



## Leon Harmse God's Word to our Children

August /September 2010

Prayer Letter 11

*"The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest." - Matthew 9:37-38 -*

### The Ministry

Soon after the term started many teachers went on strike causing an almost standstill in schools ministry. At most of my local schools there were only a handful of children so we were asked to "hold" on assemblies. The only school that was almost unaffected was Busy Bee where, except for one week, there was still a large compliment of children at school so assemblies continued. This means that Busy Bee is completely out of sequence for assembly teaching with the rest of my schools. In the new month I will therefore move away from the planned assembly teaching programme at Busy Bee and do the missionary story of Eric Liddel on Wednesday while continuing with the Shorter Catechisms on Mondays. After the strike was over things went back to normal, but there was a big concern hanging over our heads. Due to all the lost work, the Department of Education said that schools will have to work through the short September recess, but we thank God that this decision was aborted at the eleventh hour. The reason why this was a potential problem was because of the SWYM Annual Youth Camp which happens every September holiday, as well as the Holiday Bible Club at Constantia Park Baptist Church. While we really had not much more than a week to get the forms back & the money paid for camp we still had 81 children at camp which is around our normal figure. Also the Bible Club went well & although the numbers were not the same as last year, we still had around 28 children at club for which we thank the Lord. Both went off well & without incident. The theme at Camp was Under Construction - Nehemiah, Master Builder, and for devotions we piloted the new SWYM Bible Correspondence Book on the Lord's Prayer which seemed to have gone well. There were a number of opportunities to speak to children individually at camp as well. For the Club, the theme was From Field to Fame, the story of the shepherd boy (David) who became King. There were some non church going children at the club, who participated well.

### Encouragements

1. We thank the Lord that both the Camp & Club went off without incident. Having responsibility for children, particularly in a camp setting is nothing small, especially when the ages range between 10 to 16.
2. With all schools, except Busy Bee, I am now in Elijah. What a great example of how God looks after those who trust in Him and how God uses Christians. What is more, the clear teaching that there is only One God is crucial in our current context in South Africa where the attempt is always to put all religions at the same level.
3. The strike has brought opportunities to speak on coveting and the Lord's commandment to be content with what we have. This was amazingly accepted with good cheer by teachers, even some of those who themselves were among the strikers, and I could see that some of the teachers were visibly challenged.
4. God has given us the stamina to finish these two months well. Although we are tired I am convinced that we finished well. Yes we were very busy, particularly in the last few weeks, but being busy means more hear the gospel & that makes it all worthwhile.
5. Children at camp are from various backgrounds, some from broken homes. The combination of clear biblical teaching and also opportunity to counsel and guide has brought lasting effects on some of the children.

### Dates to Remember

- 4 Oct – Assembly at a **new school** - Kempton Laerskool (Afrikaans School)
- 9 – 15 Oct – Outreach in Clarens (Nick, Sheila & Leon)
- 30 Oct – Visually Speaking Training at Constantia Park BC
- 1<sup>st</sup> week Nov – Hennenman Outreach (Nick & Sheila)
- 12-14 Nov – Mashushu Outreach with Bethany BC (Nick and Sheila)
- 27 – 28 Nov – Badplaas Outreach (Leon & Freddy with CPBC)

### Prayer Requests

1. As the year draws to a close our time with the Grade 7 pupils is becoming short. Pray that they will come to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. As they leave our hands, pray that they will be received by others that can continue the work with them. Pray that they will not fall to peer pressure, that they will live moral lives. At some schools we will have sessions with the Grade 7's where we can speak to them about the fears of the unknowns of High School, also we will be able to hand over Bibles to some. Pray earnestly that their fears may be changed into faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. I'll be away on leave, Lord willing, from the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> of October and will be going to friend's farm. Pray that I will be able to spend the time well in studying God's Word & pray for the ministry, friends, family and myself.
3. At Busy Bee I have spent a good amount of time in explaining that we are all sinners. Verbally the children agree. Pray that as I now move on to explain in more detail how even a single sin separates us from God and deserves the punishment of eternal fire, they will consider their own lives and see how far they are from God themselves. Then after that, the move onto the gift of grace through the Lord Jesus Christ in the hope that God will be gracious to some of them and bring them to Himself.
4. Pray for my personal holiness and witness in schools and outside. How sad it would be if all I say and teach becomes undone by a single action to the contrary.

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