

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

Moringa Rhythms....

Dear Friends,

It is hard for us to believe that it is 11 months since our last Moringa update. This is not a sign that our activities have ground to a halt. Far from it! So now we will attempt to unpack what rhythms of life and ministry have been this past year. Ecclesiastes 3:1 reminds us that *“there is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven.”* Come with us as we reflect on where this season has taken us.

PRAYING TOGETHER

In serving the Church in leadership and peacemaking, there has been undergirding **prayer** reflected in many ways. Recently, a bishop wrote to say that the Lord had laid us on his heart to pray for us. We were so very encouraged as we often receive the same prompting of the Spirit to pray for someone, or for a situation, not knowing why until we hear back that our prayer was amazingly timely.

Our regular retreats have increasingly blessed. We have taken a few days quarterly, removed from normal

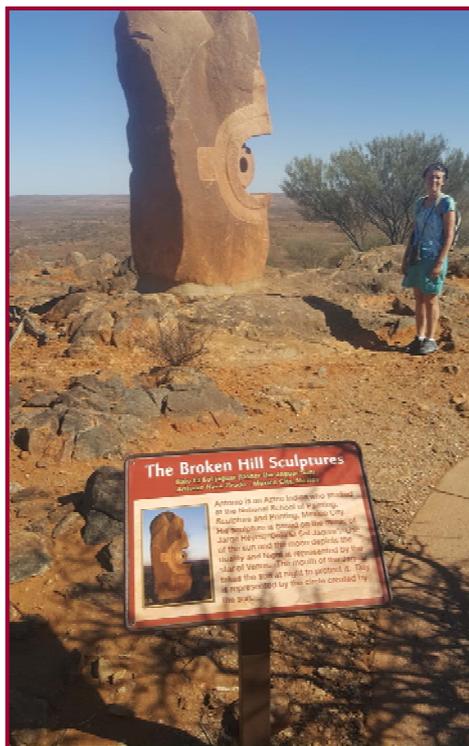


The Blacktown Wednesday ESL Group that David helps to teach

routines away from social networks and IT demands to spend unhurried times in prayer, reading, and reflection; unwinding and enjoying being together. *Practising the Presence of God* is how Brother Laurence describes it, one of the books we have spent time again recently.

Our minds, thoughts and prayers often turn to the **persecuted church** where some believers are suffering terribly for the faith we share. Reading this you also may think of reports which have burdened you for parts of our world where being a follower of Jesus invites hostility. We are thankful that on our virtual ‘prayer mat’ we can remember those suffering believers as we pray. Every week David is reminded of such places and people

We travelled to Broken Hill, NSW for our November 2018 Prayer Retreat and walked around the nearby hills in this arid outback region.

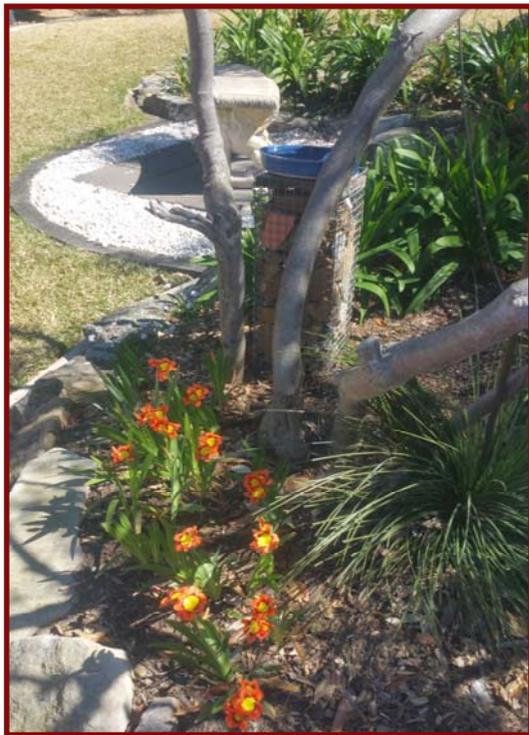




with an amazing array of nations represented in the weekly ESL (English as Second Language) class he takes, one of the highlights of his week.

REFLECTING

Looking back over the past year, we see that much of how we spend our time repeats previous years: for **Kathi** – continuing as virtual PA for the Chairman of Overseas Council, leading music



Spring in our garden is a constant reminder of God regenerating life around us and hopefully springing up within us as well. As we indulge in a morning or afternoon 'cuppa' nearby we are entertained by the lovely birds who call our neighbourhood 'home'.

worship in our local church, managing the detailed administration for Moringa, being the IT specialist (particularly when her technically 'challenged' spouse needs help with his laptop aberrations!), preparing artwork for flyers for Church meetings, hosting welcome visitors to our home, being part of a weekly Bible Study, sitting with David on the Board of a charitable foundation funding candidates for ministry, and much more besides.

For **David**, one might say 'same ol', same ol'. Maintaining correspondence with global friendships, mentoring a number of men in ministry, being an encourager, marking Bible correspondence courses for prison inmates, developing fruitful relationships at a distance, serving as a Consultant for Overseas Council, with a special focus on their Africa and Pacific strategies, and recently as Prayer Chaplain for the team of OCA consultants. He has maintained links with WorldShare (previously Partners International) which he led for a decade, happily providing a link with the mission's history there for a new team of workers.

GETTING OUT

Together we shared a delightful trip to California in February where David was able to officiate at the wedding of our niece Emily and her beloved Greg. Like many families it is exciting to see our family grow dynamically with weddings and new generations being born.

PRACTICAL LIFE

We continue to thank God that we can work as a complementary team and that ageing does not make us un-useful. Thankfully Kathi is cancer clear after 3 years; David says she is a picture of fitness, with a daily disciplined jog and rigorous physiotherapy routine. David's leaking mitral valve, onset of Parkinson's and 77 years have not prevented him from pursuing a daily 60 minute 6 km brisk walk.

Each day brings challenge and opportunity, undergirded by hope and many blessings. We are thankful in the knowledge that friends like you are journeying with us and continue to say, "To God be the glory"!

Grace and peace,

David and Kathi Cohen

Web: www.moringa.org.au

Electronic and Direct Deposit gifts to Moringa Associates Inc. can be made as follows:

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

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