

I really need to be more disciplined in keeping you up-to-date on my news! We've had a wonderful year with a few valleys but many more times of blessing. In March I was invited to be interim pastor at another Baptist Church in Sidney, about 30km from our home in Victoria. I traveled there two or three times a week, sometimes with Anne, for visitation, Bible teaching and leading the Sunday services. My 'contract' was for six months but we happily stayed a little longer until I have to leave now as I am traveling to UK next week. Much of the work at Bethel has been to search for a new pastor. Happily, the man who all chose to be the next pastor there, agreed this past week to answer the invitation. He will start in January after I will be the preacher for the month of December. The church has also built a beautiful new facility and is debt free.

We were blessed to host some special relatives and friends this year. Anne's cousin Bernard, and his wife Pam, arrived at Calgary in June. They hired a RV and we traveled with them through the Canadian Rockies, Banff, Lake Louise, en route to Vancouver and the Island. We had a wonderful two weeks together. Then, in August, Derek and Eira from Perth, Australia, two of our dearest friends from our home town in Wales, came to see how beautiful this west coast is. They were thrilled at all they saw so are planning another visit asap. At the end of August we hosted four wonderful friends from Stockholm whom we had visited on our trip to Europe in 2007. To round off our visitors, Wakui, our former Japanese student, came for a few days in September.

Besides ministering at the church I also spoke at two camps; a Chinese Church family camp on a weekend, and a seniors camp for a week. We so much enjoyed relaxing with these special friends. There was also an induction service for our son-in-law, Rob at his church.

I continue to be involved in mentoring Greg, a young man wonderfully used of God with his web page www.sermonindex.net, and just last week co-moderated a conference in Atlanta, GA on the theme of Revival. It was a wonderful time that you can share with us if you open that web page and see the many contacts there for the conference. Next week, I travel to UK where I shall meet up again with Greg and another precious young brother, Eli. We shall tour the many sites in Wales, famous for their involvement with the Welsh Revival of 1904/5, and then journey on to Scotland where I am to co-moderate another conference at the end of November.

Another highlight of the year was the wedding of our granddaughter Kayley to Nick. This was in Terrace, many miles north of us, so we had a wonderful sightseeing trip north followed by a day long ferry trip back to the north of Vancouver Island via the "inside passage" – a route beloved by the cruise ships.

Just one sad note dampened the year. I was recently diagnosed with high grade bladder cancer. It was removed but has high potential to return, so I must report to my urologist as soon as I return from the UK. If I am all clear at that time, he will commence a series of six weekly injections of bovine TB – the standard 'remedy' for this type of cancer. Through all this time neither Anne nor I have had a moment lacking peace and we give testimony that God's grace is more than sufficient for all our circumstances.

Will commit to being more regular in posting these newsletters so look for the latest when I return from UK.

Still rejoicing in His love,

Gareth