

Chris & Geoff 2007



You are getting our Christmas letter early this year, not because we want to win the prize for being the first harbinger of Christmas, but because we want to let you know we are on the move.

We are having not a sea-change but an e-change, where e stands for Edinburgh. We are going away for a full year from 10 November.



With Shirley Susan at the fiftieth anniversary celebrations of the Christian Conference of Asia in Parapat, North Sumatera, Indonesia

Our first stop will be Brisbane to celebrate niece Catherine's engagement to Justin. Next we will go to Chiang Mai in Thailand, where Geoff will finish his work with the Christian Conference of Asia. We will then get to Edinburgh on 3 Decem-

ber, where we are housesitting for friends for six months. After that we will spend another six months as grey nomads. Six weeks of this will be spent in Cromer, a seaside town in Norfolk, and we will also go to Montreal, Canada, where Chris is helping to organise a gathering of senior friends in conjunction with that next general assembly of the World Student Christian Federation. Otherwise our schedule is a work in progress. Geoff harbours dreams of seeing the Tour de France flash by. So continental Europe is on the cards. And Madeira, where the Alves family came from. As news spreads of our plans, a growing number of friends and relatives have decided to come and visit us. Please join the queue!

While in Edinburgh, Chris will be a visiting fellow at New College, the Faculty of Divinity of the University of Edinburgh. This means she will have computer and library access and a community to relate to while she spends long winter evenings rewriting her thesis in a form that might be of interest to others. Geoff, having reached the hallowed age of 65, has retired from his ten years as honorary editor of *CCA News* and intends to do what he likes.

Projects

We accomplished some significant projects this year. While teaching at St Marks, Chris organised the Australian and New Zealand Association of Theological Schools conference in July. We worked together on the editing of a theological book for St Marks being launched in November. Then, also in July, we sold the house in Leichhardt in Sydney. We are still recovering from the excitement of watching about ten bidders fight it out at the auction. We then reorganised our finances to give us the freedom to embark on our great adventure.



Chris with the new owner of the Leichhardt house (right) and friend Dorothy McRae-McMahon

Visit our new website: www.geoffandchris.com

Departures and arrivals

Another significant transition of 2007 was the passing of Jerry the cat, at the grand age of 17. His kidneys finally packed up in February. He is sorely missed. Oscar, the black-and-white cat up the road, is doing his best to compensate and allows Chris to fuss over him on our daily walks into the nature reserve.

On a happier note, the tribe of great-nieces and nephews continues to multiply at a rapid pace. Since our last letter, a Cooper, two Samuels, a Matthew and a Miriam have arrived on the scene. We also attended a wedding this year—Andrew Alves and Jane Holroyd.



Buying biscuits at the Convento del Corpus Christi in Madrid



Chris and Oscar, the cat up the road

returning from Indonesia, Louise suffered a recurrence of cancer, which led to her having palliative care at home. Chris, now free from the constraints of work, spent most of August and a chunk of September and October as a live-in housekeeper for Louise and her husband David in Perth—a great privilege. Meanwhile Geoff spent more time with CCA and also went to Sri Lanka, filming for a CCA video.

As well as blogs on the website, we will be sending emails from afar with news of our travels. If you would like to receive these (or want to be spared them!) please let us know.

May your Christmas be peaceful.

Travels

On the travel front, in January we spent several weeks in Chiang Mai with CCA and made an excursion to Chiang Rai and the Golden Triangle. While we were in an internet café in Chiang Rai Chris learnt she was invited to an interview for a post with the World Council of Churches in Geneva. So it was off to Switzerland in February. She didn't get the job—a relief as it became clear in the interview that it involved a good deal of fundraising, which is not her favourite pastime. After the interview, we made an excursion to Madrid and then headed back to Indonesia for the fiftieth anniversary of the Christian Conference of Asia in North Sumatera. Our adventures there deserve a whole letter, but you can catch some of the excitement on our website, www.geoffandchris.com.

While in Indonesia, we met up again with our friend, Louise Scott, who was the closest we have to a matchmaker. (She gave Chris a couple of concert tickets when Geoff was visiting Hong Kong in 1998. The rest is history.) After



Geoff and Beng Seng hard at work at the CCA office in Chiang Mai, Thailand



Geoff interviews Louise for the CCA video



Hams at the Museo del Jamon in Madrid

How to contact us after 10 November

Post (until May 2008) 9 Kirkhill Drive, Priestfield, Edinburgh EH16 5DN, UK

Email chrisledger@netspeed.com.au
galves@netspeed.com.au

Skype chrisledger or geoffalves

Phone Ring us on (02) 6262 5975 (or + 61 2 6262 5975 outside Australia) for details.

Mobile We have two mobile phones, one with an Australian SIM card (0419 125 975) and the other with a UK SIM card (+ 44 77 7583 4211)

Full details on where we are and how to contact us are on our website: www.geoffandchris.com