



MORINGA

ASSOCIATES INC.

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Prayerfully Serving the Church in Leadership and Peacemaking

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

JIGSAW CLARITY—Proverbs 16:9 reminds us that ‘We can make our plans, but the LORD determines our steps’. This certainly rings true for us since we wrote our September 2017 update.

When asked what we do in ministry, we often say that our work is a bit like a jigsaw puzzle with lots of pieces fitted together to make a complete picture, this year past being proof. It amazes us to realise that it has been more than a year since our last newsletter, and we apologise for the long silence.

Our activities since September 2017 have included:
TOGETHER

One of the year’s highlights was attending the 150th anniversary of Scripture Union in London in December 2017, in the presence of HM the Queen, recorded by BBC for their Songs of Praise programme one of the year’s highlights.

Staying in Durham with Bishop Paul Butler, a former SU staff worker, and father of one of David’s god-daughters.

Continuing to serve on the Annabel Foundation board which provides bursaries for people training for ministry.

Visiting and encouraging long-time New Zealand supporters in April.

Visiting and encouraging the staff team of WorldShare Australia (formerly CNEC/Partners International), which David led for 10 years up to 2006 when Moringa was born.

Meeting 3 times a year with our Moringa Board to whom we are accountable in our planning
Responding to a number of missionaries’ prayer letters and emails to encourage, nurture and pray for their ministries.

Catching up in July after many years with dear friends who live and work in Zimbabwe at Kathi’s parents’ home in California where we both happened to be on the same day!

Periodical attendance at the Lowy Institute lectures to hear outstanding speakers on a wide range of current affairs, including Prime Ministers, Foreign Ministers, and newsmakers in general.

Meeting with our new interim local minister in March.

Hosting the Charles family of CMS Chile in June.

Hosting a lunch for Dr Jo Lusi from DR Congo, with

WorldShare former Chairman in June.

Hosting a ‘morning tea’ for Dr Jo Lusi and HEAL Africa for a group of about 30 ministry partners in June.

Meeting with the WorldShare leadership team at Moringa in August, sharing the history to help them with strategy for the future of the mission

Welcoming as house guest for 2 weeks an American ordination candidate, training in Durham UK, for the Diocese of Chelmsford, as a summer research placement in August, followed directly by special friends from Boston USA as leaders of international microfinance mission in September. (See photos below)

Attended several funerals and weddings, and also welcoming a new great niece named Trinity to the Logan-Knight family in California!

INDIVIDUALLY

Both of us participate in different weekly Bible Study groups.

Maintaining pastoral contact globally by email or telephone with men and women in ministry and leadership positions.

DAVID

Continues as Minutes Secretary to the Board of Christian Ministry Advancement (CMA), attending quarterly board meetings in Sydney, Melbourne or Brisbane.

Periodically consults on Africa at the request of individuals and missions, and maintains key links with contacts in Africa – e.g. DR Congo, Rwanda, and Zimbabwe – and attended a Consultants’ day in May for one such mission.

Occasional preaching and leading in our local church in Blaxland, and elsewhere.

Enjoys ongoing mentoring relationships with a number of men in ministry and leadership.

Takes weekly ESL (English as a Second Language) classes as part of a teaching team for an amazing and committed cohort of refugees and recent immigrants, from a diversity of countries; and attending ESL Instructor Training and a special 4-



Augustine Tanner and David Cohen



Todd and Leslie Engelsen



week ESL training course in February.
Helped plan, coordinate and then exceed the 60th anniversary of his school year graduation in May.

KATHI

Continues as a virtual PA to the former Deputy Prime Minister, in his role as Chairman of Overseas Council Australia for the 5th year running
Coordinates Moringa Operations including governance and operational requirements with Australian governing bodies, with our Moringa board, our faithful team of Australian and US prayer and financial sponsors.
Produces monthly promotional flyers for our local mature aged fellowship and outreach group.
Loves leading the singing in our local Church's worship each Sunday.

PRAYER RETREATS

Spring 2017 Retreat on the India-Pacific train from Sydney to Perth en route to the UK and USA.
Summer 2018 retreat in London (winter there at the time!).
Autumn 2018 retreat visiting friends and supporters in NZ.
Winter 2018 retreat and visiting family and Moringa supporters in California.
Spring 2018 retreat and visit to Broken Hill at the end of October.

PERSONAL

Kathi coordinated outdoor repairs, indoor and outdoor painting, and the unanticipated partial replacement of our kitchen due to a suddenly discovered slow leak – all unanticipated overshadowing late summer and early autumn days.

In late winter Kathi was inspired to create a rock garden in the harshest approach to our property, vulnerable to wind, rain, and potential fire – elements beyond human control. It is the 'not yet' garden of life contrasting the complete eternal garden of Revelation 22. God is its light. Water flows from his throne and the trees lining its river bear fruit every month of the year. Until that day, we live by his grace and provision in our oft-times harsh world. Our rock garden reminds us of our dependency on him.

Kathi continues to be cancer free, for which we are so thankful; but there have been unpleasant continuing side effects from medication. However we both continue to accompany our sheltie Inga every morning for a 5-6 km, one hour jog-walk, followed by Kathi having further 45 minute

physio exercise. She is as fit as a fiddle, and David is unable to keep up but maintains that he does have 14 years and 30 Kgs more to cope with!

There had been the thought that David had the onset of Parkinson's disease, or Motor Neurone Disease, or Alzheimer's, because of some symptoms that seemed to point in that direction. Following extensive tests, it was concluded that none of the three applied. Instead it has been suggested that what he suffers from can be euphemistically labelled Mild Cognitive Impairment. He thinks this is a kinder medical way of reminding that he is simply getting older – his specialist assuring him he ISN'T old at 76!

After the medical adventures we have both had, we count each day as a God-given bonus. We both welcome each opportunity to be part of our extended family. Distance creates challenges at times but makes face-to-face visits so much more precious. We plan to spend Christmas with the Cohen mob locally, and hope to be back with the California Logans in February for a wedding of a niece and the anticipated arrival of a baby to another niece.

With department stores already marketing goods for Christmas, this comes with our special, prayerful and grateful good wishes at the end of another fruitful and blessed year. It means so much to us to be in touch with you, and to pray for you as we do.

Grace and peace,

David and Kathi Cohen



I will make rivers flow on barren heights, and springs within the valleys. I will turn the desert into pools of water, and the parched ground into springs. I will put in the desert the cedar and the acacia, the myrtle and the olive. I will set pines in the wasteland, the fir and the cypress together, so that people may see and know, that the hand of the Lord has done this, that the Holy One of Israel has created it.—Isaiah 41: 18-20

Web: www.moringa.org.au

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