



April 2017

Dear Friends,

Further Studies

As many of you know, I have been quietly studying away for a Doctor of Missiology (DMiss) over the last four years. I am in the final stage of the programme, which is run by Fuller Theological Seminary in California. One of the great attractions of the course is that I have not had to travel to America. I have been part of a cohort group from Papua New Guinea, Australia and New Zealand that has met regionally each year for an intensive. It has been a huge privilege to study in a cross-cultural context and alongside remarkable Christian leaders. I have learnt so much from them.



DMiss Cohort Group

This year I am writing my thesis, which focuses on the theology of care for the poor. I have been thinking about how some themes of Sydney Anglican theology might inform this issue. I have enjoyed the opportunity to study in this area, especially in the light of our ministry in the slums in Nairobi. I have to have a first draft completed by the end of June, ready for an oral defence in early September. I would appreciate your prayers as I fit the writing into my already busy schedule.

Jonathan in Exeter

Jonathan has settled quickly into life in Exeter where he is completing the final semester of his degree. He has loved getting involved at St Leonard's Church and in the Christian Union. He will stay on in England once his course is finished as he has been accepted by CARE onto an internship programme. CARE places young Christians as interns alongside MPs or in large NGOs. Jonathan hopes to work in Westminster alongside a Christian MP. You can read more here about CARE's internship programme here: <https://www.care.org.uk/leadership-programme> We'd appreciate your prayers for Jonathan, particularly for a good place to live in London later this year.

St Andrew's Hall

Thank you for your prayers for Rachel and me in our work at St Andrew's Hall. Our current semester is going well, with a full cohort of 14 adults and eight children. We are training people who hope to serve in the Muslim world, the Buddhist world of East and South East Asia, Chile, Tanzania, Ireland and Northern Australia. We are always encouraged by the quality of our trainees and this semester is no exception.

CMS-Australia has lots of applicants for missionary service at the moment. St Andrew's Hall is looking like being full throughout 2017 and 2018, training between 25 and 30 long-term missionaries each year. Our facilities are creaking and we are working towards a major property development that would greatly increase our capacity. Pray for God's provision for this project.

Rachel works at St Andrew's Hall three days a week. The other two days she is involved in mentoring and encouraging missionary applicants as they explore the possibility of long-term service with CMS. This is a great opportunity to help candidates think through their suitability for mission.

Isabel, our colleague with lung cancer, is doing well – please continue to pray for a long and sustained remission for her.

Other Family News

Sam and Melanie have rented a flat not far from St Andrew's Hall and are doing a wonderful job of setting up home and beginning married life together. Sam is working in a graduate training role at Melbourne University. Melanie is looking for roles with NGOs working with vulnerable women or children. Tom and Mia moved into their own home just before Christmas and are loving being in their own place. Tom changed jobs in February and is working as a Social Worker in a community mental health team.

With our love and best wishes
David and Rachel

PRAYER POINTS

Thank God for:

- Good numbers of missionary applicants to CMS-Australia
- The good start Jonathan has made in Exeter

Please pray for:

- Rachel's work with missionary applicants, that she would help people to discern how they might best serve the Lord Jesus
- Isabel, our colleague at St Andrew's Hall, that her treatment for lung cancer would continue to be effective
- God's grace for us as staff team at St Andrew's Hall as we look forward to full semesters in 2017 and 2018
- God's provision to enable us to redevelop the facilities at St Andrew's Hall
- A job for Melanie that will be a great fit for her

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