



Dear Family & Friends

## SWYM & SPORTSREACH – JOINT SHORT TERM MINISTRY

*Psalm 115: 1 Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and faithfulness.*

We rejoice in the Lord's goodness and favour upon the recent joint ministry of SWYM & SPORTSREACH

**A team of 6 people arrived from the UK** on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February and worked practically non-stop until their return on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March. Will & Sue Marsden, Directors of SportsReach, headed up the team of Coaches, namely Sooty, John, Nick & Lizzie Hyde.

**So where did the team work?** They worked in Kempton Park, Clarens, Dullstroom, Pretoria & Tembisa.

**What did they do?** The team conducted assemblies, bible clubs or extended assemblies, life orientation classes, soccer & net ball classes, played soccer matches, taught hundreds of learners soccer in public & schools' sports fields, took devotions with the Police, Fire Officers, Municipality/Council workers and sang at OR Tambo airport prior to their departure. On each occasion the gospel message was shared, with one High School inviting the team back just to answer searching questions from the learners. The amazing and joyful thing was that without prompting, one learner stood up and haltingly but boldly proclaimed that she had come to know the Lord in the week. The team prayed with many individual learners who showed a desire to follow the Lord Jesus. Thousands of learners in the schools and community heard the gospel message.

**Did the teams face challenges?** Yes - we certainly did! The main one being when Nick's car, which towed the trailer, stopped dead on the road on the way back from church in Pretoria. We prayed and Sheila was about to phone Keith from Pastor Irving's church when guess who should stop to help us? Lucy, Keith's wife. She & Keith are people "in the know", and Lucy immediately phoned another believer, a mechanic who came out to diagnose the problem, "**cam belt gone**", and to tow Nick & the car back home. Meanwhile, Lucy had taken Sheila, Lizzie & John to join the others at Pastor Irving's church for fellowship lunch and the afternoon service.

**No car- would the trip to Dullstroom be cancelled?** Now, the day before this event, the electricians on the Renault Meganne had packed up & Nick Hyde had to drive all the way back from Clarens with the driver's window stuck in the open position! This meant someone had to do security duty by staying with & watching the vehicle whenever we parked or stopped. Whilst still digesting the news that the cam belt had broken and the Mazda car firmly out of action, Gayle Staegemann offered her 7 seater vehicle for us to travel up to Dullstroom - it just meant travelling up a little later that day.

We arrived in Dullstroom safely though later than scheduled but what a blessing! The SWYM ministry in Dullstroom advanced by years during the three days we were there - only God can do that!

Sheila wept openly at the good byes at the airport. She was overwhelmed at His provision and how well the Lord had knitted the team together and blessed the ministry with His great grace & favour.

**Will SportsReach return?** They left a lot of their sports equipment behind and yes- it is all our hope that God will make it possible for them to return in February 2013. If you want to join this hard working team, do not hesitate to contact SWYM or SportsReach Directors, Will & Sue Marsden. [www.sportsreach.org.uk](http://www.sportsreach.org.uk)

We owe **thanks** to the many people who worked behind the scenes like in helping with accommodation, prepared meals, trailer loan, vehicle loan, roadside help & towing vehicles, and of course, the fervent prayers of SportsReach families left behind in the UK, and the prayer partners of both SWYM & SPORTSREACH.

**Was it hard work?** It certainly was **very** hard work- before, during and after the joint ministry. For example, we completed the laundry and ironing jobs only this morning. **Would SWYM undertake joint ministry again?** Yes, with God's help, we will.

**Do we want more short termers to join us in SWYM?** Yes, for we were most encouraged by the SportsReach team and through the past individuals who came out to minister with SWYM.

After the *mountain top* experience, we must face the everyday ministry on our own again, but we do have and know the tangible help of the Holy Spirit. We are not alone.



## Outreaches & Training

### **BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE BOOKS & ADMINISTRATION**

We face the urgent need for a full time helper with the administration of the course books which go to Sunday Schools, individuals and many prisoners. This ministry has grown and can no longer be an “add on” to our everyday ministry. Please pray that **God will raise up** the right person or persons to do this work. *How about you?* Can you give time to this ministry? Maybe you are not keen on front line work but you are gifted with administrative skills. Do contact us if you become even mildly interested as you read about this need.

**CAMP-** We are booked to take the Children & Youth Programme at Lynwood Baptist Church Family Camp from Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March to Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March. Do pray that we will prepare all the right teaching materials and that boys & girls will come to faith whilst they are still young. We are keen to be building upon the spiritual work of parents, grandparents, Pastors, Sunday School & youth workers etc. at this camp.

**Clarens Outreach - March 26<sup>th</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> April.** As usual, we shall be teaching the bible in the local schools and Nick may be preaching in one of the churches. It is Missions Month at the Clarens NG Kerk and we are pleased to be on their programme.

**Bloemfontein - 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> April** - a new outreach, where we will be conducting Visually Speaking Training with Adult Workers at an Orphanage and demonstrating practical bible teaching with the orphans.

**Easter Sunday Special** with Children & Youth – 8<sup>th</sup> April. Please pray that this new evangelistic outreach will happen and that it will prove to be of spiritual significance to participants and listeners alike.

**May 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>** – Constantia Park Baptist Church missions week. Please pray for this evangelistic event as well as the SWYM Children & Youth in Missions event on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May.

**CARS-** please pray that we will know just what to do about the 17 year old Mazda with broken cam belt and the 8 years old Renault Megan with its increasing need for repairs which is always much more expensive than the Mazda. We are praying... and having used Gayle's new 2x4 vehicle, we are wondering-- should we go for such a vehicle? It would make sense when we have visiting teams, which we hope would indeed be more regularly from now on. **Pray for finances** and that we will make the **right** decisions.

Finally, **a very BIG thank you, to** all those who supported us during our January 2012 Home Assignment in the UK. We appreciated all the church visitations and preaching opportunities for Nick, SWYM mid-week meetings, meals, accommodation, gifts and gracious encouragements from God's people. We particularly appreciated the opportunity to exhibit SWYM at the Carey Conference and to talk briefly about our ministry at the conference. Our **families** contributed to make the time special too through hospitality, meals, phone calls, visits together and through many practical gifts and treats. These times have become so infrequent since our ministry in South Africa but always special and deeply engraved upon our memory's walls.

## Praise/Prayer items

### **Praise God for the following:**

*For health, safety & sustaining power throughout our UK Deputation*

*For accommodation and car transport to carry out our Deputation/Home Assignments*

*For the many churches, including the small village churches who gave opportunities for preaching and financial support*

*For those who made and/or donated materials for SWYM schools*

*For people like you who faithfully pray for the ministry of SWYM and who practically work in the local schools' ministry*

*Praise & glory to God for the blessed joint work between SWYM & SportsReach*

### **Pray for the following events from March to May 2012**

For on- going short and long term voluntary workers

For the urgent SWYM vehicles repairs and or finances for a new vehicle

For urgent administrative help with the Bible Correspondence Course Books

That the Clarens & Bloemfontein March outreaches will bear fruit

For the Easter Sunday Special and the Children & Youth in Missions in May

That SportsReach might have the necessary funds & personnel to return in February 2013

Friends, we thank you for your prayers, your practical support and for your financial contributions for the on-going & **growing** work of SWYM. Please rejoice with us at the recent & blessed joint short term ministry with SportsReach UK. Be encouraged - God is at work in Southern Africa!

With our love, prayers & grateful thanks, Nick and Sheila Court

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**RSA NPO Registration number:** 048-124-NPO

**UK Charity Number:** 1124118

### **FINANCIAL DETAILS:-**

**RSA -** First National Bank, Account Name: Step Wise Youth Ministry, Account Number: 62149844559,

Branch: Lynnwood, Branch Code: 252045, Swift code: FIRNZAJJ

**UK -** Lloyds TSB Bank, Chippenham Branch, Account Name: Step Wise Youth Ministry,

Account Number: 03217242, Branch Code: 30-91-99