

Bardsley Update April 2010

Taking to the Air -Again!

You can't keep good people down, so they say. That's right, we're taking off again, but this time in different directions.

On 7 May we both leave Perth and travel to Singapore. John then goes on to Chiang Mai, Thailand, where he will be attending WEC's Leaders' Conference as a member of the prayer team and as Conference reporter - letting WEC around the world have regular praise and prayer updates during the two weeks of meetings.

Margaret will continue on to the UK to spend 11 weeks with the OW team again. Yes, it's work, not extended holiday! Just pray that the cloud of ash from Iceland will have dissipated before then!

Family in Flight

The parents aren't the only ones who go flying across the world. Dave and Naomi visited the UK for four weeks and Fiona and Caleigh were able to come from Russia for two of those weeks so our girls had a wonderful time together over Easter and the weekend prior to that.

Caleigh adjusted well to lots of relatives and being in different homes. She couldn't understand being outside and walking on green stuff. It's just been all white in Novo since she started walking. She also was introduced to daffodils - not too sure about them!



Operation World Update

In our last letter we were coming to an end of our OW involvement. Lots has changed since then. For various reasons the project has experienced unavoidable delays with the projected publishing date now being moved to much later this year.

Margaret has been involved in collating articles relating to Africa, Europe and the Pacific regions plus background research on several Provinces of China. There are several other tasks for her to be involved with that can be done more easily actually being with the team in the UK.

If any of you would like to pray specifically for the Operation World team over the coming months, please email Margaret (margbardsley@iinet.net.au) and she will give you regular updates of prayer needs.

Current points:

- for each team member to stay close to Jesus despite the tremendous work pressures each one faces;
- for the ability to sleep well and be refreshed mentally and physically;
- for Jason as he finishes drafts for all the country chapters and for the many contacts around the world checking what has been written;
- for Molly, the Project Manager, who goes for surgery this Friday; for a successful operation and quick recovery;
- for Margaret joining the team again - for the ability to quickly learn the tasks required and to cope with the pressure of a busy workload. Particularly pray for freedom from headaches and eye-strain.

Course update

Margaret has completed the Proofreading part of her course with a good result. She is now part-way through the Copy Editing module and awaiting feedback from her mid-course assignment.

The proofreading could come in useful later for *Operation World*.

Life in Perth since our last letter

We are into the last two weeks of the **Alpha** course. Numbers have remained at around 13 participants plus three leaders. It's great to see the way the group has gelled together, made friendships and not looking forward to the end of the course. Spiritually we have seen growth in a number of lives, but lots of unanswered questions still remaining for others.

One man, Brian, has asked to come and spend time once a week with John doing jobs around the place and just chatting about living for Jesus. Another young man, Clayton, was baptised on Easter Sunday, and is learning to pray in public

One lady, Cheryl, has made significant steps towards total commitment to Jesus. She is being discipled by one of the lady leaders. Lou, friend of another lady leader, has taken initial steps towards a relationship with Jesus.

We plan to have a group doing '40 Days of Purpose' in July and August. A number from Alpha want to be part of that.

Margaret has continued catering for dinner for around 17 each Friday evening. It's been tiring but a worthwhile contribution to making the group feel 'at home'.

Local church commitments

We continue with our missions committee involvements but we have also been given a new church role: Shepherding Elders. This means we are part of a team who are available to pray with people at the end of Sunday services plus be part of the email team that prays for requests via the 'Care Cards' from Sunday or via email to the church office during the week. It's scary but exciting to be involved in this way.

Praise

- The Alpha Course and lives touched.
- Safety in travel for our family visiting the UK.
- Progress so far with Operation World and Margaret's study course.

Prayer

- John in his role at the WEC Leaders' Conference
- The OW team & Margaret's involvement
- John (who returns to Perth 9 June) looking after himself until 21 July, and all the practical tasks still needing completion.

Making Disciples

This first term of 2010 has convinced John that his gifts are better suited to making disciples and pastoral care than they are to evangelism and church planting. It has been exhilarating to take three men (and with Margaret, two women) through 'Steps to Freedom in Christ' and watch them begin their walk with Jesus as free people. Check it out! It's a marvellous diagnostic and disciple-making tool by Dr Neil Anderson.

John is still an 'agony aunt' on www.soon.org.uk and delights in helping people through their crises. The English teaching did not materialise, as Andrew took on extra shifts to put his brother through university, and then got a 9-5 job, so now he can go to TAFE for his English. John has not done the ASeTTS training either, because of training date clashes, but it is still an aim for this year.

His overall plan for the beautification of 18 Balmoral Street is in full swing. We made great progress during the 3-week visit of Rudi, a German volunteer. Two concrete parking bays are completed, exterior doors varnished with UV-resistant clear, a large open-plan office ceiling with revealed beams painted. Four channel-and-grate sections are buried in the paving, connected to underground soak pits, the shed has a new roof of half iron and half polycarbonate to let in the light, a pergola is up to keep the grape vine in its right place next year, gardens have loads of manure dug in. Now the rain has started we're planning to plant out shrubs we've grown from cuttings and some that we'll buy. There's still a LOT to do, including several difficult retaining walls, and some Enviroseal to go under the tiles in part of the roof that leaked in the recent storm.



Pomegranate from our garden. Looks like a Christmas decoration

Thank you again for your continued prayer support. We couldn't do the job without you.

With our love and prayer that God will bless and encourage you too.

John & Margaret