



March 2014

SWYM Prayer Letter 52

Dear Family & Friends

Hebrews 11:8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was calledand he went out, not knowing where he was going

Introduction

Is it a cold wind, or just a wind of change, blowing through the peaks and valleys of time? This is our 10th year of voluntary, missionary service in South Africa, by God`s Grace. We look back in amazement. Yes - God has been good to us, and in the main, it has all been pleasant sailing. But what is to happen next? We do not know, but what we do know is that **God is Sovereign**. We feel a little bit like Abraham when he was called out of his familiar place to go to an unfamiliar place. What is the reason? An initial outright refusal at the Home Affairs Office (Pretoria) to even give us the official forms for re-application and extension of visas! This was a totally new and unexpected response to polite enquiries. However, at the 3rd Home Affairs Office that we visited, we got the much needed papers. We are still a long way from getting the extensions as we are still awaiting the Police Clearance Certificates before we can submit our applications to the Home Affairs Office. **Pray** that the Officials at the Germiston Home Affairs Office will **accept our papers**, when that time finally comes, and **process successfully** before our current 3 year visas come to an end on the 15th May. *So far- it is going very slowly indeed, but what is impossible with man is possible with God.*

SWYM Schools` Ministry

Amidst the seemingly “cold” winds, the schools` ministry certainly feels warm. This includes our February visits to the **schools in Clarens** with Joseph & Mpho. The Educators continue to give positive feedback on our work amongst the Learners. David had a wonderful demonstration of God`s Grace. A Learner at Bible Club was disruptive and he was given some time out; later he was invited back into the session. At the end of Club, he was given a sweet along with all the other children. However, he returned the sweet to David saying that he did not deserve the sweet because of his bad behaviour, and David was able to say to him - that is so like God`s Grace; we do not deserve His grace because of our sinfulness yet God freely gives it because He loves us. The **Mamelodi Primary** and **Lynnwood Pre Primary** Assemblies are going great. David had well over **65 Learners** attend his Youth Group at Lynnwood Baptist Church, all from his Mamelodi School. **Pray that David & the Church Leaders** will know how to best deal with the problem of such **BIG** numbers! As the term finishes, we have the privilege again of taking the Assemblies at Merit Mornings, in the presence of Learners, Parents, and Guardians & School Governing Body Members.

Lynnwood Baptist Church

We commenced **SMTI studies - (Strengthening Ministries Training Institute)**, given by Dr Mack in February. Now into March and we are studying the "The What, Why and How of Building and Sustaining Good, Positive, Godly Relationships". Lectures are always **deeply** rooted in Scripture. At **Sunday School**, the children were learning about Jesus being the Saviour, Prophet, Priest & King. Next, it was a lesson on *Free Will*, linked to choices & consequences. It builds us up in the faith to see the children grasp these doctrines at such an early age. We can say with the Hymn writer "*How the Grace of God amazes me*".

Crèche Ministry

Helpers are really putting a lot into their preparation and teaching at Crèche, and they are being rewarded as the children respond to biblical teaching at their level.

SWYM Bible Correspondence Course

Do pray for Anita Dekker & her family. She is single handedly managing this ministry and she is a busy lady with her own business responsibilities. Yet, she serves joyfully by ensuring prisoners get the Word of God and have opportunity to respond to the Living Word.

PAK-A-BAG SCHEME & BIBLES

In Clarens, we drove through rains and slippery, muddy terrain to take some promised bags with goodies to a small farm school. It reminded me of an old UK chocolate advert depicting a hazardous journey “*all because the lady loves milk tray*”. On the way back from the farm school, Nick spotted a **hub cap** lying on the deserted road and he wanted to get out of the clean, dry car **to walk into the mud** to pick it up to put it safely on the side of the road for the hopefully **returning owner** to retrieve. I was imploring him not to go out into the deep muddy road, but to drive around the still shiny debris. When Nick got out of the car and picked the thing up, he noticed that in fact the hub cap **belonged to our car**. It had shaken itself loose from our own vehicle. A good thing he did not listen to me! A few pictures for your encouragement



Susanna Clarke from Carmarthen Church, Wales
- We had her able help for a week



Children receiving Pak-A-Bags at the remote Farm School, (end of muddy road), in Clarens

Praise/Prayer items

Praise God for the following:

For a fruitful, February week of ministry in Clarens
For David`s fast growing Youth Group on Wednesdays
For the blessing of joy in the Schools` Ministry
For the relaxing moments & help from Susanna Clarke, Missionary working in Empangeni
The opportunity of learning & teaching God`s Word at SMTI & Sunday School, Crèche and Schools

Pray for the following:

For our Visa Extensions, God`s guidance & wisdom
Wisdom for David & Leaders to know how to cope with the BIG numbers at Youth Group
Holiday Bible Club from 1st to 3rd April at Lynnwood Baptist Church
Visually Speaking Seminar at Midrand 5th April
Sunday School & Crèche Review & Training 13th April
For all those teaching & helping in the weekly Assemblies & Bible Clubs
That long term & short term workers may join SWYM

We truly covet the prayers of All God`s people, everywhere! Be encouraged - for God is at work in Southern 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