



MORINGA

ASSOCIATES INC.

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And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Rev. 22:2b

"All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be." – Psalm 139:18

Prayerfully Serving the Church in Leadership and Peacemaking

The quarterly retreats we enjoy in Moringa seem to frame our year, and we write again just after one of these 4-day windows of opportunity for listening, reading and prayerful reflection. In Psalm 16: 5-6, David wrote, *Lord, you have assigned me my portion and my cup; you have made my lot secure. The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance.*

Fasting from technology for several days is a great quieting exercise and we even found we began to have more laughter in our days. Besides our bibles and other prayer material, we have both been reading more classic literature, and some more recent books.

Of the newer titles two have impacted us both:

- ☞ *Contentment – The Secret to a Lasting Calm*, by Richard A. Swenson, MD [Navpress]. Peace, joy, fulfillment in relationships, ministry, finances, are all themes we have reflected on while also being challenged and at times liberated from what have been unhelpful attitudes or habits as we consider Swenson's thesis. 'Contentment is to be learned', it doesn't just come naturally.
- ☞ *Against the Tide, Towards the Kingdom*, by Jenny and Justin Duckworth [New Monastic Library, Cascade Books]. An equally inspiring and challenging read triggering a fresh desire to break free from what suffocates in a consumer-driven society and embrace holy habits for life and work, by the adventurous, risk-taking, iconoclastic Bishop of Wellington and his wife. David's meeting with him was a breath – or rather a gale – of fresh air! [pictured together below]



Kathi stands with her back to Port Stephens Bay,

Boundary Lines

Great needs are all around, such as the typhoon in Vanuatu, earthquakes in Nepal, tribal and regional conflicts, so that we have unlimited opportunities to pray and contribute to the needs of those suffering. We were teaching at a Presbyterian College in Vanuatu for 2 weeks in October in a materially poor nation and seeing many of these islands devastated, hit home for us. The tragedy of earthquake victims in Nepal, and boat refugees in Asia and Europe, can be overwhelming, but they certainly give us lots of prayer material!

We continue to have opportunities through networks or roles with Moringa that give an international perspective to our work:

David has been contacting Anglican Bishops and Archbishops in an attempt to set up partner relationships with Rwanda as the Archbishop Onesphore Rwaje had invited him to be his Commissary for Australia and New Zealand. Preliminary meetings have been really helpful, including visits to long-time prayer supporters in NZ.

In December we visited family and friends who support us in California. Kathi will have a second chance to catch up with some of these again in July. We have hosted guests from the UK, the Philippines, and New Zealand and anticipate guests from D.R. Congo in June. David has also been asked to evaluate some Bible Colleges in the Pacific for Overseas Council during the year.

A Secure Lot

Regular opportunities continue

⌘ **Crossroads Bible Institute.** David continues to receive Bible studies completed by prison inmates, and after 'marking' them, prays and writes an encouraging response with the inmate who may be from Australia or another island nation in the Pacific region.

www.crossroadbibleinstitute.org

⌘ **Overseas Council Australia.** Kathi's role as PA to the Chairman [John Anderson] is a lovely blend of helping OCA and John in their mission, and also bringing some order to the many demands being made on people like him in public life and leadership. We continue to pray for those in such roles. www.overseascouncil.com.au

⌘ **WorldShare Australia.** David continues in his role of Legacies Manager. Encouraging conversations with numbers of supporters to the mission have promising potential to bless the organisation and its mission partners in the future. www.worldshare.org.au

⌘ **Christian Management Australia/Christian Ministry Advancement (CMA).** Kathi continues to serve as a Board member of CMA and David volunteers as Minutes Secretary. The 2015 national conference will be in Manly NSW in June, with the program having to be planned in detail. The CEO amazes us as he develops fresh resources to help missions and churches with good governance and effective workplace principles and practices. www.cma.net.au

Occasional activities include David preaching for the congregation of a Filipino network on nearly a monthly basis, our team-teaching together in leadership and peacemaking for day events or weekends. Joining in regular bible study groups locally and Kathi now helping lead vocals in the worship team at our local church.

Praying

Prayer undergirds all our work, and is not just an add-on. Life gives challenges and opportunities. Each task, telephone call, email, letter, personal contact is a prayer opportunity. We want to invite God into all that is part of our life – the best habit for us to cultivate.

Family

We were able to spend Christmas with extended generations of Kathi's Logan family in California - a delightful and special time for us all. David's brother and sister are in our immediate region, and some of their family too – and we love the chance to spend time with them.

Thank you!

Moringa is now in its ninth year and we thank God for friendships like yours. Encouragement and blessing are part of this journey and you are important to us.

Continuing with joy, in God's Grace, Peace...and HOPE!

David and Kathi Cohen



Teaching together in Vanuatu—October 2014

Web: www.moringa.org.au

Electronic Payments and Direct Deposit donations to Moringa Associates Inc. can be made to:

AUSTRALIA ANZ Bank, BSB 012-836. Account No 4924-76151. Springwood Branch, 166-168 Macquarie Road, Springwood NSW Australia 2777

USA ECCU (Evangelical Christian Credit Union), PO Box 2400, Brea CA 92822-2400 USA. Account Routing#322 273 379, Account Number: 1048973. Make Cheques payable to Moringa Associates Inc. Registered Australian Charitable Association: ABN 44 521 009 902

We want to acknowledge donations, and for this to be possible please send an email to us once the donation is sent. Online banking allows us to 'see' such gifts but does not provide donor details.

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