



2013 Morris Moments

December 2013 Newsletter

This year we haven't strayed too far from home with most of our travel being within a 250 kilometre radius. Our first trip was to Rotorua in February to spend a gloriously sunny afternoon with our friends Brian and Marilyn Davis from the UK. They first began supporting our ministry in Japan 35 years ago and we have remained friends ever since.



With Marilyn & Brian Davies in Rotorua

Edith:

My leadership roles with Polio NZ has keep me busier than ever this past year. We (Noel and I) organised a meeting in Auckland for a Danish Polio survivor Niels to tell his story. At another polio meeting in Auckland Dr Andrew Veale spoke about 'sleep'. A trip to Whakatane in April was a pleasant day to meet and encourage their support group.



Edith at the Whakatane polio support group

A lunch meeting in the Kaimai Ranges for the Bay of Plenty polio group gave us another day of sharing with friends in May. A small group of polios meet in Thames in November for a lunch-time get-together. Then to Auckland for a Christmas meeting, so we traversed familiar roads back and forth over the year.



Our big event of the year was that Hamilton hosted the National Polio Conference, which meant a huge effort to plan and prepare. It was a very successful conference, bringing to play the skills we have developed over many years of conferences here and in Japan. The Polio NZ board assisted in all the arrangements. At this conference I was elected president again for another year and will lead the society into 2014.



Chasing the seagulls at Orewa

Writing and radio have taken a back seat again but I had a few radio interviews on the "Women's Voice" show, and have written a couple of articles for magazines.

Read Edith's article at
[www.faithnet.co.nz/polio/stories/Polio Then and Now.html](http://www.faithnet.co.nz/polio/stories/Polio%20Then%20and%20Now.html)



FORTY YEARS AGO ... December 1973, and we



had just arrived in Japan – young, naive, enthusiastic and full of faith. We would need all that faith as we served the Lord for the next 25 years. Even today we still keep contact with many whose lives we touched and shared God's love with in our 25 years in Japan.

Noel:

Noel had gall stone attacks in May and spent a week in hospital passing them and has had no problems since. Not so successful was surgery to remove skin growths behind his ear and on his side. Within days of surgery his wounds became infected and he was hospitalised to have the stitches out. It took a couple of months with the community nurse coming to the house to dress the wounds before they were completely healed.

Because of the gall stones, Noel's plans to go to Christchurch to video the FGBMFI Convention had to be changed. Cameraman Evan was sent to do the recording, and then Noel spent the following weeks editing the DVDs.



Noel behind the camera at the Polio Conference

Noel's assistance to Edith with her polio work has been vital and consuming at times. He completed work on a new comprehensive data base for Polio NZ, helped with the conference planning, as well as endeavouring to keep up his video work on the FGBMFI and Polio NZ conference recordings. He has recorded several other events but is in the happy position of only choosing the ones he wants to do.



Jonas and Noel working on a project

Family:

Son-in-law Kevin celebrated his 50th birthday with a family trip to Melbourne. He had his gall bladder out in March and has made a great recovery.

Lynda has faced a challenging year again in her administration job at "Train Me." She is supportive of Jonas's music studies, and attends as many of his concerts as she can. As well she serves as a projectionist at their Church.



L – R: Lynda, Isaiah, Jonas & Kevin

Jonas has completed his three year music degree at Vision College and is ready to enter the full time work force.

Isaiah will be home from Melbourne for Christmas and it will round off our family celebration to have him with us.

Edith's Graham family members came together in Hamilton from various corners of the country for a birthday weekend for her brother Jeff. Later in the year six members of the family had a wonderful sunny holiday at Orewa beach to celebrate other birthdays and enjoy the Santa parade and markets.



Edith, Rose, Diane & Jeff – the Graham kids

We face the end of the year somewhat exhausted but with a sense of satisfaction that we have made a difference in the lives of many people through our combined service and ministry.

We may not have been in touch with you during the year, but we hope that this newsletter fills in some of the gaps.

We want to send our best wishes and blessings for an especially wonderful Christmas and New Year season of great joy.

Noel & Edith

Noel & Edith Morris

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