

After two months away from Canada we are now back home, enjoying the beautiful weather of early fall. Our general health remains very good but various aches and discomforts show us that these bones are getting old(er)! There was much hard work to do on our arriving home, to help our daughter Corinne develop a basement suite ready for letting. Of course, father was called in to help lay the laminate floor boards – no wonder I ache!

Our vacation in Europe was wonderful! Rob and Andrea (our daughter) are now living in Cardigan on the beautiful west coast of Wales, where Rob pastors Mt Zion Baptist Church. This is the same church I first visited in 2008 on my way to moderate the conference at Greenock, Scotland. Little did I imagine that, one day, they would be there. It is always so easy looking backwards to see the 'stepping stones' God places in our lives, little realising that the decisions we make are often His leading for those who desire to walk in His will.

Our first weeks were simply soaking in the good fellowship of those precious believers and enjoying once again the hospitality of Steve and Sulwen, the former pastor. Then I traveled to Quinta, a retreat centre near Oswestry, for The Sanctuary Retreat hosted by Paul and Tecky Williams who had invited me to moderate this time, as I had done in their presence when in Greenock. It was so good to see them and their friends once again and to enjoy the worship ministry of Hebron. The speakers were Ray Yungen of Salem Oregon, USA who spoke on the dangerous practices and teachings of the Emergent Church and Complemptative Spirituality in the evangelical church, Alan Bartley from Northern Ireland with a challenge to thirst for God and Paul himself whose messages were a challenge to the separate life. All present were both challenged and blessed.

After my return to Cardigan, we insured Rob's old car for our use so took time to visit friends in Mid-Glamorgan and Bristol before traveling on to Cornwall for a few days with Martin (Anne's cousin) and wife Jill.

One sad note but also cause of rejoicing. Anne's cousin Margaret passed into the presence of her Saviour while we were at home. We were able to visit with her in hospital three times before her passing and were present at the funeral, her closest relatives. Margaret was always a passionate disciple and a joy to spend time with.

After seven weeks in Wales and west England it was time to move on to other friends in Scandanavia. An overnight in a Gatwick hotel was made special by the visit of Sue Dickensen, a dear friend, who, like Anne, has been through treatment for breast cancer and beaten it! What sweet fellowship we enjoyed! Lars and Marian have been family friends for many years and we have visited them a number of times in Stockholm. Their daughters Gorel and Ingemo and their friend Ulla are all as 'family' to us. On the Sunday we worshipped at their church, New Life, where the bi-lingual message was presented by two elders – a very good word on Elijah – worth listening to on their web page. From there we flew to Oslo to spend another brief time with Svein and May (Anne's cousin). This was a doubly special time for Anne as they took us to their summer cottage situated near the town where Anne first learned to speak Norsk as a 10 year old girl! Imagine her delight when we were able to locate her first friend, Evelyn and to enjoy some reminiscing! We traveled on by train to Jon-Kore and Helene at their home in Stavanger, where we spent many happy hours but one special treat they had planned for us – a boat trip up the Lysefjord! Though the weather was not great, the scenery was and the return journey by car quite hair-raising with so many hairpin bends as we climbed the road out of the fjord.

Another overnight stay in Gatwick before flying home and our vacation was over.

As we reminisce over the places we have been and the friends we have come to know, we realise just how blessed we are to belong to the family of God.

Gareth