

“To find God’s will is man’s greatest discovery; to do God’s will is man’s greatest achievement” John Wesley

July 2009

To all our dear praying friends,
It seems almost incredible that a whole term has passed since we last wrote! Today is the last day of the semester! Time seems to fly by so quickly here. We are going to be house sitting in Hamilton over the two week semester break for Bryan and Rosemary (the vicar and her husband at St Mary’s) while they are on a missions trip to Fiji, so it will be nice to have a change of scenery. Also they have a lovely black cat so I’m (Fee) really looking forward to that! (Rich isn’t really bothered about it)

Semester Break

Although it is the holidays neither of us are actually having a break. I will continue my work with Operation World during the first week of the holidays as normal and then the second week I will begin the Admin role at the college. There is always loads to do before the beginning of the new semester so please pray that I remember all that Sue has taught me and get everything done right. Please pray that I would do really well in this role so that I can really be a blessing to the staff and the students here.

And as for Rich - he will be painting during the semester break :-). We are so thankful to God for His provision and so amazed yet again by His perfect timing and His hand at work. We were able to change Rich’s student visa last month to allow him to work part-time during the term time and full-time during the holidays which is great. However, it’s not like he can just go out and ask around for work as he doesn’t have any of his own tools here. Anyway a couple of weeks ago I was really praying that God would provide work for Rich over the holidays (with tools provided!) so that he would have something to do while I am working. Then the next day Pat, who is the principal of the college, asked Rich if he would be willing to paint one of the staff houses over the holidays. And the day after, Bryan asked if Rich would do his bathroom while they are away in Fiji. Pat was also happy for Rich to go out and buy all the tools that he needs for the painting using the college account at a local hardware store! God is so good and so faithful to provide. The money Rich earns from painting the staff house as the college will go towards our fees for next year (which need to be paid before we can renew our visas!) so we even have a start towards them now too!

Rich’s Studies

As I mentioned in our last newsletter, the first term here at college was really encouraging. Now at the end of the second term, I can say

that this one has been even more encouraging! I’ve found studying easier and getting assignments done a much calmer and enjoyable experience. The classes I’ve taken this past term have been bible survey in Acts, the first module of theology, the first module of Spiritual formation (looking at spiritual disciplines such as fasting, praying etc.), learning another culture and also Christian social work. I have thoroughly enjoyed all of them and feel like I have learnt a lot. Even though not all of them are directly studying the bible, they are all based on biblical principles and practices, which I have found helpful in every day life.

I am also involved in a weekly ministry as part of the course. For me this entails going to a Maori community in a small town called Nga-ruawahia where we have a street BBQ for teenagers. This has progressed well over the past term. Relationships with a core group of the regular young people have formed and two teenagers have given their lives to Jesus, one of who has continued to regularly attend the BBQ and shared some amazing testimonies of answered prayer. Relationships within the team are developing well although there have been a number of miscommunications and some tension. However that’s to be expected in a team made up of five nationalities, extremely different personalities and experience. Please pray that I would continue to focus and enjoy the studies and apply all that I’m learning to my daily life. Please also pray for the Nga-ruawahia ministry – that we would have unity and peace in our team, in particular for good communication among team members and for individual opportunities to talk to the kids as they don’t tend to talk to you when they are in a group, but only when they are on their own.



Rich hard at work!

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Operation World

Please continue to pray for us as a team that we would meet our deadline of having all the material finished with edits and feedback by the end of December 2009. So far we have written 175 first drafts which means there are 61 countries still to write, as well as all the feedback from our contacts to be incorporated into all 236 profiles. Therefore, we have a lot of work before us in these next 6 months. Also, the remaining countries to be written include “giants” such as China, India, Nigeria, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Please pray especially for wisdom and spiritual insight for Jason as he does all the writing - that God would guide and inspire every word that he writes as we publish this material with the primary purpose of fueling strategic and informed prayer for the nations of our world.

St Mary’s

Things are going really well at the church and we are thoroughly enjoying the fellowship we share there and the opportunities we have to be involved. The church is very much at the stage where they are seeking to grow and expand and to this end they have several strategic planning groups in place made up of various members of the congregation that are specifically looking at different areas of church life and ministry and how to move forward in them. For example, youth work, children’s ministry, adult ministry, buildings, finance, community relationships and church governance etc. These groups are all meeting together and discussing how to move forward and then they will feed back their recommendations to vestry . So it’s an exciting time.

In our last newsletter we mentioned that we were involved in the development of a service on the third Sunday. We did the first of these in June, called “Fresh Expressions” and it went really well. Please pray that God would guide and lead us as we continue to plan and lead these services each month. Last month we both shared bits of our testimony about knowing and following Jesus but we have no idea what we’re going to do for this month! We are also going to be leading a bible study for older youth on the first Sunday of each month so please pray for this too, that the young people would come and that it would be a great opportunity for growth as they meet together and study God’s Word.

My aunt the nun!

Most of you probably don’t know that my aunt is a Catholic nun and there is probably no rea-

son why you should! However, just after Rich and I moved here in February, my aunt was also moved here from London to begin a new convent just a couple of hours drive away from us! She is a Benedictine nun and one of the main focuses of their convents is to run a guest house where people can come and stay, mostly for a retreat. They are still in the building stages getting everything set up but we were still able to go and see her on the 16th May and had a great day there.



Fee and her aunt (no comments about the wellies please - it was wet!)

Thank you for all your continued support and prayers for us. It is such a blessing and encouragement to us to know that so many people are praying for us and supporting us in so many different ways as we move forward in God’s will for our lives.

With love in Christ,
Richard and Fiona

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another to towards love and good deeds. (Hebrews 10:23-24)

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