

NEWSLETTER 25 *September 2011*

Flekkeroy, Norway

As I sat at the waters-side having my devotions yesterday morning, my heart sang and I meditated on the faithfulness of the Lord. Surely my lot has fallen to me in pleasant places. My devotions of late have been centred on Jeremiah, not usually the source of joy as he is known as 'the weeping prophet'. I have been looking at chapters 30 onward where the Lord not only warns of great judgement to come upon His people but also assures them of His faithfulness in bringing them back to their homeland with great rejoicing. He will never forsake His covenant people, though He may seem to turn His back for a while. This is my confidence as I continue to pray for my land(s) of Canada and Wales, that the Lord will visit us again as He has done so often in Wales and, as recently as 1971, in Canada.

It always encourages me when I hear of friends who are experiencing a wonderful move of God in their lives and ministries. Of course we know that He is doing wonderful things in India and Africa, but He is also at work in North America and Europe. Deb Krum writes from Idaho of her amazement at how wonderfully God is developing a great burden for prayer among the women of that region. I remember the struggle she was going through just a year ago, as she really questioned the way she was doing ministry, spending so much time in raising money and making pleas. She had heard me speak at the "Broken before the throne" conference in Baltimore, so wrote asking for my advice. I do not know if I was any help but Deb decided to step out into trusting God fully and, as they say, the rest is **His** story. Ask to be put on her email newsletter list at dkrum@gracetapestries.org – you will be blessed. I received a call yesterday about a group of young men from several churches on Vancouver Island, north of Victoria, who are meeting regularly for Bible study, without the initiative of a local church or pastor. God is surely raising a new generation of young people 'who have rejected the *faith* of their parents for reality'. Praise the Lord!

On our arrival in Wales at the end of July, I found that the pastor of our old church at Cefn Cribwr was leaving. The trustees asked for my counsel in how they should move regarding the future of the church. It has a wonderful ministry to the community, but they were concerned that it seems to have lost something of its focus regarding discipling of the believers. They have since restarted a regular prayer meeting as they seek the Lord's direction for the future. As my regular reader knows, it is a passion of mine to see believers disciplined and "released" into the work and ministry the Lord has designed each one for. See my book "***Soar Like the Eagle***". Pastors are called "to equip the saints for the work of ministry" (Eph 4:12).

Anne and I are currently enjoying much favour from the Lord as we relax on the island of Flekkeroy, just off Kristiansand on the south coast of Norway. We have a most beautiful home loaned to us, together with a car, from our very good friends, Jon-Kare and Helene. Anne is studying Norsk as this is the land of her father and we shall be visiting (distant) relatives in Oslo in October. Dad used to be an itinerant evangelist in Norway before WW2. I am enjoying spending quality time in devotions and hiking the many trails on this island. As I stated in an earlier newsletter, this is my 50th wedding anniversary gift to Anne, as she has always longed to touch her roots much as I did in Wales two years ago.

Shortly after we arrived on Flekkeroy we had the news that Viv, Anne's brother-in-law had passed away in Wales, so we had to return there for the funeral. Viv and Betty had been missionaries in northern Norway among the Lapps, for several years. Now they are together with the Lord they loved and served.

We are busy trying to get to know believers on this island and have already met some YWAMers from the local base. There is also a young couple building a new house across the bay from us – Mark is from Vancouver and Eva is Norwegian, but they met at a Lutheran Bible School in Camrose, AB. They welcomed us warmly and we anticipate getting to know them better. I love relaxing like this – unusual for me – but I expect the Lord will give me some ministry opportunities while here. Since we left the 'professional ministry' in 1990 and began this itinerant work, I have not, to my remembrance, written **one** letter/email nor made **one** telephone call, asking for ministry or finances, but the Lord has been faithful in providing

both. He has led the way – a wonderful way – as I have clung on to His hand.

We return to Wales for November, where I shall speak again at Mt Zion, Cardigan on the 20th. Home to Victoria on November 30th.

I have attached a couple of photos of Flekkeroy. Our home is the right hand one on top of the cliff, with its boathouse, the third yellow one below; the second is a view from our front garden.



Until my next newsletter,

Rejoicing in His mercies,

Gareth