



February 2015

SWYM Prayer Letter 57

Dear Family & Friends

1 Chronicles 16: 8 Oh, give thanks to the Lord! Call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples!

Introduction and Return from the UK

A wheel chair and a walking stick - yes that is how Sheila made her entrance into the meeting/arrivals area of OR TAMBO International Airport, South Africa. Pastor Irving who was waiting for us had a big surprise. But that was the only way Sheila could have made it back. The acute and rather painful sciatica in her back & right leg had affected her ability to “bounce” her way into the waiting area. We are truly thankful for the **prayers of God’s people**, and Qatar Staff, for their assistance & attentiveness throughout the long flight, and 5 hours stopover in Doha. Sheila continues to practice her physiotherapy exercises to ward off the stubborn pains. **Nick** keeps healthy and helpful, and for that we are both **very thankful**. He was able to take up some **preaching engagements** in the smaller rural churches in Wiltshire, UK, and he kept up with his reading and drafting of **new** Sunday School materials during the December/January. **Our goal** was to return to South Africa with at least five new lessons, in draft, based on *Shepherding a Child’s Heart* by Tedd Tripp. **Praise God for His goodness and care**, we were able to fulfil our **goals**.

Upon arrival in Kempton Park, we **hastened to settle** down to our new “split buildings camping accommodation.” The **sunshine** was most welcomed after the cold weather in the UK.

Clarens Outreach-

We were scheduled for **nearly two weeks** this time in Clarens. This gave us a chance to pilot 5 of our new Sunday School Lessons called “Understanding the Heart”. We taught the teens at Tshepong, (place of hope). This was an informative and encouraging opportunity **to pilot** *Understanding the Heart* from a **Young Person’s perspective**. The group became animated & competitive when we got to the group work with quizzes, word searches and unscrambling words. We also attended the **NG Kerk**, (church), one Sunday morning where **Nick** did a presentation of SWYM in general and **specific** to Clarens. **Sheila** told a Children’s Bible story, and we picked up a few pointers from an **interactive Puppets Presentation** from a few members of the church. During the **second week** in Clarens, Nick & I were afforded a wonderful opportunity to tackle without hindrance, **writing/drafting** 5 further lessons. We will appreciate your **on-going prayers** for godly wisdom & inspiration. It was also truly wonderful to come across Lomile, an **Ex- Head Girl** from the local High School in Clarens. She was delighted to tell us what a **difference** our **Assemblies** at her school and **Prefects Leadership Training** had made in her life. She said that when she went for her **University interview**, she was told that they were looking for someone with Leadership Abilities. To which she promptly produced from her portfolio the **SWYM Certificate** issued to her which showed she had attended Leadership Training. She got her place at university. **Lomile** also recalled that at a **Graduation Ceremony** when I was asked to hand out Certificates to a group of Graduates. She said “as you stepped down from the platform, you quickly asked me to read out the names of the Graduates and you smilingly handed out the certificates”. It certainly saved me (Sheila) the embarrassment of mispronouncing, without practicing, the Graduates names. We laughed together “calling it leadership in action”.



Sheila met Lomile again, she is enjoying her Uni/studies.



Quiz time - Boys against Girls – animated and competitive



Lynnwood Baptist Church-LBC

It was with great anticipation we launched the new Sunday School Lessons at Lynnwood Baptist Church. We now have the older group this time - ages 9 to 12 years. Whilst we were in Clarens, Hanno took the class in our absence, and we were glad to have his positive feedback. We have a **Visually Speaking Training Seminar** coming up at the end of February, and a few **special assemblies** locally too.



Understanding the Heart – launch



End of Year - Sunday School Prize Giving



Strengthening Ministries Training Institute

It is exciting to commence Biblical Counselling Studies with Dr. Wayne Mack again this year. Many of us are definitely looking forward to these weekends of studies, when the Bible becomes so practical and personal. Nick and I, when asked what was significant for spiritual growth in 2014, both replied “Biblical Counselling and the application of Scripture to our own lives.”

SWYM Bible Correspondence Course

Despite the set-back last year with months of unofficial postal strikes, Anita has managed to pick up the reins again with this ministry and data monitoring. We are **thankful to Anita** for her dedication to this ministry into many prisons across South Africa. She receives many encouragements as inmates on discharge from Prisons want **to continue** with the Bible Correspondence courses and to **involve their children** in studying God’s Word.

Praise/Prayer items

Praise God for the following:

That Nick got some new lessons done whilst in the UK
Sheila has had a good measure of recovery from the Sciatica - still causes some bother
For the attentiveness and help from the Airline en-route to South Africa
For a blessed and profitable time of ministry and writing in Clarens



Pray for the following:

That the Manuscript on the 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith might be accepted for publication
For godly wisdom as we write “Understanding the Heart” based on Shepherding a Child’s Heart
That the Biblical Counselling Studies will further enhance our handling of God’s Word
For February Special Assemblies and the Visually Speaking Training Seminar
For wisdom to plan, prepare and take the Children’s Sessions at a Church Family Camp 6th -8th March

*We are **thankful to God** for on- going prayers and support of SWYM in 2014 and over these past years. We truly covet your prayers and pray that you will be blessed in your walk and service to the Lord. Be encouraged- God is at work in South Africa.*

With our love & prayers Nick & Sheila

SWYM South Africa Postal Address: Nick & Sheila Court, PostNet Suite C335, Private Bag X 18, Lynnwood Ridge, 0040, South Africa.

SWYM UK Postal Address: SWYM UK, c/o. Emmanuel ECC, PO Box 3020, Chippenham, Wiltshire. SN15 9AN, UK

Mobile telephone: 072 959 5743, (South Africa).

Email nick.sheilacourt@gmail.com or swym.org@gmail.com **Website:** www.swym.org

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