

Christmas greetings from Canberra!



Don't the years fly by, especially when you're writing a PhD (in Chris's case) and joining the ranks of seniors (in Geoff's case)! Yes, Chris's thesis is still in progress. Next year's Christmas letter should announce its completion. It is going well. In fact, her work so far won Chris a third place in the university's postgraduate awards. So she has to finish it now! Meanwhile, Geoff is not resting on his laurels after turning 60. He has helped in the editing and publication of all sorts of projects including a fundraising brochure for the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture and a handbook on trauma counselling in a rural setting, as well as his regular CCA News. His next big project will be Chris's thesis! His work has received a boost from a broadband connection via Canberra's own TransACT. Now for our news—that is, the list of excuses for the PhD not being finished yet.



The year began with an international workshop on science and religion held here in Canberra. We worked together on the organisation of this and it was a great success. This was the culmination of almost two years work.

Soon after, Chris flew to South Africa for the executive committee meeting of the World Student Christian Federation (WSCF) and stopped off in Perth—Fremantle actually—for a couple of days to see old



friends there. This was the beginning of a good deal of travel for the year. Geoff is delighted that the number of pins in our world map is growing. Geoff went to Hong Kong and Taiwan in May with his old friend and best man, Simon. Chris joined him in Hong Kong later and we stayed with her old friend and bridesmaid, Mandy. We continued on to Geneva (Chris had her usual meeting of the WSCF), Hamburg (a place new to both of us), the UK (we visited new-found Ledger relatives in Kent and friends in Norfolk) and Berkeley, USA (for an evaluation cum celebration following the science and religion workshop we had organised in Canberra).

In October and November, we visited Hong Kong again (more CCA work), Thailand (more WSCF meetings) and Burma (to visit some old friends of Chris's). Burma was definitely a highlight and we could write you a whole letter about that.



- On top of Mount Majura, the hill behind our house
- The Rathaus (town hall) and Der Park ist geöffnet (Hamburg)
- Filling our van with diesel in Burma
- Jerry the cat



Closer to home, we have also found time to visit Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, the snow and the bush.

Having finished our house renovations in Canberra we are now turning our attention to the garden. One courtyard has been transformed from a patch of weeds to a lavender grove. Chris enjoys coming home to this house (and Jerry, the still-thriving cat) after travels. Geoff would be quite happy to continue travelling indefinitely! We have enjoyed hosting guests now and then through the year from as far afield as Norway and Perth and as close as Sydney.

The big news for 2002 is the sale of Wroxham, our beloved retreat in East Gippsland. As we write the sale is going through—in fact we are recovering from the work of packing and moving Geoff's library and other treasures to Canberra. Geoff's brother, Ian, provided invaluable help with this.

We are heading north to Queensland for Christmas. We'll base ourselves in Toowoomba (in nephew Tony and Liz's house) and make forays to the family from there. We'll have Christmas Day with Dad at his hostel, Symes Grove.

Generally we are keeping well, but we are not without the odd complaint. Geoff was treated with spectacular success for a stomach ulcer, and Chris has developed a chronic lower back problem that makes sitting uncomfortable—too much travelling and studying, it seems ... But given all the wonderful experiences we have been granted, we really can't complain, especially in a world living under the clouds of wars and impending wars.

May we all know a Christmas of joy and a New Year of peace-and rain!

Love from us both,

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- Encountering elephants in Burma and South Africa
- Riding on a cable car in San Francisco
- In Kent with new-found Ledger relatives during the Queen's Jubilee celebrations in June
- Farewell to Wroxham