

NEWSLETTER 46 August 1st 2018

We have just spent a wonderful three weeks with family from all over the world!



The reason was two-fold! Our grandson **Taylor came from Wales to marry Olivia** (3rd and 5th from left). Olivia is from Ottawa and they met at Hillsong College, Australia. They are going to live in Wales where they will work with Rob and Andrea (behind 'mum') at their church in Cardigan. Philip and Lynette (2nd/3rd from right) came from Australia, with son Michael (tall, central, back), daughter Emma with Luke (next to Phil and Lynette at back) and daughter Chloe (green dress in front) with boyfriend Sam (back row, white shirt). Our oldest daughter Corinne is in pink. Taylor's sister and two brothers live locally. Meghan (and Jeremy) are behind Chloe; Matt (and Elaina) are behind and next to me; Dylan (and fiancé Jan) are kneeling on left.

Three days after the wedding, all gathered together for the second reason – **my 80th birthday!** Well, not really!! My birthday is in November and all were planning to come for that. However, when Taylor and Olivia decided to marry in Victoria, all plans changed! Victoria is much nicer in July than November! My "faux" birthday was wonderful – hosted by Jeremy and Meghan. It also included more special guests – our close friend Jenna (on right) and our "other daughters", Adeline with husband Luis, (far left -serving as missionaries in Dominican Republic) and Sherry (from Vanderhoof, BC). Sadly, none of Corinne's family were able to attend my 'birthday'.

Both Anne and I are really well, though tired after this time. Our children were very good at shielding us from much of the work and their stay was very pleasing. I climbed Mt Finlayson with Philip, Michael and

Luis two days before the wedding. I'm getting slower every year but thrilled that I am still able to scale the heights – this time it took ~3hours up and down.

Ministry continues: Myles and I still walk the University circuit each week in **prayer**. The Lord has given me a deep love for the local university and I enjoy my times there so much. We anticipate hosting another Core Group of students when the new semester begins in September. Last year's group were such a blessing to us. One of the girls, Patricia, has a weekly blog you might find interesting – aimed at university students but challenging to all. You can find it <www.patriciaengler.com>

I also meet with three guys at church for prayer each Friday. These past two months have seen some heavy prayer burdens placed upon me. Three friends have serious cancer issues and two others have major marital problems.

Weekly **Bible studies** are at our home, attended by 12-15 people each week during the summer months. Currently, we are studying Mark.

I also have two/three men who call me regularly for **mentoring** – by Skype, phone or a visit.

Our week at **Esperanza** was very rewarding. It was Anne's first time (my 3rd) and she enjoyed it very much. We worked hard – she, cleaning the schoolroom, washing toys, and working in the garden; me, helping to clad a house with cedar boards. If our health remains good, we anticipate going again next year.

Time to close and recuperate from the excitements of the past two weeks. Thank you again for reading this newsletter – trust it is a blessing to you.

Rejoicing,

Gareth