

Agape Children's Ministry.

Finally we have got down to sending out a newsletter. 2009 was a difficult year for us in many respects. Many personal issues took precedence and as a result we had to postpone or cancel several engagements. Jimmy's granddaughter of 19 passed away and two weeks later her step-dad died suddenly. Helena, Jimmy's daughter is finding it hard to adjust after losing her only child and husband. Please keep her in your prayers. During this period Lynne's mother of 80 fell and broke her ankle, requiring surgery and a long convalescence. Despite these many personal trials we were still able to reach approximately 3500 children on 50 different occasions, all over the Western Cape. These were in various churches, Sunday schools, open air and one at a fishing village.



In addition there have been many opportunities to train Children's Ministry Workers. Our training has covered balloon sculpting with an evangelical emphasis. Lynne has put together quite a number of illusions to use with the children. We also address the importance of storytelling and how to combine this with chalk talks. Lynne has drawn up various booklets dealing with the different aspects of our training to help those who are interested in incorporating these into their own ministries. Then there is puppetry in which we cover different types of puppets, stages, scripts and how to use puppets. We also offer a puppet making course. This covers a full day where they actually make a muppet style puppet.

At one of our outreaches, in Wellington, a lady approached Lynne and asked if she remembered her. Lynne had shown her how to make a puppet several years ago and she told us that she is still using puppetry in her church and local community. We also recently heard from Christina and Alex who we helped in Greece. Although they no longer live in Greece they told us that the ministry is

continuing and that a Polish lady has now learnt to make puppets from Christina's mother. Christina informed us that our Greek puppets now speak Polish! How awesome is that, and how amazingly the Lord continues to multiply the ministry.

We are continually enthralled by the responses from some of the children and how these have changed through the years. In one of our 'Beyond Words' presentations we ask the children to help the puppets choose the 'right path' to follow. One of the children piped up and told us the puppets needed a GPS!!

In a dialogue 'Pietie' (Jimmy's naughty puppet) asked the children what things gangs do - one boy answered they put Graffiti on the walls. We had a seven year old Anushka help us in one of our puppet songs. We did the song 'This little light of mine' - she had to use a candle puppet and her arm kept getting tired so she simple swapped arms with her puppet still in the air - the congregation loved it. It's always a delight working with children, for children.

This year has been extremely busy, with many engagements and training opportunities. Just as we were beginning to think the Lord no longer needed to use us. Lynne is snowed under piles of puppets - she has lost count but thinks she has made 120 so far. Many people still prefer buying puppets to making their own.



Some areas where we would value your prayers, include:

- Resolving our car problems sensibly. All the cars are old now and constantly seem to need attention.
- * Balancing ministry and family needs. Also setting aside time for personal growth.
- Remaining relevant in our ministry and seeking the Lord's guidance in all we do

Thank you for all your prayers, support and interest through the years, as we serve Him together, Lynne and Jimmy Grant