

NEWSLETTER 21

Nov 21st 2010

Since starting on this itinerant ministry in 1995, I have not written one letter/email nor made one telephone call asking for either ministry or financial support. Our testimony is that we continue to be amazed at the Lord's supply in both of these areas. Often I am asked, "What's next for you, Gareth?" to which I reply, "I do not know, but expect the Lord's telephone call/letter soon. I'm simply holding on to my Father's hand." Since my last newsletter, the Lord has been filling up our diary for 2011.

A surprise telephone call from **Kuala Lumpur** started things off: we have been invited to the 30year reunion of the Malasian students for whom I was chaplain in 1980-83. They attended universities in Canada and asked me to be their chaplain while I pastored my first church in Kitchener, Ontario. This was a very rewarding time during which I conducted seminars and went to retreats with over 50 students. At one time, as many as 20 were sleeping in the basement of my home over the weekend! Anne and I were their guests in KL back in 1986 – a wonderful time! - and I have been there twice for short stays en route to other ministry in India. We shall be going there for two weeks toward the end of January, stopping off for three days in Hong Kong to reminisce about our home there 1967-69.

A second invitation came from **Haiti** where a Christian school has asked me to speak at their teachers' retreat, the first week in February. I was in Haiti some years ago and look forward to my return – assuming the present horrendous cholera outbreak doesn't affect my going. Shane and Christie (see my last newsletter) are teaching there and were the cause of my invitation, though I did speak at the International Church that oversees this school last time.

Then, last week I received a call from a young couple I know, who are interns at a Mennonite Community Church in **Midway, BC** – a tiny community on the USA border, about 90 minutes drive south east of Kelowna, BC. Their pastor wants/needs a sabbatical leave but is unwilling to take one unless a substitute is found to oversee the church and mentor the young couple. Their denomination could find no one willing, so last weekend I flew out to speak at the church and have now accepted their invitation to oversee them for three months or so, mid-Feb – April. This will be very different for us as our whole time in Canada has been lived in cities. However we are excited about the challenge, though the prospect of cold weather at the start of our time there, does not thrill us!!

After that we will stay in BC for our grandson's (Matt) **wedding** to Elena in June and to celebrate our own **50th anniversary** on July 15th. Lynette & Phil will be coming with (all?) their family from Australia to celebrate both events with us (their anniversary is also July 15th). Then I am taking Anne back to her 'roots' in **Norway**. Already we have been offered a summer cottage for part of our time there, and she is looking forward so much, to the opportunity to practice her Norsk and to see many of her relatives we have not seen since we were in Oslo on the Anastasis in 1991. We would like to spend quality time there so will be in no rush to return home. Naturally, we shall stop off in UK en route to visit our many friends there.

The Lord continues to keep us in good health – a colonoscopy last week and another visit to my urologist both had the same result – all clear!! "I don't want to see you again for 5 years" - my gastroentrologist; "Don't come back for 6 months" - my urologist. Anne still has concerns about high blood pressure and an irregular heartbeat, but we both continue to exchange our sicknesses for the Lord's health. For our ages, we continue to amaze people with our health. Praise the Lord!

I continue to mentor young men – another one, Richard, joined me last month – and the Preachers' Club continues to flourish. My Sunday evening prayer times continue though I am alone there. I now

attend the men's prayer meeting for the local Anglican (Network) church, where their pastor has invited me to keep them focussed on revival.

There is rumour going round that 'revival has broken out' on the north end of this island (500 km away). If so, I rejoice, but one is so often disillusioned when one finds men being glorified rather than the Lord, Who alone is worthy of our praise. I take the position of 'wait and see', continuing to pray for the Lord to do a mighty work among us.

The river of God is full of water; but not one drop of it flows from earthly springs. *Spurgeon*

Till next time, the Lord bless you

Gareth