

July 2016



Dear Friends,

SAM AND MELANIE

We're delighted that Sam and Melanie are now engaged. Sam visited Melanie in Nepal over Easter and proposed to her there. They plan to get married in Melbourne on 12 November. After their honeymoon we will travel to Zurich to hold a wedding blessing and celebration with our extended families on 10 December. We are delighted for them – they are a great match for one another and it has been a joy to see their relationship grow. We appreciate their desire to serve the Lord Jesus together. They plan to settle in Australia at least for the next couple of years. Sam has a job lined up for the start of 2017 – things are beginning to fall into place for them. Melanie will apply for a spouse visa in Australia immediately after they get married. This is a complicated process in

Australia that will require lots of persistence and many forms to be filled in.



Melanie visited Australia for three weeks in June. It was so good to welcome her here and to get to know her better. We had a week's holiday with all seven of us – we went to a lovely village up in the hills, with no internet, barely any phone coverage and only solar power. We felt thoroughly disconnected from everything! We had a wonderful time walking, talking, playing games and reading. And it snowed ...

Fun in the snow!

MINISTRY

There have been some very significant changes for us over the last few months. A dear colleague at St Andrew's Hall, Jeni, has left after over four years' ministry with us. She has moved to Sydney with her husband Chris, who has been appointed to a senior role with CMS-Australia. We will miss them very much. Jeni worked as the Course Facilitator at St Andrew's Hall. Rachel has stepped into Jeni's shoes on a temporary basis for the next semester to give us more time to make a longer term appointment. This means that Rachel will be working full-time for the next six months, three days a week at St Andrew's Hall and two days a week helping with pastoral care for CMS Victoria. This will be a big change of gear for us – we'd appreciate your prayers.

Last semester finished well with a joyful graduation ceremony in June. Our second semester of the year is just getting under way; we will be training 12 new missionaries who expect to serve in the usual wonderful range of countries – this time in France, Bolivia, South East Asia, the Middle East, India, Kenya and South Africa. We are so thankful for your continued prayers for us as we help our trainees prepare themselves for long-term cross-cultural mission.

OTHER NEWS

Rachel and I will be visiting CMS missionaries in Kenya, Ethiopia and Tanzania at the end of September. This will be our first visit back to Kenya since we left in 2007. We are looking forward to seeing old friends again.

Tom and Mia continue to be involved in their local church. They are both busy at work with lots of responsibilities. They are especially looking forward to a holiday in September.



Jonathan is drawing towards the end of his year as President of the Christian Union at Monash University. He has one year left of his degree and would love to have the opportunity to go on an exchange to the UK and finish his last semester of study in England. He has applied to Exeter University, but won't find out until November whether there is a place for him.

With our warmest greetings,

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

PRAYER POINTS

Thank God for:

- Sam and Melanie's engagement
- Another terrific 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.
- For the staff team at St Andrew's Hall as we face some staff changes. Pray for a new Course Facilitator and for God's provision for our needs this semester.
- Pray that we would properly equip our trainees for long-term mission.
- For David and Rachel's visit to East Africa, that we would encourage those we are visiting.
- For Jonathan's application to study in the UK from January 2017.
- For a good rest for Tom and Mia in September

Please contact your local Crosslinks office to change your contact details

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