

# Shatin Family Life

A monthly newsletter by and for the Shatin Church family

October 2017

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## Milestones and Moments

*Life is full of changes, special moments and events -- let's rejoice in them together!*

- Xinge Bu and Kau Man are expecting baby girl #2 on 16th October 2017
  - Flo and Martin Kan are expecting baby boy #2 on 3rd November 2017
  - Kevin Chiu and Sadie Granberg are engaged!
  - Harmony Sin and Ernest Li are getting married on 21st October 2017
  - Alexandra Colgan and Gene Leung are getting married on 17th November 2017
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## Get to Know our Mission Partners

### The Rode-Christoffersen Family



Shatin Church supports the Norwegian Missionary Society as one of its 17 mission partners. NMS is a voluntary organisation, rooted in the Church of Norway that works to give people a dignified life and lasting hope. This month, we have the privilege of hearing from Tom & Marieke Rode-Christoffersen.

### **Please tell us a bit about yourself and family.**

Our family, there are five of us: Tom, Marieke, Natasha, Sophia and Jakob. We are a very multicultural family as we come from several different countries and have lived in other countries most of our lives.

Our interests vary. We all like travelling and experiencing new cultures and food. We all like playing board games, reading and spending time together. Natasha and Sophie like running, Sophie likes rugby, Jakob likes playing the tuba

and drawing. Natasha loves animals. Tom likes photography. Marieke likes computer games and gardening.

### **How did you come to HK? How long have you lived in HK, and what do you love about it?**

We came to HK via airplane and have lived here almost 9 years after living almost 7 years in western China. We love the people, the busyness, the public transportation system, the food, the church.

## **How long have you been serving with the Norwegian Missionary Society? What excites you about working for NMS? What projects are you currently working on?**

We been with NMS for over 9 years. We are excited that NMS wants to see “a global living Church” through: 1. Sharing our faith in Jesus 2. Eradicating poverty and 3. Fighting injustice.

We have about 15 projects in China. We work on different projects, including a school for hard hearing children, several workshops with the church on how the local church can show Christ’s love in action (diakonia) in our communities, marriage and parenting, and the importance of looking after God’s creation (environmental management).

## **What would you say are the joys and struggles of being missionaries?**

The joys are many and include seeing God’s work being done, people’s lives being positively affected by the projects, people coming to Christ, the Christians we get to work with, and the insight into a different way of thinking and being.

The struggles include being far away from family, a lack of cultural identity, especially for the children, and the high cost of living in HK.

## **How can we, the church family, support and/or pray for you?**

The church can pray for:

- Recent tightening of security in China- the new Charity & NGO law which seem to affect some of our projects already.
- Positive fruit and impact of the projects:
  - Family project
  - Environmental projects
  - QiYin- The kids and the fundraising project
- The possible new health project:
  - Finding good ways of including the church more.
  - Funding
  - Good planning, etc.
  - Our Family

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## **Get to Know the Church Family**

**Ariel Pinero**

### **Please tell us a bit about yourself and family.**

I’m Ariel Pinero, 31 years of age, married to Immalyn for 3 years this coming October. I grew up in a Christian family; my father is a pastor already when I was born. I have one brother, he’s the youngest and he’s married too. My mother died last 2006 due to brain tumor and my twin sister went home already to heaven when we were 1 year old.



I am born again Christian for 14 years by God's grace.

**You came to HK from the Philippines. What brought you to HK?**

Immalyn was in Hong Kong already before we met each other. She's serving in LCI (Life Courier International) in bringing materials to China. Last year Andy Hutton emailed her if she's still interested in Hong Kong and we decided to say yes because it's an answered prayer. We were asking the Lord where He's going to send us to be used in the calling that God wants us to do. So, we arrived last June 20, 2017.

[In the Philippines], I was a Staff in Calvary Chapel Bible College – Dumaguete an extension campus from CCBC –Murrieta, California and I am doing specifically as Asst. Registrar and Student Mission Trip Coordinator.

I miss my family, the language and the ministry which I was involved before.

**You're currently a ministry apprentice at Shatin Church. Could you tell us a little bit more about what you're doing?**

Primarily I am working with Rhys in the youth group – Solid Rock Saturday / Sunday. But starting the new term, God impressed in our hearts that we could encourage the youth to involve them in a worship team and we are now calling it "Solid Rockers"- youth band because we are seeing some potential talented youth to develop and let them serve in using their talents for the Lord.

Another also is I have the privilege to lead worship in Sunday Services, during Prayer Meeting and other special services. Helping the church office, and of course doing my assignments in EQUIP and MAP Training as part of my apprenticeship.

I hope to learn new things from the different trainings so that I can apply it for the future ministries.

**What have been the joys and challenges so far?**

There so many joys to count but for now, where God sustain me and Immalyn as we start to settle everything here in Hong Kong and the ministry that God entrusted to us. The challenges that we are considering for now is the culture of Hong Kong and we don't know if we are going to stay longer here.

**How has your spiritual walk with Jesus grown over this past year?**

By God's grace I believe it is growing even though there are times that I doubt and am confused about the situations that I encounter, yet God will always remind me to have quality time with Him through reading His word and prayer.

## How can we, the church family, pray for you?

Physical strength in my everyday travel going to church office, knowledge and wisdom in the ministry that I am involved now, and lastly financial needs as we are raising funds for Immalyn as a missionary.

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## Praying for the Church

*“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread **and to prayer.**” Acts 2:42*

- For the upcoming Church Family Weekend Away on Oct 28-29th:
    - For our fellowship with God and each other,
    - For us to be equipped to grow in our relationship with God through deeper learning of spiritual disciplines
    - For newcomers to join and get to know the church members
    - For Rev. Alex McCoy who'll be guiding us through the main talks
  - For the joint Youth Camp on Oct 14-15th with Saint Andrews and Ambassador International
  - Praise for a great Men's Convention
  - Pray for all the 1-2-1s going on in the church, and more to start
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## The Exchange

*Need a washer/dryer? Have something to sell or donate? Looking for a tutor, or can babysit? Looking for friends to join you for a social outing? Share your interests, skills and goods here!*

- Sale/donation
  - Wanted
  - Services
  - Social/interest events
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*This newsletter is put together by and for the Shatin Church family to share life and bless one another. If you have anything you'd like to share on this newsletter, please don't be shy and email [mary@shatinchurch.org.hk](mailto:mary@shatinchurch.org.hk).*



Shatin Church