



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Noel & Edith Morris – December 2015 Newsletter

2015 for us has had its share of blessings, involvement in groups like our church, the Polio Support Group, CCS Disability Action, and a variety of other events. As we come to Christmas time, we are both happy and relatively healthy, and preparing for an exciting 2016!

Some highlights have been:

March – our Ultrafast Broadband was connected. Hi tech even higher!

April – running a stand at the Waikato Show for Polio.

September – attending Hamilton Elim Church's 50th anniversary (we were members 44 years ago)

September – a launch concert for a CD from "Wilderness Love" – a band that our grandson Jonas plays in.

October – we downsized our book library by donating 500 books sent in a container to a church in Vanuatu.

This year we farewelled some good friends who went on to heaven.

Patricia Green (Rahab and Alabaster Jar ministries) died in March.

Bryan White – friend and spiritual mentor died in June.

Rod Harris – a friend who steered us to Bible College died in July.

We miss them all, our lives have been enriched by each one.

EDITH Although no longer involved with Polio NZ at National level, she and Noel are still part of the Waikato group. In April she wrote an article for local papers about the 60th anniversary of the Salk Polio vaccine. This then became the theme for posters on the Polio stand at the Waikato Show, which we and other Waikato group members manned.



Edith also spoke to a group at Age Concern in April, and Te Kowhata Aglow in July.

Also in July Edith was invited to be one of the speakers at the 80th Anniversary celebrations for CCS Disability Action in the Waikato. Prime Minister John Key also attended, arriving sadly after Edith's speech. Her presentation was about the early formation and work of CCS, and how they have helped her since she was 18 months old.

NOEL In May, stomach pain resulted in an ambulance ride to hospital. A gallstone had escaped from the gall bladder and lodged in the liver duct, and Noel was turning yellow. The solution was an ERCP procedure, where an endoscope was inserted down his throat, through the oesophagus and stomach, then u-turned up the liver duct. The offending stone was then dragged down into the bowel.



However there was still another large gallstone, so in June Noel was back in the hospital facing keyhole surgery where his gall bladder was removed. Now Noel has his gallstone in a little bottle and no more problems!



NOEL continues to record videos at a few major conferences each year, as well as several meetings and seminars at *Harvest City Church* where we attend.

In Queen's Birthday weekend (in between hospital stays) Noel went to Napier to the *FGBMFI Convention* where Bill Subritzky and Jimmy Njino were the main speakers. Our new equipment setup gave really great quality recordings, matching the high spiritual standards of the ministry at the Convention.

The other major event was *Forum on the Family*, plus a Pastor's seminar, which was put on by Family First. Grandson Jonas and John from Napier were the other cameramen. This year the speakers were Ryan Anderson, Dr Greg Pike and Dr Peter Saunders. Their topics were Marriage, Euthanasia, Surrogacy and IVF, and Legalising Marijuana, and all the implications and attacks on our society. These recordings are all on YouTube, and we recommend that you watch these if you can.

Other events that were videoed were the CCS birthday celebrations, a disability funding seminar, and the Chronic Fatigue support group meeting.

Each of these recordings also require hours of video editing, so Noel spends many hours at his computers.



Noel is with Jimmy and Ruth Njino. Jimmy is from Kenya but pastors a lively church in Queensland.



CCS Disability Action Funding Appeal: Edith's speech at the 80th birthday event has been made into a CCS appeal letter sent out to their donors. It was very relevant because she told the story of how CCS had helped her through many phases of her life, and brought out some of the historical links between polio, Rotary and CCS. As well as the appeal letter, a Christmas card was included for people who might want to respond to Edith's story.

To our surprise Melanie from CCS turned up with a big bag of these cards – over 280 of them. Most were people we didn't know, and many just said Merry Christmas. But quite a few made comments about how Edith's story had touched and inspired them. Some told their own stories of polio or other struggles in life.



For Edith it was a humbling experience to have been able to share her life of overcoming challenges with so many strangers (more than 100 times the number of returned cards). She feels that she owes a great deal to CCS for the help they gave over the years, and this was one way she could help them.



Family Lynda and Kevin have just moved house and now live much closer, so they can drop in more often.



Seasons Greetings

Thank you for your friendship throughout the year. As we celebrate the birth of our **Lord Jesus Christ**, we want to take this opportunity to wish you all the best for **Christmas** and the **New Year**.

Noel & Edith Morris

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