

# Another Year with Chris and Geoff

No doubt as you opened this Christmas letter it was with the question, “So where have they been this year?” Well, we will not disappoint you. This year has brought more than our fair share of adventures.

**W**e started the year in Nornalup from where we explored the tall forests and the beaches of southwest Western Australia. Within a few weeks, we were in Brisbane for the wedding of our nephew, Simon, and Allana.



**I**n February, Geoff went to Brazil (via Argentina) as part of the media team reporting on the World Council of Churches Assembly in Porto Alegre. He met lots of wonderful people (including many of Chris’s friends) but saw little of the country. He took photos of businesses bearing the name Alves (a good Portuguese name) and had to explain he wasn’t a local.



**S**oon after Geoff’s return, it was off to another “Simon wedding”, this time in Melbourne. Geoff’s best man Simon married Angela and Geoff returned the favour of being best man.

In March and April Geoff went to do some work for the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) in Hong Kong, and Chris joined him for a holiday there, including a day trip to Macau.



**T**hen, in May (while Geoff was in Thailand for CCA), Chris received a mystery email inviting her to a conference at Cambridge University, all expenses paid. After determining it wasn’t spam, but rather a genuine invitation to attend the conference of the International Society for Science and Religion (as a new scholar), we headed off again, via Hong Kong. Angela generously allowed us use of her apartment in Tsing Yi, just one train stop from the airport. Chris discovered mulberry juice in the local supermarket, which made her day. (She suffers from a nostalgic obsession for the mulberries of her childhood garden.) We made our final farewells to the Christian Conference of Asia as the staff prepared to move their office to Chiang Mai in Thailand.

After a dream run through immigration and customs at Heathrow, we caught a bus to Letchworth, the “world’s first garden city”, to gatecrash a friend’s seventieth birthday party. Geoff got into trouble for inadvertently cheering when Portugal scored a goal against England in the World Cup. We met the first of England’s heatwaves—not a comfortable experience for people living in tiny single-fronted terrace houses. Finally we found ourselves in Cambridge. The conference was at Clare College, right next door to King’s College. We went to evensong at King’s five times, visited Ely Cathedral and enjoyed exploring Cambridge and its colleges.





**C**hris discovered during the year that she was born on the same day that television was first broadcast in Australia, fifty years ago. So we thought there was no better excuse to buy a new widescreen LCD TV. More importantly, we had a wonderful family party in a local Chinese restaurant as part of a week of birthday festivities. The TV came with free tickets to the musical *Titanic*, so we went to Sydney to enjoy that.



**I**n October, Chris had her first taste of camping under canvas. Geoff brought his trusty old tent out of storage and we had a wonderful break at Point Hicks in East Gippsland, where we were visited by sacred kingfishers, red-bellied black snakes and lyrebirds, to name a few, and climbed the lighthouse. We didn't spot any whales though.

Visit our website, [www.netspeed.com.au/galves](http://www.netspeed.com.au/galves), to see a colour version of this newsletter and photos of our travels!  
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**G**eoff turns 65 in January and is trying hard to retire from his editing and publishing activities. Chris is encouraging this by easing back on her own work load and is concentrating on academic interests. She is teaching at St Mark's National Theological Centre and also doing some conference organisation and book editing for them.

We went to Melbourne in November where one of the books Geoff has helped with was launched and Geoff was honoured for his voluntary work with Urban Neighbours of Hope. Another UNOH book Geoff edited was shortlisted for the Australian Christian Book of the Year.

In January, we are off to Chiang Mai, Thailand. Geoff is producing a fiftieth anniversary video for CCA and Chris has offered to help with the research and writing. This project will quite likely take Geoff to other Asian countries in the course of the year for filming.



**G**eriatric Jerry continues to amaze us with how many long lives one cat can have. His kidneys are dodgy, his eyes are cloudy and he sleeps and drinks water a lot, but at 17 years old he still knows how to run the household.

**W**e're off to Toowoomba for Christmas and are looking forward to meeting new members of the next generation. The latest count of great nieces and great nephews is twelve, with another due by Christmas.

We are particularly pleased when our travels allow us to catch up with you, our friends and family, and even more so when you are able to visit us. We hope that 2007 might bring more opportunities to strengthen the ties of love and friendship with you, one way or another.

May your Christmas be one of joy, peace and hope.

With our love,