for us. Enjoy the blessings of Christmas and the New Year.

With our love & prayers

Nick and Sheila Court

SWYM South African Postal Address: Nick & Sheila Court, PostNet Suite C335, Private Bag X 18, Lynnwood Ridge, 0040, South Africa.

UK Postal Address: SWYM UK, c/o. Emmanuel ECC, PO Box 3020, Chippenham, Wiltshire.

Mobile telephone: 072 959 5743.

Email nick.sheilacourt@yahoo.co.uk and/or nick.sheilacourt@gmail.com

Website: www.swym.org

NPO Registration number: 048-124-NPO