

# Nick and Sheila Court - Serving the LORD in South Africa

Dear Family & Friends,

JUNE 2008

**“The fear of the Lord - that is wisdom....” Job 28:28**

SWYM Prayer Letter14

We are delighted to be writing to you all again. Our **UK deputation** from 15th March to end of April 2008 was a real blessing. It was such a privilege to meet everyone, catch up on local news and to share about the ministry of SWYM. Thank you for your encouragements, kind hospitality and gifts towards the work. We returned to South Africa very thankful that all our prayers for accommodation, transport, safety, prayer partners etc were well & truly answered. We do have lots of openings for **short & long term** missionaries in South Africa and pray that some of you might take up the challenge, real soon.

Upon our return, we quickly got involved in the **Missions Conference** at our church, Constantia Park. The **schools gladly** received us back for assemblies & classes and were all together **very positive** with the ministry of Alishea & team & Ronel O'Donovan.

A wonderful & **unexpected request** came during one School of the Bible mornings, when **Freddy** approached me (Sheila) to join the schools ministry! We knew Freddy from the School of the Bible classes and through his own teenagers' attendance at our camp, and Freddy's attendance at the African Pastors Conference. We immediately planned a **SWYM training** session for Freddy. This proved very informative all round and **he asked** to observe Alishea's assemblies at Sunnyside. This week, Freddy has been out at a school with Nick & me. **Please pray** that Freddy's interest will bear lasting fruit.

Our **Clarens Outreach** at the beginning of June was a tremendous blessing. We were bowled over at the Lord's advance planning for us. It was last February that the **Clarens Organising Team** invited us to return this June and to do some teaching on **Managing Anger & Conflict**, from a biblical perspective. We had to research and put these classroom teaching sessions together, and we were really encouraged and **appreciative of Ronel Grobler's assistance**. Imagine our horror but amazement, when we commenced work Monday morning at Clarens and learnt from the local **Police Inspector** that a murder had taken place just the weekend of our visit! Two girls had repeatedly stabbed a Grade 12, (18 years old), from the High School and one of the girls involved was from the Primary School, (14-15 years old)! How tragic!

The **Intermediate School seized upon our visit** & timely teaching package and gave us double classes the rest of the week with Grades 5 to 9. The **Police Inspector attended** our classes one morning so he could observe and listen in our teaching sessions. He is looking forward to our return visit to Clarens in October, when he plans to book time to attend schools with us. That was **a new link** for us in Clarens as well as the opportunities we had to take **assemblies at a rural farm school** of 73 learners and three teachers, one of whom is the Principal. All three teachers were very welcoming and appreciative of our bible teaching.

**Joseph** has a **vision** to give out New Testaments in Sesotho language to the younger learners and we plan to purchase **English Bibles** for the learners in the higher grades. We plan to distribute these “treasures” in October, hopefully after a full week of Assembly & Classroom ministry at this rural Primary School. Do **pray** that this will all take place.

I have to say that **this time at Clarens**, we had more Gospel opportunities than we could have managed ourselves. Once again, the **Lord provided** in advance for **Elizabeth, a young American girl** to accompany us for **short term ministry** experience at Clarens. **After observing one assembly**, Elizabeth took the other four High School assemblies and **Joseph took** the other four Primary School assemblies all on his own too! Those were **BIG steps for Joseph & Elizabeth**, both of whom we coached ready for each assembly. Elizabeth has a testimony of **love & forgiveness** and she was able to share some of this in the classroom by way of me conducting interviews with her. She was able incorporate the **message of forgiveness** on the last day at the

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High School. We were so **thankful** for both Joseph & Elizabeth's obedience to serve Him, even though it must have severely stretched their natural abilities at the time.

We have booked **another SWYM training** session at CPBC for Alishea, Ronel & other interested folks for the 21<sup>st</sup> June, which is immediately after the schools close for the holidays. Before that though, on the 19 & 20<sup>th</sup> June, we have a **visit to Botswana**, where we will be facilitating SWYM training for those working or wishing to

work with children & young people, at a Baptist Church in **Gaborone**. Then we have the **Skogheim Conference** from the 27<sup>th</sup> June to the 2<sup>nd</sup> July and we will be running the Youth Programme. It is a long way to journey to Skogheim and we hope to share travelling costs with another family.

We are **excited to report** that we have the offer of a room to use as a **SWYM Resource Centre** at the local Afrikaans Baptist Seminarium. Please **pray** that we will be able to furnish the room and to purchase and produce sound materials for use with Children & Young People.

For those of you who are wondering & also praying, we want to say that the **Xenophobic attacks** that you might have **read about or seen** on TV or internet, have not directly affected us. Some of the children & teachers who live in parts of Tembisa & Mamelodi have been affected emotionally. Much fear and sadness have taken hold of many South Africans as "**some of these foreigners**" were their friends or acquaintances. They have seen the smoke of the burning shacks or have come close to the violent mobs. We **thank you** for your interest & prayers in this matter.

We have **no plans** to visit our friends in **Zimbabwe** just yet. We shall await the outcome of the elections at the end of this month. Meanwhile, our friends whom we have spoken to recently, are very appreciative of your continued prayers for Zimbabwe.

### Items for Praise:

- Good health and daily protection – remains top of the list
- For the continuation of Busy Bee Library ministry, through Ronel O'Donovan
- For the continuation of Alishea Cloete and "drivers" Wilna & Bev at the Mamelodi & Sunnyside schools
- For short termer Elizabeth who accompanied us for the Clarens Outreach and all her timely help
- That Joseph Mokena was able to take school assemblies for the first time, on his own
- For God's advance planning and new openings for us at Clarens
- The interest and training up of our brother, Freddy, to take school assemblies
- The offer of a room for use as a SWYM Resource Centre

### Items for Prayer:

- That the seeds sown at all assemblies, classroom teachings, clubs, camps, bible correspondence courses etc will make disciples of learners
- That nothing will prevent people attending the SWYM training sessions at CPBC & Gaborone, Botswana
- That we will know the Lord's special help in Gaborone, and at the Skogheim Conference
- We will have good, safe reliable vehicles and trustworthy servicing garages
- Do pray for Alishea & Ronel, Bev & Wilna as they continue with the schools ministry
- That we will be financially able to set up the SWYM Resource Centre, with the right materials
- That the Xenophobic attacks will cease and not spread to neighbouring African countries
- For the forthcoming elections and the safety of our friends & the country of Zimbabwe
- For more **prayer** supporters & **SWYM** workers, short term or long term

Friends, once again, the Lord has been faithful. Together, we have had more answers to prayers. Let us praise Him for His goodness and how we thank you for being partners of SWYM ministry. Please be encouraged and

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continue to pray with us, for the work of SWYM and for more workers to take up the many gospel opportunities still available in Southern Africa.

With our love & prayers

Nick and Sheila Court

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