



April 2016

Dear Friends,

St Andrew's Hall

Many thanks for your continued prayers for us. We have had a good start to 2016 with many opportunities to equip, train and encourage people in mission. David spent six days in Brisbane at the start of the year, speaking at the CMS Queensland summer conference. He gave five talks on a wide range of mission related subjects. Rachel was then busy with the CMS Victoria conference a week later. CMS runs mission conferences in the summer holidays in every state in Australia. They vary in size from 2,500 in New South Wales to 150 in Tasmania. A core part of CMS's role is to educate and inform Australian churches about God's mission; our summer conferences help us to fulfil that purpose.



David speaking at CMS Victoria's summer conference

Since then we have enjoyed a visit from David's parents, David has completed another intensive for his DMiss study programme and a new semester has started at St Andrew's Hall. And Sam is home after 13 months in Nepal and Europe! We're delighted he's back.

We are half way through the current St Andrew's Hall semester. We have enjoyed getting to know another wonderful group of trainee missionaries. We have 11 adults and nine children in the current course, preparing to serve in

Cambodia, the Philippines, Vanuatu, Italy, the Middle East ... and Sydney. The Anglican Diocese of Sydney has asked us to train a couple who will be involved in church planting in a highly multi-ethnic region of the city. This is an exciting opportunity that we hope will grow in future years.

This will be a big year in planning for the future of St Andrew's Hall. The facilities here are tired and well past their "use by" date. Everyone agrees that doing nothing is not an option. The CMS Board is leading a process of reviewing all the possible options and is committed to moving a redevelopment plan forward this year.

Sam

It has been so good to have Sam back at home. He had an amazing year in 2015. He coped with the delays to his study at the university in Nepal; lived through a major earthquake and all the aftershocks; completed an internship at the Australian Embassy in Kathmandu; started dating Melanie; and then spent time in Switzerland with Melanie's family and in the UK with family there. He is now writing up his Honours thesis, which should be finished by the end of May. He's also applying for graduate jobs to start next year. We're very excited that Melanie will be visiting us for three weeks in June.



Sam and Melanie

Other news

In the second half of 2015, Rachel was working for CMS in Victoria coordinating the pastoral care of missionaries on home assignment. She was covering the role for a colleague who was overseas on short-term mission for seven months. We were expecting this to come to an end in February, so it has been wonderful that CMS has been able to extend Rachel's role. She is working alongside her colleague in the pastoral care of missionaries and enquirers.

Tom and Mia are well and busily involved in work and church. They are leading the youth group at their church and enjoying the teaching, discipling and mentoring involved. Jonathan has been leading the Christian Union at Monash University as they begin the academic year and make contacts with new students.

With our warmest greetings,

David and Rachel, Tom and Mia, Sam and Melanie, and Jonathan

PRAYER POINTS

Thank God for:

- Sam and Melanie's relationship.
- A wonderful group of trainee missionaries at St Andrew's Hall.

Please pray for:

- God's provision for Sam and Melanie, especially regarding visas and future employment.
- Continued opportunities to train people from Sydney Diocese for cross-cultural mission in Sydney.
- For the CMS Board as they make decisions about future building developments for St Andrew's Hall
- For wisdom for Jonathan as he leads the CU at university.
- That each of us would continue to grow in godliness and grace.

Please contact your local Crosslinks office to change your contact details

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