

Leon Harmse – The Word of God to our Children

The Ministry

There has been no time to be tired as the ministry keeps us too busy. This month has been very busy again and with the exception of three assemblies we were able to take all of them with the help of Pastor Ivor Jefferies. With Nick & Sheila away a lot this month with outreaches to Clarens, Polokwane and Adullam, I had to take most of the assemblies. For most of the weeks that means two assemblies on Monday, two assemblies on Tuesday, one on Wednesday and two on Fridays. Added to that was Library time twice a week at Busy Bee for an hour and a half on a day and also Christian Union at Jeugpark. With all of that it was still not possible to take all the assemblies and Busy Bee, Saffola and Mehlaeng each lost one assembly this month. This was met with much sadness by those schools but also with understanding that the pressure of the work made it impossible for me because I cannot divide myself into two. For this reason we are particularly thankful to Pastor Ivor Jefferies that helped out where he could. This just makes it clearer that more helpers are desperately needed, even if it is only on occasional basis.

We also had a very successful camp with the Staff and their families from the Pretoria East Hospital were one of our Trustees, Dr Tommy Grey practices. We had a total of around 60 people that attended and Freddy and I did the teaching of the Ten Commandments.

We are also thankful that Ray Mundin is here at the moment from the UK to help out and observe. He has been very helpful indeed, even preaching on two occasions without much preparation time.

At Busy Bee there has been some disappointing news. The New Principal that looked very promising did not stay very long; in fact, he was there for just over two weeks and then left. They now have a senior teacher rather than a Principal and Mr Padi (The owner of the school) takes up the administrative duties himself at the moment. This is an interim arrangement until the senior teacher proves that she can do the job.

Encouragements

1. Although we have had to cancel three assemblies, the principals and teachers of those school was very understanding. We are also grateful that it was not more, as we expected. We are thankful to the Lord for the increase in work, but we also pray to Him to supply more hands to do it. We have to carefully plan months in advance at the moment.
2. With all of the turmoil at Busy Bee, this has given me more opportunity to spend time with Mr Padi in a supportive role. This may very well prove to establish a deeper relationship at that school. He is very thankful that rather than standing back, I was very willing to get involved with some very practical things like drawing up a time table for the senior learners.
3. At last, in our teaching, David is now king, well at least at some of the schools while for others it is still a long way away. This brings excitement to the teaching and it is exciting to see the children's interest into what will happen next. However included in David as king is also his sin with Bathsheba which is very challenging to explain to 5 – 13 year olds. Pray for that.
4. The Lord provided in all the stamina and

Dates to remember

5-7 March – Klerksdorp outreach
7-12th March – Clarens Outreach
18th March- Tyndale Christian School- Founders Day Celebrations
20th March- SWYM Day of Prayer
26 Mar – 20 May Nick & Sheila on UK deputation

Verse for the Month

*“It is better to take refuge
in the LORD than to trust in man”*

Items for Prayer

1. NEW WORKERS IN THE GREATER KEMPTON PARK AREA: It has become very clear in the last month that there is a desperate need for some helpers. Wednesday and Friday mornings (Assembly times 8:00 - 8:15 (8:30)). Please see if the Lord is calling you to help out.
2. NEW WORKERS IN PRETORIA / MAMELODI AREA: Although Wilna took some of the assemblies at FF Ribeiro she is really looking for someone that will do it with her on a permanent basis. She has even used her domestic helper Anna to help her on occasion. The Assembly there takes place on Thursdays.
3. In order to set an example of how a Christian should live is not always easy when you have between 30 to 1100 mostly unsaved children in front of you. Even when children are very badly behaved we should always be gracious yet firm. If we want these children to learn anything from what we say, our actions should speak even louder. Pray that we will truly be Christ hands and feet.
4. The work is a lot, the hands are few. Pray that the Lord will keep us shining while we get tired. We don't mind getting tired but pray that our lights will never go on dim.
5. A mixture of the stories of David's life and the Catechisms questions we do in between has been a very successful combination for some challenging gospel applications in the months past and in the near future. Pray that the Lord will do His work of saving as we do our work of proclaiming. After all, without the work of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of children the stories we tell are nothing more than lovely stories with moral lessons. May God save some for His glory – this is way we labour.
6. Pray especially for a girl at one of our schools who has some major health problems as well as a father with cancer. She has been very discouraged and we are thankful for the opportunity. Ray & I had to share with her and pray with her. Pray for her salvation.

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