



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Noel & Edith Morris – December 2017 Newsletter

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:10-11



There is nothing that makes your year fly past faster than watching a toddler learn to stand, walk and now run. Our great-grandson Otto (now 16 months old) has been the focus of our family's attention over the year. Perhaps the one necessary feature for us is that we give him back at the end of his visit!

Lynda and Kevin, and the boys Isaiah and Jonas, and baby Otto live close by, so we do see them often.

However we have had other activities to fill our year too, and some of these we list on the next page with photos to illustrate them. Life has never been boring at our house.



Noel's highlights for the year was a trip to both Far East Russia and Japan in August.

"In Far East Russia I was part of a team from Japan for the first week, then I spent the next week with the Smirnov family in Vladivostok. I met with a dozen pastors, with 13 graduate students from Faith in Action Bible School, and with lots of other friends.

I spent another 11 days in Japan. I had a JR Rail Pass and was able to visit some friends in fairly remote locations. A highlight was visiting a small church I pastored over 20 years ago. A boy I baptised then is now the Pastor! My one regret is that there are many other friends I did not have time to visit as well."

This was an unexpected trip for Noel as it seemed that Russia was no longer a ministry option. However God opened the doors in both countries and he had a fabulous time.

If you would like to read the separate reports about Russia and Japan, you can find them here:

Russia Report: www.faithnet.co.nz/downloads/Russia_Trip_Report_2017.pdf

Japan Report: www.faithnet.co.nz/downloads/Japan_Trip_Report_2017.pdf

Russia Youtube presentation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q3o-u6z8CMg>



Edith has struggled with some health problems most of the year which is unusual for her. She is generally fairly robust, but a couple of viral infections messed up her thyroid medications and caused a lot of stress. She lost a lot of weight, lost sleep, palpitations, became overly anxious. But with much prayer, many visits to the doctor and even A&E twice, and medication she has turned the corner and is recovering weight, sleep and peace of mind again. She had loving support from so many friends (particularly church friends) and of course family and is thankful to the Lord Jesus for the recovery of a measure of health.



Since Edith resigned from being National President of Polio NZ three years ago we have been lessening our involvement with the Waikato Polio Support Group. In **February** this year we hosted the usual ice-cream party in our backyard as we have done for many years, and this marked our final time. Of course Edith is still a member and follows the progress and events of Polio NZ with great interest.



In **February** and **March** We taught a series of Tuesday night classes at our church on the Motivational Gifts from Romans 12:6 - 8. Twelve "students" signed up for the five week course to find out what God has built into them and how to make best use of their unique gifts.

In **May** we hosted an informal 45th Reunion for people from our time in Faith Bible College (1972). Although there were only six from our class, we were honoured that Des and Carley Short made the effort to drive over from Tauranga to be with us. Who knows how many we will be able to muster for the 50th Reunion?



In **March** we celebrated our 53rd wedding anniversary with lunch at a local restaurant. We seem to spend a lot of time together these days, and can usually finish each other's sentences. Also it is great that when one forgets something, the other remembers it! Being married is still something wonderful to give thanks to the Lord for.



Noel's birthday in **December** this year was a "semi-biggie" at 75. We celebrated with family in our back yard with a dessert party – a very chocolate cake and ice-cream.



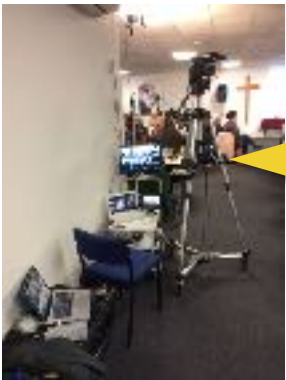
Our old cat Tiger is still clocking up the years. Born in Japan before we came back to NZ, she turned 19 years old in **September**.



FAITHNET VIDEO

Recording meetings and making DVDs has kept Noel busy throughout the year. A "first" was live-streaming Toronto's John Arnott when he came to speak in our church in **June**.

Prayer for Israel Conference, the FGBMFI National Convention and Family First's Forum were the three major events videoed. There were also two Chronic Fatigue lectures, a "Meet the Politicians" gathering and a series of guest speakers at church that were recorded. Some of these are now being uploaded to Youtube.



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**.

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