



November 2014

Dear Family & Friends

SWYM Prayer Letter 56



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



Matthew 2:11. “They saw the young child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshipped Him”
We pray that you would know the perfect peace the Christmas season brings, to those who welcome Jesus as their Saviour, Lord & King.

Introduction

We settled in rapidly, following our October RSA SWYM Trustees` Meeting, in which we discussed the future shape of our ministry. The **outcome** is that during 2015 we will spend about 5 months in South Africa from January to May, and 3-4 months towards the end of the year, during which time we will give support to Children's Workers in different parts of the country, and help stimulate children's work in churches, as before. In addition, we will write materials for use in children's work. Nick's writing of the 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith for children, encouraged by and piloted at Lynnwood Baptist Church, is now ready for publication. We trust this will be of considerable value in churches worldwide.

Future Ministry Plans

Our intention is to start a new project in writing a version for children of Tedd and Margy Tripp's book "Shepherding a Child's Heart" – we have been encouraged by the Tripp's to do this. The Principal of one of the local schools, where we have ministered for the last 9 years or so, has encouraged me, (Sheila), **to write and publish**, for the use of teachers, the bible stories I have given in the assemblies over the years. So for us, the focus will turn more to writing, and enabling others to use the material produced. We will appreciate your **prayers** for godly wisdom & inspiration.

Various areas of our ministry will continue unchecked while we are out of South Africa, like the correspondence booklets, and the assemblies in schools, all of which are covered by other people. When we are in South Africa, we will maintain the **personal relationships** we have developed with schools over the years, attending and helping at **special** assemblies & school events.

You may be asking - "What will you be doing when you are in the UK?" - Answer = "Writing!" Hopefully, we will also seize all opportunities to do research, through teaching the materials in Sunday Schools. In particular, we would like to help and energize smaller churches in their children's work.

Lynnwood Baptist Church-LBC

We have completed teaching `Whose Truth? God's Truth, (The 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith), at LBC and have agreement from LBC Elders to commence Tedd Tripp's Shepherding A Child's Heart, as rewritten by us, for teaching the Sunday School children from January 2015. **Praise God**- class numbers have increased this term. We are busy preparing for the end of year **Prize Giving**.

Bible Correspondence Course -- This ministry has been severely disrupted by **postal strikes** in South Africa, which has been going on for months! Officials are saying that the strikes will soon end but we are all waiting. Letters and parcels often get "lost" during the strikes and Anita will have quite a challenge **reactivating** correspondence to the various prisoners etc. **Pray** for Anita and this ministry please.

Clarens Visit Oct/November

The Organisers did not disappoint - they gave us such a warm friendly welcome! We enjoyed a Braai (BBQ) & renewed fellowship and gave an update of our **work & desire** to continue our partnership in ministry. Their hospitality, support & welcome were affirming. We have plans to return early 2015 with opportunities to research/teach "Understanding Your Heart", (Based on the Tripp's Materials), at Tshepong.

SWYM Schools' Ministry

We have thoroughly **enjoyed** taking some weekly assemblies and special assemblies at the local schools. The Special Events/Merit Mornings audiences were larger than usual with big assembly halls packed with parents, guardians and school governors. It is to such attentive audiences, we take the Bible Stories & Applications to life. **David**, a grade 7 learner, came up & **introduced himself** to us as the Learner who was covering some of the Assemblies at his school in our absence.



Grade 7's receiving their Bibles



Large Assembly



David – Grade 7

Bibles & Pak-A-Bag

Our own vehicle would have been labelled **Heavy**, as we drove to Clarens & some of our local schools. The Pak- A- Bags, with goodies inside, like toothbrushes, toothpaste, finger puppets, scarves, etc. went only to Children in our local schools' feeding scheme. These were **discreetly** distributed mostly by the particular Educators responsible for the Schools' Feeding Schemes. Nick gathered and distributed a lot of Art materials, books, bookmarks, board games, outdoor games, stationery, etc. to Clarens, and Adullum Mission. **Hundreds of Bibles** were given out to Grade 7's and the appreciation was overwhelming.

Praise/Prayer items

Praise God for the following:

For peace and a renewed gospel vision for South Africa
For completing the 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith teaching at LBC Sunday School
That we are open to change & the challenges of writing new materials
For the many Bibles and Pak –A- Bags distributed this term



Pray for the following:

That we will use the December/January weeks in the UK to prepare new Sunday School Lessons
That by January 2015, we will be ready to teach NEW Lessons to the LBC Sunday School
That the Manuscript on the 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith will be accepted for publication

We are **grateful to God** for your support of SWYM over the years and very much hope that your support will continue unabated as the ministry enters Phase 2. Building on Phase 1 will necessitate continuing support, and indeed increased support from a wider range of churches. Be encouraged- 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