



February 2009
SWYM Prayer Letter 19

Dear Family & Friends,

This is our first 2009 prayer letter and greeting to you. Let us exhort one another to fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. Hebrews 12:2. The year began with Nick & I attending the Grace Ministers' Conference where Pastors Stuart Olyott & Conrad Mbewe were the main speakers. We were glad to assist with the conference registration and were truly blessed by the bible teaching.

The AFRICAN PASTORS' CONFERENCE took place from 19th to 21st January at Ora et Labora. This was also a blessed occasion as delegates & speakers interacted well together. The delegates were particularly pleased with the writing pads, pens and free books made available to them by generous sponsors. **David Peyton** recorded the conference messages on CD, plus other CD teaching messages and these were made available at minimal prices. **Gayle Staegemann & Kathy Peyton** worked together on the book table. **Wilna, Louise** and **Edward** did magnificent catering throughout the conference.

Almost immediately after the conference, Nick & I ran the John Chapman Training Course on **Evangelism** at Bethany Baptist Church for the Sunday School teachers and other members of the congregation.

The **CLARENS ORGANISERS** invited us to visit them from the **27th January to the 31st**. What a blessing! Praise God! A Sunday School commenced at the end of January in Kgubetswana, Uniting Reformed Church. Pastor Dons Kritzinger arranged with members of his congregation to continue with the Bible Teaching/Training. The result is, Toba, Joseph, Alina and Rebecca started a Sunday School. We praise God for their enthusiasm and perseverance in studying when they have mostly all left school decades ago.

We return to Clarens in March to do **non residential Prefects Leadership Training** with three schools. The local police Inspector is keen to assist on the training programme and to provide some IT equipment for use. Clarens really is a great example of people working together for the general & spiritual good of the community.

Prefects Leadership Camp took place in February. What a blessing! As usual, the majority of learners & teachers who attended the camp had never "camped" before. Thank you for praying; we had sufficient and able assistance. **Two Pastors** who had attended the African Pastors Conference came to observe our work. The result is we have booked to do further training with their organisation, which is in Secunda, on the 12th March. **Theodore Gray** was our youngest assistant and he did a grand job, along with **Nathan, Olivier and Carol Davies**. Once again, Wilna, Louise and **Helene** produced many nourishing meals. We had managerial help from Neil Kemp but he is returning to the USA again.

SCHOOLS

In between all the block bookings for camp, training, outreaches etc, we have maintained the regular schools' ministry. We visited Ronell & her husband Malvin in January and did some "cold calling" on two schools. The outcome, Ronell has commenced a SWYM ministry in Hennenman, similar to that of Busy Bee. We visited Ronell & family again in February and clearly she is being blessed through this schools' ministry. She is so excited about how the gospel is being received at this little way out farm school. Meanwhile, **Carol Davies** is helping out with the library ministry at Busy Bee Primary and **Gladys Sithole** is helping us whenever she can in the schools.

Alishea is now engaged to be married but continues with Wilna in the Mamelodi School. **Freddy continues** at Sunny side and has visited the second school nearby.

SWYM Correspondence Books- Gayle Staegemann continues to produce Study Books and we have seen a definite rise in the use of SWYM correspondence books, which Gayle generously produces for all SWYM contacts. Do pray that **God will guide** her as she does this important ministry and that soon all these correspondence books will be become available on the website.

NEW PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENTS

How we praise God for His grace & favour. Like the new Sunday school in Clarens, Bethany Baptist Church has increased its Sunday school numbers. We have been working closely with Pastor Jonathan Holdt and the Sunday school teachers to raise the profile of the Sunday school and engender a love for God's word. Much prayers and actions go into this ministry. We **thank you for your prayers** for us to sustain this Sunday school growth, lead the worship and to motivate the children in a godly manner. Do pray that before we go on UK deputation at the end of March, a **leader or two** will emerge to take over from us.

BADPLASS OUTREACH

You may remember that last November we visited Badplass with Bert Pineaar, SWYM Trustee. We return Friday 6th March for a packed two days programme. This will include teaching adults, running a mini Holiday Bible Club and a radio programme. We **appreciate** your prayers for safe travel & stamina for this work.

RESOURCES

Do pray that SWYM will be able to establish a **Resource Centre** as soon as possible. We have identified where an extension could provide such a facility but we are awaiting technical advice and quotes etc. Let me say it again, if you are **considering the mission field**, we have plenty of direct & indirect gospel opportunities in Southern Africa. Why don't you join us?

Items for Praise:

- That the African Pastors' Conference provided opportunities to share about the SWYM correspondence books and to "pencil in training" with some of the Pastors
- That Gayle is able to compile SWYM Correspondence Course Books, produce other teaching materials and write appropriate songs
- For Freddy's continued assembly ministry at Sunnyside Primary and the second school, Oostende.
- Safety and journeying mercies everyday
- For Dr Gray's continued generosity in allowing SWYM to use the campsite, without charge
- For the SWYM partnerships with Bethany Baptist Church & Clarens Churches
- For Ronell establishing a SWYM ministry in Hennenman
- For Carol Davies & Gladys Sithole's present help in the schools
- For the wonderful invitations from churches & organisations to take up on SWYM training

Items for Prayer:

- For the Badplass outreach 6 & 7th March. Pray for spiritual fruit
- That the Secunda Training Day will be a help & blessing to the Pastors
- For the non residential Leadership Training for 3 schools in Clarens, from 17th- 20th March
- That Freddy will develop good, lasting relationships at Oostende School
- That Carol & Gladys will be blessed through the Busy Bee library & schools ministry
- We do need a SWYM Resource Centre, at the right place with the right materials and additional helpers
- That Bethany & Clarens Sunday School will continue to grow in numbers and faith
- For more **prayer** supporters & **SWYM** workers, short term or long term
- That the considerable travel costs will be met for us and other SWYM workers
- That Nick & I and all SWYM missionaries will know safety and good health

We do covet your prayers for the work of SWYM. Be encouraged for God is at work.

*With our love & prayers
Nick and Sheila Court*

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