



Leon Harmse God's Word to our Children

January/February 2011

Prayer Letter 12

"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

2011 has been a great year so far. Starting off Saffola Farm School have moved site. They are now on the premises of Impangela School, which was closed down some months ago, which is about 5 km further away. The children and teachers remained the same although there are additional children there now from the local area. Another new thing is a permanent weekly Club at Kempton Park Laerskool, an Afrikaans School in central Kempton. Last year I did a few assemblies there but now it has become a weekly event on the programme. Schools' ministry continues as normal although my week is now significantly busier than before. It seems that this will be a good year and some encouraging comments by children give me hope that the message of the gospel is sinking in. At the moment, I have 4 assemblies and four clubs every week and I am enjoying being busy in ministry. Saturdays have been taken up by a number of training seminars and church related responsibilities. Tim Phillips is here from the UK and has been conducting First Aid training at the farm schools and will continue to do that as well as offering First Aid training at the upcoming Prefects Training Camp and outreaches to Clarens and Adullam Mission. This has been a very practical opportunity to help the schools and teach the gospel in a practical way. There are some very encouraging things going around at the moment. I have had some very encouraging times with the Grade 7's in particular, at Busy Bee with some good questions being asked in particular regarding Ancestral Worship, the place of culture and tradition in Christianity and so on. However that is not the only encouraging thing: The Children's Home ministry seems to take on a very personal flavour with children really opening up about things far more. I also spend time with the House Parents and this seems to be a great encouragement to them as well. Also at Kempton Park Laer I have Afrikaans club one week and English club the next as the school is moving towards dual medium and Special Ed at the same time, while Afrikaans is still the floor medium.

Encouragements

1. At Saffola there has been some wonderful things happening. We have been received with open arms at the new site. There are many new children and the Principal's heart has really warmed towards us in recent months. It is encouraging to see him attending almost every assembly now and often commenting about the Bible Story when he addresses the children himself.
2. We have, at last, made a breakthrough into an Afrikaans School. Although the School is now moving to Dual Medium and also now cater for Physically Disabled children the floor medium is still Afrikaans. This is also significant seeing that Kempton Park Laer is the oldest School in Kempton Park (1903) and serves one of the poorest communities in Kempton Park.
3. The Children's Home is the highlight of my week because here I have quality time with the children not only for the club, but in the day to day living.
4. More schools, more children mean more souls to reach with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Also it means more people to build relationships with and care for. How great an honour to do this work.
5. The Lord of the harvest gives me strength daily to do the work which He has called me each day. That is a great blessing & encouragement to me.

Dates to Remember

23 – 25 Feb – Residential Prefects Camp at ABK, Kempton Park
28 Feb – 4 Mar – Clarens Outreach & Leadership Training
3 Mar – Leadership Training at Adullam Mission in Mpumalanga
5 Mar Klerksdorp outreach

Prayer Requests

1. Pray for the building of a good relationship with Kempton Park Laerskool. Pray for a good relationship with the Principal, Teachers and in particular the children. There are about 30 children that come every week which is a great start, but pray that they will attend regularly and will bring their friends. Although, it is a challenge to have new faces each week as I teach systematically through the Bible.
2. Pray for all the children that I see on a weekly basis and also those I see occasionally. Pray that they will think about the things said every week and that we will see a change in behavior, but more importantly that they will come to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. If not now then at some point in their lives. In order to change this country and the world we need people to turn to God to honor and obey Him.
3. Pray for me as I prepare every story. Pray that the Lord will help me to find suitable application for their situation that addresses their need for salvation.
4. Ancestral Worship is a big problem among some of our African children and this needs to be addressed clearly with the necessary sensitivity. Children should know there is only one way to God and that you cannot serve two master either.
5. My focus has been very strongly on the fact that sin is an offence against God in the last few weeks. One sin is sufficient to separate them from God forever, but only One Savior is sufficient to cleanse us from our sin and make us right with God.
6. Pray for my personal spiritual growth. It is imperative that I continue to live close to the Lord, so that I can continue to speak the Word and thereby aid the Lord in drawing many to Himself.
7. Pray that I will seek the Lord's help in every decision that I have to make in life. May He be honored in all things I think, do and say.

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