



Dear Family & Friends

BADPLAAS OUTREACH 6th & 7th MARCH

After conducting 2 of our regular schools` assemblies on Friday, we travelled up to Badplaas which is about 320KM and through to the nearby Township. Pastor Sibiya met us and we proceeded straight to a **large tent** that was set up for our visit. This was in a field without much facilities. The children were waiting! They began singing as we took our materials, boards, easel, etc into the tent. **Nick** began the club whilst I had a moment to get my thoughts together for the Bible Story. All went well. We stayed around in the tent until the evening session which was **supposed to be** a training workshop for the Sunday School and Youth workers. Unfortunately, we had deposited our snacks and water bottles at our camp for the night which was in Badplaas. We wished that we had brought some refreshments with us but there was no going back - Soon **young people started arriving**, music equipment was being set up, and then some more adults pitched up. Nick began to **think of a sermon** as he said “I do not think we are doing a Training Seminar.” His notes were back at camp. When we finally started, there was no Training Seminar! They all expected preaching! Nick spoke on **John 8:12** - I am the light of the world which he had prepared for the **radio broadcast** the next day. Nick also addressed the many young teenage men there, giving the examples of Samuel and Timothy as young men being used by God. When I was called up to address the gathering, even as I took those few steps to the front I had no idea what I was going to say. **God is good and ever present to help us.** I looked at the many young people gathered there and encouraged those who might be Christians present to love the Lord with all their heart, soul and mind. Matthew 22:37, and for those who are not yet Christians to ask God to give them the faith to believe in His Son Jesus Christ and to love Him with a passion. For the Youth Workers present, I shared some of the Protocols for working with Children & Young people.

Saturday began with the children and their teachers ready and waiting for us in the tent. We ran the Club from 9.00am to 12.00noon. We were delayed by the teachers wanting to find out more about training and the SWYM correspondence course books. We followed Pastor Sibiya at a **swift pace** in our car, avoiding potholes, animals and people on the roads and got safely to **Radio Alpha**. The station has a listening audience of 240,000. Once again, no time to catch our breath, we were immediately onto the airwaves. We had carefully planned and prepared our messages beforehand. We had **one hour of air time** with some **subsequent encouraging phone calls** and responses. Thank you for your prayers for us for safe travel & stamina for this work. God provided it! A **new development** is that we have been asked to put **our talks** for Children & Young People on CD`s so that Pastor Sibiya can **broadcast** these on Radio Alpha. **Leon Harmse**, from Birchleigh Baptist Church, joins us in May. He has Seminary training and sound recording experience. Together, we should be able to produce these much needed talks for broadcasting.

SECUNDA TRAINING DAY 12th MARCH

Thank you for praying. The day was indeed a help & blessing to the pastors, student pastors and ourselves. We set off at 6.00am and arrived at 8.15am. It was our first journey and visit to this area and we wanted to get there in good time. The Pastors had given us very good directions!

Training began promptly at 9.00am and we finished at approximately 3.15pm. At 10.00am, we stopped for hot drinks and some creamy buns & cakes. We were ready for a cup of tea. Lunch time, we had some tasty fried cabbage with bread and cold drink. The entire day and time spent with our new friends at Secunda, **Adullam Mission was a blessing.** They were eager to learn & participate in the training and we were delight in developing other people for growth in ministry. The Pastors hope to use the **SWYM Correspondence Course Books** at their local schools in the Life Orientation Classes. Many of the Pastors have completed Course Books 1 to 5. The 18 people who attended the Training Day asked for **certificates of attendance.** Nick has not issued these before but he devised and posted off 18 certificates earlier this morning. Pastors Thomas & Phillip have **asked us to partner with them** in the schools and for us **to facilitate and train** them eventually to run Prefects Leadership Training for their local Government Schools. We thank you for praying for blessings in future joint ministry. Do pray that we might be able to help these Pastors to grow in their skills and abilities to share the Gospel in creative ways within their schools.

CLARENS OUTREACH

We returned to Clarens on the 17th to the 21st March. Our main purpose was to do **two days non residential Prefects Leadership Training** with three schools. The High School & Intermediate School sent their prefects and we had 28 keen young people. Unfortunately, the Primary School was unable to send their prefects due to

Nick and Sheila Court – Serving the LORD in South Africa

academic pressures. Nevertheless, we were able to conduct assemblies each day at the primary, during our visit. The **local police Inspector** did lend us some IT equipment for the training. He also dropped in to see what we were doing and sent a Constable and her colleague to speak about choosing South African Police Service (SAPS) as a career. They were very **impressed** by what they saw & heard and wanted the **training for their Police Dept.** We have booked to do **Team Building** with them on the 4th June 2009. What an unexpected opening!

We delighted in spending time with **Kgubetswana Uniting Reformed Church** members, namely Toba, Joseph, Alina and Rebecca. It was such an encouragement to hear them speak of the Sunday School **with about 20 regulars.** Another member, also called Alina, has joined the group and the leaders felt that she must also do the SWYM Correspondence Course. She was willing and **Joseph will supervise** her SWYM Bible study. We also taught this group a few songs that they can teach their Sunday School youth. These are **songs that Gayle Staegemann has written & Charmaine has put to music.** Ah, and Joseph is such a blessing & help. He had the time off again and we worked wonderfully well together. It was a privilege for us to go to a local farm with **Joseph** to witness him **commencing a Bible Study Group.** Do pray for Joseph as he labours for the Lord in that part of His vineyard.

We are also thankful that now Nick has had a **tow bar fitted** to the Mazda, he was able to **borrow a trailer** from John & Denise Hocknell to carry all the games & equipment down to Clarens. The **Hocknells** have said that we **can borrow** the trailer again for the June trip to Clarens.

We have also planned Prefects Leadership Training for an **Intermediate farm school near Clarens** and hopefully other farm schools will join in the training on the **3rd June.** We returned from Clarens with grateful, thankful hearts. The Clarens Organisers are both generous and encouraging in ministry.

SWYM CORRESPONDENCE COURSE BOOKS

This week, we had a **meeting with a Publisher** which Gayle Staegemann organised. The Course Books Ministry have outgrown Gayle's capacity to print and bind together to meet the growing demand. We need to look at what is **cost effective** and to have these books published for ready use. However, we do need prayers that all printing costs will be met. Will you as a **matter of urgency pray** that sponsors might delight in supporting this ministry? Pray too that Gayle will be inspired as she writes further books. We also need to get all SWYM publications available on the website. Pray that this will happen. Thank you so much.

SWYM RESOURCE CENTER

Praise God SWYM ministry is growing. It is **outgrowing our garage** and small two bedroom accommodation. We desperately **need to build on** or put up large sheds to create a resource centre. This brings **added costs** but will you pray with us that this need will be met? Keith from Birchleigh Baptist Church is able to undertake this building project.

SCHOOLS

In between all the block bookings for training & outreaches etc, we have maintained the regular schools' ministry. We visited Ronell & her husband Malvin at the end of February in **Hennenman** to support the work of SWYM and Birchleigh Baptist Church. We had a time of fellowship around food and a Bible Study led by Pastor Irving. Ronell is enjoying sharing the gospel at the rural farm school.

Meanwhile, **Carol Davies** and **Gladys Sithole** are helping out with the library ministry at Busy Bee Primary. Carol is in between jobs at present.

Alishea is planning her wedding for later on in this year but continues with Wilna in the Mamelodi School. We do need more Schools' Workers. **Freddy continues** at Sunny side and has visited the second school nearby, though this is much slower in taking off. Not deterred, Freddy visited another new school nearby with the hope of getting an opening for the gospel in the new term.

LADIES TEA - CONSTANTIA PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

I, Sheila, was the **MC for this event** at our church. It was a very blessed evangelistic event which Lorette and the other ladies organised. Several non Christians attended the tea. The Speaker, Magriet Koen gave a very **clear** Gospel message. I have never been asked to be an MC before but I took the opportunity for the sake of the gospel.

PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENTS

Like the new Sunday school in Clarens, Bethany Baptist Church has increased its Sunday school numbers. We go each Sunday to this Sunday School. Pray that the recent growth will be sustained. We have been working closely with Pastor Jonathan Holdt to plan events for the Sunday School including a **Training Day in June** and Holiday Bible Club (**HBC**) in July. When we are on deputation, **Chris, the Assistant Pastor** will lead the Praise & worship Sessions in the Sunday School and **progress plans for the HBC.** Pray that he will do so in an enthusiastic and godly manner.

MISSIONS CONFERENCE 28th to 31st MAY 2009. Theme - *Not Beyond our Reach*

This conference is being held at Constantia Park Baptist Church (CPBC) and Nick & I have responsibility for a workshop on **Saturday 30th May** for the Children & Young People. We have invited the "Rainbow Club" young people from **Dorothea Mission** and the **youth from Bethany** Sunday School. Both organisations are encouraging & supportive to us. We do need much prayer & wisdom to put planning systems in place before we leave for UK deputation on Friday 27th March.

SWYM UK Deputation - 27th March to 1st May 2009

We are looking forward to visiting many individuals and church groups in the UK to share about the work of SWYM. We are thankful that this is possible. Your interest, practical help and ongoing prayers are vital to our ministry.

Items for Praise:

- That the Badplaas Outreach gave so many opportunities to share the gospel, including the Radio broadcasts
- That Ronell is taking delight in sharing the gospel at the rural farm school in Hennenman
- That the Training Seminar at Secunda, Adullam Mission Station was such a joy
- Gayle is still able to produce SWYM Correspondence Course Books although this ministry is fast outgrowing her capacity to print & produce books at home
- That all the schools are presently covered with SWYM workers
- For the wonderful new opportunities to share the gospel through training, teaching, correspondence courses and radio
- For Leon Harmse who will be joining SWYM on the 1st May 2009

Items for Prayer:

- For the Badplaas invitation to make teaching CD's directed at Children & Young People for Radio Broadcasts
- That the Secunda, Adullam Partnership will develop in the right direction
- For spiritual growth at the 3rd June non residential Leadership Training for the Farm Schools in Clarens
- That the 4th June Clarens Police Team Building Workshop will bear spiritual fruit
- That Freddy will develop good, lasting relationships at Oostende School & the new Primary School
- That sufficient funds will come in to publish the SWYM Correspondence Course Books
- That Carol, Gladys, Alishea, Wilna & Ronell will be blessed through the schools ministry
- A SWYM Resource Centre will be funded & established with additional helpers
- That Bethany Baptist Church & Clarens Uniting Reformed Church Sunday Schools will continue to grow in numbers and faith
- For more **prayer** supporters & **SWYM** workers, short term or long term
- That Nick & I and all SWYM missionaries will know safety and good health
- That our Deputation Visit to the UK will encourage prayer partners, meet ministry needs and add more workers to SWYM

We do sincerely covet your prayers for the work of SWYM. The ministry is growing, so be encouraged for it is God who gives the increase.

With our love & prayers

Nick and Sheila Court

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