



June 2017

Dear friends

This prayer letter comes as we enter our third year of ministry in Singapore. Our work permits and visas have just been renewed without any drama - Singapore works very smoothly! Life and ministry continues to be quite different in many ways than when we were in Thailand, although the longer we are here the more we are aware that we are still very much living in Asian culture. This is very much in evidence at the cathedral. Apart from the English language congregations and the various Chinese dialect congregations we have Filipino, Indonesian Bahasa and Myanmar language congregations each with their own distinctive styles and make up.

In some ways ministry is less hectic than in Thailand, certainly there is less travelling and not as many cultural frustrations. On the other hand the pace of life is faster and things change quickly, including in church. So, we have more staff changes to adapt to. The normal practice in Asia is for bishops to post clergy to parishes, sometimes at short notice. It was therefore a surprise that the new deacon who has been part of Peter's team, and in training for the last year, is being moved from 1 July now he has just been ordained priest. This represents quite a loss to the team (and to Peter as an ordained colleague), however it has been good to be able to bring some mentoring to him. It will also mean Peter taking on managing the baptism and confirmation preparation courses across the cathedral, at least for a while. Also in July a senior pastoral worker on the team retires after well over 20 years of ministry at the cathedral. This will be a huge loss too. However, next month a new pastoral worker is joining the team and he will head the seniors/elderly ministry which will be a much needed addition.

Peter is currently shaping the next quarter's sermon series for the main services across the cathedral: bringing God's word to God's world is at the heart of the ministry. It continues to be a joy encouraging and developing Alpha. We took a trip with some new younger leaders we are training to the Alpha Asia Hub conference held at Holy Trinity, Bukit Bintam (HTBB), KL Malaysia, which was inspiring for us all. While there it was wonderful to meet up with James and Katie Harding, who used to attend Christ Church Bangkok in our very early years and we encouraged into ordained ministry. They are now at HTBB KL with James as Principal of the new Anglican Theological College there. How exciting.



The role of mentoring leaders is one that is growing quite naturally. Other than the Alpha Team there are the leaders of the new young adult service, and Peter now acts as supervisor to one of the key Myanmar service leaders as he studies theology at Trinity Theological College here.



As we write this we are preparing for our two-week break in the UK at the end May and the start of June and we are looking forward very much to seeing family and friends. Since Perth, Australia is relatively close we take every opportunity of good low-cost flight deals to visit Paul, Monique and grandchildren Finley and Marley as often as we can. What a blessing our family are.

As soon as we have arrived back in Singapore though we have our church camp (conference) starting the next day, meaning we travel just over the border to Johor Bahru in Malaysia. The timing of that could have been better!

Ineke has a new job after her previous one ended. Within a few weeks she was offered a post as head of reception at the Hollandse Club, so she is enjoying working a lot of the time in her 'mother tongue' Dutch as well as English and 'Singlish'. It has been a pretty full on start though as they are replacing staff and so she is busy training a number of new staff - which is a challenge! The position is another one which gives her ministry and outreach opportunities in an international setting and meeting interesting people.

Wishing you every blessing in Christ

Peter and Ineke

PRAYER POINTS

- *Please pray for developing relationships:*
The mentoring relationships Peter is building and ongoing good relationships with senior staff.
The witnessing relationships Ineke has in her work environment across international boundaries.
- *For our family across the continents:*
Children and grandchildren in Perth Australia. Children and partners in the UK. Ineke's parents in South Africa (now getting quite frail). Siblings in South Africa, UK and Holland.
- Please pray for energy and life balance amongst the pace of life of ministry in a bustling city and church.

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