



# MORINGA

## ASSOCIATES INC.

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

Prayerfully Serving the Church in Leadership and Peacemaking

“...So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith...” Ephesians 3:17a

**Dear Friends,**

Warm greetings from us both!

“...that you, being rooted and grounded in love...” Eph. 3:17b – in May we wrote: “The quarterly retreats we enjoy in Moringa seem to frame our year.” As we write these final reflections this Advent season, 2015 will have been undergirded by these ‘aside’ times; listening, reading and prayerfully reflecting on Scripture, on some of Bunyan’s scholarly works and other recent authors. If you haven’t read Bunyan’s ‘The Saints’ Knowledge of Christ’s Love’; or ‘The unsearchable Riches of Christ’, we recommend them.

A more recent book called: *The Spiritual Danger of Doing Good*, by Peter Greer with Anna Haggard [Bethany House] continues a similar theme of remembering why we serve, and the struggle we have to work without compromising our inner self, or our family priority. The book is an honest reflection on the hidden struggles in charitable work; of unbalanced priorities which alienate or neglect family along with the temptation to feel indispensable in what we do, are all too familiar.

...may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth. Eph. 3:18

Greer says that it is out of this strength of ‘comprehending’ - the inner reflective life being given appropriate priority - that anything good in the ‘doing arena’ is workable and balanced. We agree and are grateful for those we have been able to journey with this year, as we try to serve as an outcome of being strengthened in the ever increasing breadth, length, height and depth of God’s resources ...learning and growing and serving as and where we can.

Pictured together at the Center for Community Transformation (CCT) Tagaytay, Philippines—November 2015



November scene at the Evangelical Sisterhood of Mary, Canaan of God’s Comfort garden, Teresa Park, Australia where we had a beautiful retreat day.

This ninth year as Moringa Associates has provided a continual variation of opportunities: teaching, mentoring, lesson-marking for prison inmate Bible studies, serving on various Christian charitable boards, a welcome string of visitors to our home, networking and linking people with one another, enriched by the daily rhythms of prayer, Bible reading, an hour-long walk with our dog, provide a small snapshot of our pattern of life.

...and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Eph. 3: 19

With prayer, our regular links continue ....

⌘ **Crossroads Bible Institute.** – David marks 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](http://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. David is providing consultancy support for the Pasifika project, evaluating Bible and Theological colleges in Papua New Guinea, Fiji and Vanuatu within the past few weeks with plans for New Caledonia and French Polynesia early 2016. [www.overseascouncil.com.au](http://www.overseascouncil.com.au)

⌘ **WorldShare Australia.** David has eased out of the Legacies Manager role but is still on call pending the appointment of a successor. [www.worldshare.org.au](http://www.worldshare.org.au)

⌘ **Christian Management Australia/Christian**

**Ministry Advancement (CMA).** Kathi continues to serve as a Board member of CMA while David volunteers as Minutes secretary. [www.cma.net.au](http://www.cma.net.au)

Frequently David preaches for a local Filipino congregation, and occasionally in our own local church. We recently returned from being 'pastors together in residence' at the *Pagdiriwang* (Tagalog for Celebration) gathering of The Center for Community Transformation Philippines, with 4 international Christian microfinance networks, with 85 delegates of 25 nationalities in partnership. We had a richly engaging time daily for 8 full days.

### Family and thanks

Kathi was able to spend three weeks in California in July, renting a car in Santa Barbara and driving her parents around various parts of California visiting friends and relatives and favourite 'haunts' long neglected. They loved the fun and sightseeing in this beautiful state! Locally we look forward to Christmas at David's

brother Richard's home and the chance for informal gatherings over summer, including a day's Test cricket watching Australia play the West Indies at the SCG.

Moringa is nearing the end of its ninth year and our board has encouraged us to take an extended journey some time in 2016, hopefully visiting friends and supporters in Europe, the UK and the USA. We will have more details about this in a few months. We are so thankful for friendships like yours. Encouragement and blessing are a constant part of our journey and you are important to us as you encourage and bless us!

Continuing in the wonder of faith, contemplating the *breadth and length and height and depth of Jesus, our Lord!*

And wishing you and your loved ones a HAPPY CHRISTMAS, AND NEW YEAR 2016 rich in blessing.

*David and Kathi Cohen*



With our new friend R'love Rojas of CCT Philippines—November 2015

Web: [www.moringa.org.au](http://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

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