

## Agape Children's ministry

\*The end of June saw the beginning of the winter school break. We spent three mornings with the local Baptist church doing puppet shows. The attendance was in the region of 110 every day.

We had a wonderful response the first morning and at least 30 children prayed with us in a prayer of commitment. This has opened the door for the church to work with the children in two aftercare centres.

The Pastor said "I know that the seeds of the gospel planted in their hearts will bear fruit for Jesus and HIS kingdom".

Pray for the children and the follow up.

\*Last week we visited a farming community near Villiers. A nursing sister who works for the farming company invited us to do a puppet show with the children. The children are well looked after but behind the scenes sin is rampant.

She told us of a three year old girl who had disappeared. When they finally found her they discovered that she had been raped and abused so badly that a colostomy had to be carried out. Our heart went out to that little girl. But praise God that little girl (now +- 6years old) was in the meeting. She sat right in front and listened intently to the story. *Please God touch her and take away all fear. Fill her heart with love and peace.*

We were also disturbed when we heard that 6 young teenage girls in their final year of school were pregnant. The local schoolteacher begged the girls in her class to break this cycle where it is expected that girls must have a child before they get married. It is known as 'voorkind' (literally a 'before child')

We need to weep and cry for our children, only Jesus can break the circle of sin and set the captive free.

\*Our time has been fully taken up with preparation for the trip to Greece.

We have made a light weight stage and easel and reduced the puppets to  $\frac{3}{4}$  size. Lynne made a Greek soldier and a Zulu warrior. We are taking 20 puppets, an amplifier, CD player, paper, chalk, bracelets, illusions, two 'Beyond Words' stories and oh yes - some clothes.

### **GREECE** Isaiah 42:12

**What do you think of when you hear the word Greece**

Birthplace of Democracy & foundation of Western Civilization.

Population of 11 million

Language over 3000 years old

10 Million tourists a year

**As a Christian what do you think of Greece?**

Land rich in Christian heritage but blinded to the true

meaning of Christianity.

Two thirds of the Bible was written for a Greek audience or by a Greek.

98% of Greeks are Greek Orthodox but most do not have a personal relationship with Christ.

Less than 2% attend church.

Only 50 Missionaries in Greece

Very few Evangelical churches in Greece.

**Greece** - A blinded nation

**Greece** - one of the most unevangelized nations in Europe

**Greece** - needs your prayers

**Greece** - needs your heart

**Operation Gideon One - 2004:**

300 Volunteers divided into 30 teams

Visited 37 Islands and handed out 50000 Bibles & 350000 pieces of Literature

In the 9 days on the Islands:

100 Street programmes & 6700 hours of direct Evangelism

48 conversions

**Operation Gideon Two - 2006.**

Teams from around the world to proclaim the love of Christ in the 40 remaining Islands.

Agape Children's Ministry (James & Lynne Grant) to present the Gospel to children on the Islands of Crete and Rhodes. For the first 12 days we, in a team of 13, will be doing shows for children on the Island of Crete. We then return to Athens for 2 days of Orientation. With a team we leave for Rhodes where we will have 2 days of prayer and fasting, 2 days of street evangelism, 2 days of literature distribution and then return to Athens for 2 days of reporting and celebration.

**Some BIG prayer requests:**

Pray for the children of Greece.

Pray for us as we leave for Athens on 14 July (we are flying via Madrid to Athens and then catching the overnight ferry to Kania in Crete). We return on 11 August. 2006

Pray that our equipment will arrive safely.

Live carelessly in the care of the LORD.

James & Lynne Grant