



July 2013

SWYM Prayer Letter 49

Dear Family & Friends

**1 John 4:19 - We love because He first loved us**

Short Termers- Arrivals & Departures

What an exceptional time of ministry we have experienced these last two months! Of course, having additional helpers or Short Termers made all the difference- - so we are thankful to our ministry partners like Grace Baptist Mission, Crosslinks and Emmanuel & Widcombe Evangelical Churches, UK.

**Mathew** Thomas arrived first for three months followed by **Emily & Victoria** for five weeks through Grace Baptist Mission. Later **Helen** Cobbald arrived through Crosslinks for five weeks also. Each new arrival settled in very quickly and was ready to embark on new ministry adventures. At times, it must have felt like `Paul` in the New Testament with never a dull moment. Within 15 days, we had completed 3 Bible Clubs and travelled over two thousand kilometres. As I write, Emily & Victoria are preparing to return to the UK later tonight. They will be greatly missed for their diligence, hard work and godly attitudes.

Holiday Bible Clubs

**Holiday Bible Clubs x 3**

1. Skogheim Family Conference, near Port Shepstone was the first Bible Club. We taught on the `Life of Paul` with associated bible verses, songs and daily Puppet news. Emily & Victoria really made these sessions popular with their excellent use of the puppets and the daily scripts which always reinforced the bible teaching. Mathew took charge of the games and each afternoon, all three of them had marvellous opportunities for making new friends and sight-seeing. We were all able to attend the evening seminars led by Ronald Kalifungwa, Zambia, Iain Campbell, Hebrides and Mike Marsland, South Africa. Once again, we were in awe of the Grace of God.

2. This Holiday Bible Club took place in **Mooi River Baptist Church** where Clinton Stone is the Pastor. All of us were just bowled over by the hospitality and friendship of these dear folks. This made facilitating the Bible Club there all the more special and enjoyable. The folks took us on a Game Drive one afternoon after Club. By now, we were all getting into a routine with the activities of Bible Club, including some face painting. Our short Termers were surprised by the *very cold weather* at Mooi River but were *warmed* by the *kindness* of the church brethren. We made our way back to Kempton Park, **welcomed Helen** the day before commencing Holiday Bible Club number three.

3. The third Bible Club took place at **Lynnwood Baptist Church –LBC-** but prior to HBC, the Short Termers, Nick & I and some LBC folks all took part in leaflet drop for the Club. It was our joy and privilege to present again on the `Life of Paul` and to work alongside Helen, Tim Phillips and other members of LBC. The musical abilities of Helen, Victoria and Emily greatly added to the singing and appreciation of these teaching songs. The Puppet House and `Newsflash` gripped the attention of all the children which always served to reinforce the Bible teaching. Further **friendships** were forged between the LBC young people and Short Termers as well as friendships with Birchleigh Baptist Church young adults.

Schools and Clarens Outreach

We **multiplied our efforts** going into Kempton Park, Farm schools and Inner City Schools. To share the gospel in both small and large schools is indeed a privilege and a God given opportunity. We are **thankful and pray** that many children will come to faith in the Lord Jesus, whilst they are still young. With the Short Termers agreement, we each studied the `Street Wise` stories which told of certain houses and the people who met Jesus. We also joined in celebrating (former President) *Mandela`s 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday* with the schools. It was a great South African way to be included and to celebrate this highly respected Leader`s birthday.

Soon, we were on our way to **Clarens for outreach**. Mathew, meanwhile, had remained in Kempton Park in the care of Pastor Irving. Mathew had a week of ministry work in **Tembisa** in connection with Birchleigh Baptist Church. We arrived the first day in Clarens, in time to greet the Managers of Tshepong, to arrange the week`s work and to help serve the daily meal. Clarens **did not disappoint** with the numerous opportunities to share the Gospel in all the local schools, learning Disability Centre, Municipality etc. Helen, Emily and Victoria had several Classes each day at a Primary School also.

Again, the girls were amazed at the warmth of welcome in Clarens and by the generosity of the Organisers. They really **appreciated** their rooms, glowing fires and electric blankets. Yes- it is cold in Kempton Park and we have no electric fires and electric blankets- at least not yet. It is cold though and the electric blankets are probably a necessity and not a luxury. The musical abilities of the girls proved a blessing in gospel work and their skills with the Puppets drew the Children`s attention to the gospel message each time. By now Helen was getting tired so we **postponed** another planned outreach to Hennenman and gave her and Mathew a full Monday off upon our return to Kempton Park.

### Pak-A-Bag Scheme

Some ladies from Constantia Park Baptist Church have made several bags for us but we are **yet to get time** to fill these bags and to hand out to children at designated schools. A church in **Wales** is also behind this project and we are truly thankful for their involvement.

### Biblical Counselling Studies at Lynnwood Baptist Church

Did we keep up with the missed April module? Only in part, as we viewed the lectures on DVD. So we are now much further behind with that, than anticipated.

The next module is due in August AND since then, we have agreed to write **The 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith** for Children. Yes- for Children! The idea originated from LBC Elders, Dr Wayne Mack & Pastor Sybrand de Swardt who are busy teaching the 1689 Doctrine to their Adult Bible class. Meanwhile, Nick has been busy writing, in between the other ministry work. You may **remember the encouragements** we had teaching the `The Young Peacemaker` at Lynwood Baptist Church Sunday School? Well, I think that inspired Nick & I to agree to writing for the children, the 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith. Writing takes a particular skill and Presenting or teaching that material to the Children, demands another skill. Those who aspire to be good teachers will know something about that. Do PRAY for us.

### Praise/Prayer items

#### Praise God for the following:

For the ministry work of Emily & Victoria

For stamina and grace to do all the work in the past two months

The opportunity to write and to teach the 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith to the Children at LBC

Another Clarens outreach in July with involvement from our Short Term Workers

#### Pray for the following events in June/July and beyond

For present Short Term Workers from the UK – Matthew and Helen

For David Cornes, Crosslinks, who will join us in September for 10 months

Our on-going Schools` Ministry and Biblical Counselling Studies in 2013

For clarity in writing and teaching the 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith to the Children at LBC

**To our South African friends, we want to particularly thank you for your recent and on-going hospitality and support to all our UK Short Termers. We truly covet the prayers of All God`s people, everywhere! Do be encouraged - for God is at work in South Africa.**

With our love & prayers

Nick & Sheila

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#### 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