

Dear Family & Friends

March 2017
Prayer Letter 2

Hebrews 7:25 Therefore He is able to save completely those who come to God through Him, because He always lives to intercede for them.

Introduction ♥

It is a wonderful and sobering time of the year, when Christians remember Christ's death and resurrection. Jesus is our High Priest and in that role, He is our Advocate and Mediator between us and God. We are thankful that Jesus looks after our interest and intercedes for all those who will believe and trust in Him for the forgiveness of sins. Halleluiah!



We rejoice, too, as creation displays afresh the Creator's glory. As Nick & I walk through our local park, we see various flowers in bloom. We marvel at the beds of crocuses, lily of the valley, countless daffodils, and other flowers. Our response is to praise and worship the One who made it. Yes - we do take time to smell the flowers, see His beauty, truth and goodness. Although I still have to wear my foot splint, I thank God that I can walk, and I appreciate the regular walks through the Chippenham parks all the more. I am having some further physiotherapy for my foot and for walking, which is helpful.

Nick & I take life at a different pace (slightly slower) to that which we had in South Africa for the last twelve years. It is another season for us but we are travelling along with the same unchanging God.

Emmanuel Church Family ♥

As Unpaid/Voluntary Christian Workers based in the UK, what have we been doing? Being members at Emmanuel, we were invited to be part of the Sunday School's teaching team. We had to get to grips with the teaching material, and to be part of a team again, which provides helpful support, ideas and encouragements.



A church meeting **confirmed** our role of Deputy Child Protection Officers. Our brief is to set up some training in 2017, in conjunction with the other named Child Protection Officers, (couple) @ Emmanuel. We have yet to engage with this joint role, but we look forward to this new venture. It is exciting to take up new opportunities, and to support others in their specific roles within the fellowship.

Biblical Counselling

Through **Emmanuel** Church we are linked in to a local Biblical Counselling support group, in Bath. We attended the scheduled meeting in February, and noted a rise in attendance. Nick & I are booked to attend a Biblical Counselling residential seminar in Derbyshire, at the **end** of March 2017. We are looking forward to this event very much.

Ladyfield Church Family ♥

Nick is taking slower steps in getting the monthly, City Gates (Men's Meetings) established. He works closely with Elder, Douglas Shedden on this project, who encourages the men to attend, especially if they have the time and are available during the day. I, Sheila, see to the refreshments before the men have their devotional time, going through the Psalms, prayers and perhaps a short, but relevant DVD. Nick and I continue to work closely together and in support of one another. That is precious.



Nick and Sheila Court – Serving the LORD

At **Ivyfield Court**, where we live, Nick has established a fortnightly Bible Study Group, together with **Colin** Spurway, a **Deacon** at Ladyfield Church. We are currently working through the Book of James again, as the group requested a repeat, since some members had missed a few teaching sessions due to ill health, or other important NHS appointments, etc. The group is coming together and individuals are more comfortable in asking questions or in making comments.

I, Sheila, remain available to speak at Ladies Groups, which I am very pleased to do. Nick is also open to Preaching Engagements, which he is happy to plan, prepare and do.

SWYM South Africa

Praise God - We have had a wonderful and **specific** answer to prayer. We now have a Post Office Box for use with the SWYM Bible Correspondence Course Books. **Thank you** for praying. The RSA SWYM Trustees worked behind the scenes, and Rod & Bev Rowlands came up with the idea that SWYM could share their designated Post Box in the Garsfontein area. This solution is most acceptable to them and to us. Nick and Anita Dekker have the task of making the change of address within the **Course Books**, and the Postal transition to work smoothly between now and the beginning of May, which is when we terminate use of the Post Net Suite Box, which we had for over 12 years. Anita is in need of more SWYM Course Books to be **printed** for studies, we are so glad at the **continued growth** of this branch of ministry. The SWYM **Resource Books** distributed through African Pastors` Conferences, are **another** on-going ministry. We remain thankful to the APC Leadership for their kind assistance with this. **Freddy, Leon & Joseph** continue with the various Schools` Ministries and their own Church Ministries. Remember to pray for them.



We look forward to a **return visit** to South Africa to engage in some short term ministry. Pray for *wisdom* as we plan ministry in advance of travel, for about 2- 3 months later in 2017.

Praise/Prayer items

Praise God for the following:

- For Sheila`s on-going recovery, current physiotherapy sessions, and her stronger walking abilities
- For on-going opportunities for Christian service
- For the joy of working with supportive fellow Christians and /or teams
- For a new, (and local), SWYM Post Box in Garsfontein, RSA
- That SWYM Correspondence Books are being used, and more are needed for printing



Pray for the following:

- That Freddy, Leon & Joseph will know the Lord`s favour in their RSA ministries
- That Sheila & I will know the Lord`s favour in our developing ministries in Chippenham and the UK
- That funding will come in for the distribution of SWYM Bible Correspondence Books, Resource Books, and the shared Post Box in South Africa.

With our love & prayers

Nick & Sheila

Be encouraged – For God is at work



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NEW WEBSITE ADDRESS: www.swym2016.org

FINANCIAL DETAILS:-

UK - Lloyds TSB Bank, Chippenham Branch, Account Name: Step Wise Youth Ministry, Account Number: 03217242, Branch Code: 30-91-99