

Agape Children's Ministry Oct 2006 Report

How quickly time flies! It's already 10 weeks since we returned from Greece. Continue with us in praying for a revival in Greece. Since our return we have managed to maintain contact with Christina who will be establishing a puppet ministry in Athens. We have sent her some puppet patterns and will continue to support and pray for her and her family. We had several engagements when we returned from Greece and also last minute preparations for the annual 'Tell The Children conference' on the 8 and 9 September.



We have been to two Old Age homes and shared with the senior citizens what we do by showing them a chalk talk and puppet show.

Several churches have used us in their children's programmes, including 3 church of the Nazarene's, Methodist, Baptist and Dutch Reformed churches. At all these churches children have responded with open hearts and willing minds to follow Jesus in a prayer of commitment. Praise the Lord as His kingdom is extended. At all these shows we take the opportunity to encourage the workers to follow-up those who have responded. Most people accept Christ before they turn 18, (Barna Research Group, give a figure of 63%)

What a blessed time we had at the TTC conference. The Friday evening was an outreach to the children and over 500 came to hear short excerpts from all the speakers. We had items of dance, music, black-light puppetry, illusions, chalk-talk, balloons and story-telling. The two hour programme was God inspired and about 15 children responded to the appeal at the end of the programme. The Saturday almost 400 delegates attended the 15 workshops and we had a tremendous response in our evaluation slips. From the success of these conferences we have been approached to run an additional conference in George next year. This will include a large area stretching from Mossel Bay, Plettenberg Bay, Oudtshoorn and surrounding areas. Praise the Lord as we join Him in His work. After the conference we were involved in programmes in 3 churches - one we had to ask our team in Matroosfontein to step in as Jimmy was ill again with a throat and chest infection. Two weeks ago we went to the small farming town of McGregor and took the Sunday morning service in a farmers barn with 110 children and 70 adults.



What a joy to see farmers and their workers worshipping the Lord together. On the Monday and Tuesday we went to 3 farm schools and a "New Age" school, (much prayer went before us as we went to this last school and we had such a blessed time. They have asked us to come back again whenever we want to). In these three days we spoke to about 350 children and 52 responded in a prayer of commitment to the Lord.

This small community of farmers have a deep desire to see the Lord work in the lives of the people in this area.



Programme for the rest of this year and next year.

- ❖ In November the believers at McGregor will be running a week-end "Word School" for all the people in that area. We will be involved with the children on the Saturday as the parents attend 3 sessions studying the Word of God under the leadership of Pastor Christo Botha.
- ❖ Before the end of the year we will continue to reach out to children as we go to several churches, schools and a small farming area in Bredasdorp.
- ❖ The Cape Town Baptist church has asked us to help them train some young people in order to form a Puppet Team. We will be involved for three Saturdays.
- ❖ We have been approached by several churches to run training sessions and outreaches in their communities. These include: Carletonville (near Johannesburg) Pretoria and a very interesting contact James made with a lady who sat next to him on the plane on the way to Johannesburg. She runs a craft business in a very rural, impoverished area in Mpumalanga. She says there are one and a half million women and children in the villages near to her and has extended an invitation for us to come and witness and teach in that area. Please pray that the Lord will open doors for this venture. There is extreme poverty and great need in this area. Women spend about 6 hours a day to collect firewood with which to prepare their food and most times that is only maize meal. No electricity in their homes, no running water. ("Oh Lord help us by your grace to make a difference in some of the children in these communities".)
- ❖ We feel the need to return to Greece next year and to come alongside Christina and establish a viable and effective ministry among the Greek children.

Personal prayer items.

- ◆ For God's leading and guidance and continued financial support in planning for next years programme.
- ◆ For Ian, Lynne's adopted son, as he seeks to make contact with his biological mother and brothers. For both of us as we lead and guide him in this emotionally difficult time.
- ◆ For health and strength to continue in this ministry
- ◆ For inspiration and courage to develop new routines and programmes.
- ◆ For an effective Discipleship programme for children who respond and make a commitment to the Lord.

Live careLESSly in the care of the LORD.

James & Lynne Grant