



September 2014

SWYM Prayer Letter 55

Dear Family & Friends

2 Timothy 1:7 “For God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind”

NICK & SHEILA COURT
10 YEARS
IN SOUTH AFRICA
BY GOD’S GRACE

Introduction

Greetings from South Africa. Nick & I flew into Johannesburg yesterday, 11th September. Although we had a rather long and tiring journey, (24hr travelling time), via Doha to South Africa, Nick was able to get our car started, before settling to a night of rest.

We were up early the next morning and off to the Germiston Home Affairs Office. **What is the BIG news?** YES - we got our extension permits! These are now in our passports. How long for you might well ask? Our permits expire in December 2016. The visa `waiting` is finally over. **Praise God** for His sovereign grace. **Thank you** all for upholding us in your prayers these last six – seven months.

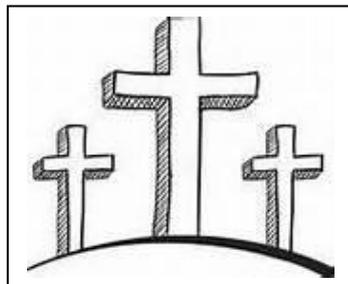
Family Visit to Samuel, Sheila`s very sick brother in the USA

We want to share with you that because our visas/permits were so long delayed, **much good** came from our enforced waiting in the UK. One **significant** event was that Nick & I were able to travel to Montgomery, Alabama and onto Tallahassee, Florida to visit with Samuel, who is terminally ill. God gave us an **unexpected** opportunity to **re-unite** with this brother and his grown up family - some of whom we discovered are **Christians**. We had not seen some of these nieces & nephews for about 40 plus years! How wonderful to enjoy Christian fellowship and **good old** Southern hospitality, including gifts for the children in South Africa.

What was most encouraging was Samuel`s **receptiveness** to the message of forgiveness. We were able to talk frankly about death & dying and the Lord`s presence & promise to never leave or forsake anyone who belongs to Him. **Thank you** for praying for Samuel. Pray that he will find favour with God and with **all** of his children. Nick & I were certainly glad to share God`s Word with Samuel and to say what might be our final `Hello & Goodbye`



Planting a bush together



In Samuel's garden

Future Ministry Plans

Friends, we also want to share with you some of **our thinking** over these past months. Our absence from South Africa has naturally caused us to re-evaluate our ministry. We have spent hours talking between us, with SWYM Trustees and with church leaders in the UK. We have spent a great **many more hours in prayer** to know the Lord`s direction.

We would **humbly ask** that you pray with us also that we might do what the Lord wants us to do. We do not want to `conveniently` fill ministry gaps; or simply enjoy good climate; or refuse to accept change because of unknown challenges.

To our **dear friends** in South Africa we want you to know that our hearts are, and will always be, for South Africa. You are never far away from our thoughts & prayers. Therefore, it was a **great relief** to know that in our enforced absence, **other people** stepped up to take over the majority of our ministry. We are delighted that we seem to be **almost `redundant`** from our current work.

So, it is with a heart of **anticipation** - not fear - that we are **able to accept** some personal changes & seemingly **new openings** in ministry. Some of these are **yet to be tested**, hence the necessity for your prayers.

SWYM Schools' Ministry

We returned with *loads of goodies* for the Pak –A- Bag project into the schools. Our check in luggage were labelled `Heavy`, and Joyce, (Pastor Irving's cousin), also brought over from her church in Wales some more colourful bags, stationery, and loads of imaginatively designed finger puppets. Another church in Wales delivered a `heavy` bag of bookmarks, scarves, etc. Soon these must all be **handed out** to the children. Our work is being mapped out. We have people to see and things to do. The days ahead **will be busy** and we want to be busy doing the right activities. **Keep on** praying for us.



Cases and contents arrived safely

Praise/Prayer items

Praise God for the following:

For our safe return to South Africa
For our extension permits granted from Home Affairs
For God's amazing grace, His blessing of peace & contentment during the last months of uncertainty
The wonderful & unexpected opportunity to visit Samuel and to speak of God's word to him



Pray for the following:

For God's clear guidance for ministry in the days ahead
That we might be open to change & challenges
To use the next 3 months wisely for God's glory- we entered SA on a Tourist Visa & a matching date of return
That friends & colleagues in South Africa will come along side us in ministry- old or new

***We truly covet the worldwide prayers of God's people.
Be encouraged - for God is at work in His created world
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