

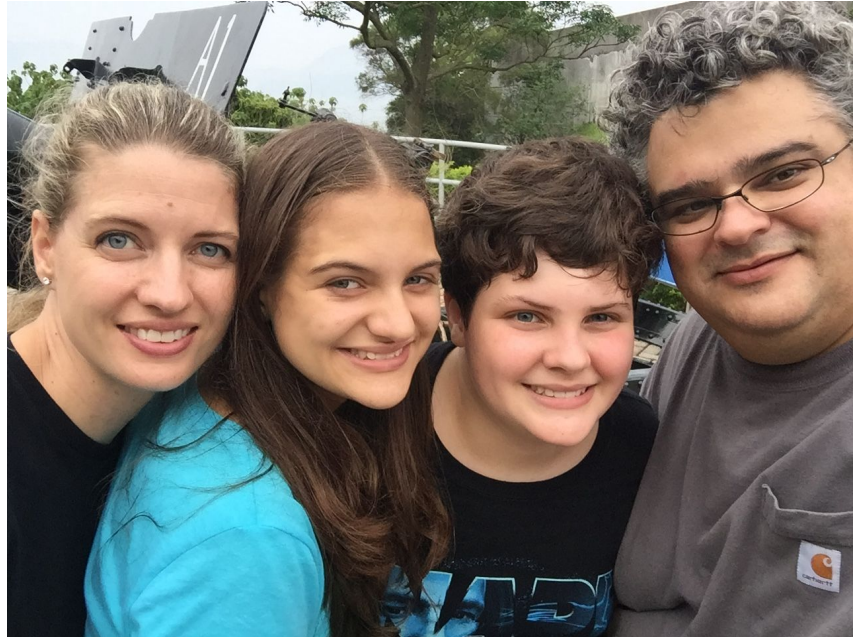
Shatin Family Life

A monthly newsletter by and for the Shatin Anglican Church family
December 2018

Get to Know our Mission Partners

YWAM Harbour City - Viana Family

This month we're catching up with the Viana family who have been serving with YWAM Hong Kong since 2008.



What are some things to be thankful for this past year?

We have seen an expansion in our pastoral and training roles within YWAM and beyond Hong Kong. We have been able to minister in multiple locations this past year,

especially in countries of Central, South, and Southeast Asia. While in these locations, we have also been able to minister to people from most parts of the world. The missionary work we do is usually twofold: (1) sharing the Gospel with people who have never heard of the Good News of Christ; (2) providing member care (pastoral care) to missionaries, especially those working in the difficult access countries of the world and who are therefore under tremendous spiritual and emotional stress. We have also seen many YWAM teams from other bases coming to Hong Kong for the outreach phase of their Discipleship Training School and it has been such a blessing to host them and help them reach out in the city!

What have been some of the ministry struggles?

The greatest disappointment for us this year has been the numbers of new missionary trainees we have seen. About 18 months ago, we put a detailed and intense mobilization strategy into motion which has been used and tested with great success in other YWAM locations. Now, almost 1^{1/2} years later, we have not seen the breakthrough we hoped for. The discouragement is real! We thought we would see a quadrupling in our intake numbers of Discipleship Training School trainees in 2018, but we have ended up with less than a dozen of them. We are extremely thankful to God for those who have come to be trained, but we are praying for more. We trust God will give us insight and direction as we

look into this mobilization strategy for 2019. Due to this lack of students, the ministry finances have also taken a large hit and this next year will involve a lot of time on our knees asking Him to provide for the rent of our facilities!

How have you seen God being faithful this past year?

We are currently running a Discipleship Training School with 5 wonderful students. We have seen God hand-picking them for our training program and for the heart they have to reach out to university students in the city. We have also seen God provide more training for our staff themselves in this past year which has made this Discipleship Training School even more effective. We saw God send our entire staff (30 people!) to a large YWAM conference in Thailand in September which was key in understanding our localized part of what is taking place globally in our mission. Our staff were also refreshed and energized after this time away. We ran our 10th Urban Niko this past autumn which was a milestone! Urban Niko is a program with the focus of receiving God's heart for the city. God has been very faithful in putting together the logistical details of each one which has not always been easy but has yielded great results. Our new homeless ministry is a direct result of an Urban Niko. We have also seen God guide us in our youth research this year as we have surveyed hundreds of Hong Kong young people and have had many opportunities to share the Gospel message at university campuses and in schools.

For us personally, God has been reminding us "that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." (Rom. 8:28) God is so powerful and sovereign that He is able to take anything the enemy throws at us and turn it into something good for us, His beloved children. What an awesome God we serve!

We have also been so blessed this year by the support of Shatin Church. We are delighted at the emphasis our church family puts on mission as an integral part of every Christian's life and as career missionaries, we have felt loved, honored and supported by the church family. Thank you Shatin Church!

How can we support and pray for you?

As you remember our ministry, please pray for the breakthrough we are believing for, to see more young people join our training programs and then being sent out into Hong Kong, Asia and beyond as part of the mission force of this generation! Please pray that we would have trainees from all corners of the earth and especially from Hong Kong. We see the potential Hong Kong has in being a key sender of global missionaries! Please pray for our leadership team to have wisdom in 2019 as we make crucial decisions for the direction of the ministry for the next four years.

Please join us for one of our Christmas outreaches around Hong Kong, December 15 – 24! If you are able to translate from English to Cantonese or vice versa, we could definitely use

your skills on one of these outreaches! If you are interested in joining us for outreach even if you are not able to translate, we would also love to have you! Just come and talk with us and we can give you more information.

Join us to pray for the family at the **Prayer & Praise Meeting on Friday, December 7 from 8pm-9:30pm.**

Get to Know the Church Family

Taylor Family

“ Steve and Debs are both from the UK. They met at University and have been married for 22 years. They have three children, Rose, Joshua and Naomi. The family moved last year to Hong Kong from the Philippines. Having lived in the Philippines for 16 years, Hong Kong was a bit of a culture shock, and we (Debs in particular) are still adjusting to the cooler temperatures.

However, we have embraced the efficiency of the city and have enjoyed doing activities as a family such as hiking and biking that we were unable to do in Manila. Steve and Debs are both teachers. Steve is the Middle School Principal at ICS, and Debs teaches in the High School.



Having our children in Christian schools has presented challenges in keeping God relevant and "fresh" as school life encompasses a lot of biblical teaching and spiritual input. We focus on developing our Biblical worldview as a family, and understanding how what we believe shapes how we engage our communities and live Christ-like lives. It has been important to us that our children take ownership of their own relationships with God, and not rely on our faith.

One of our favourite verses is "And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength" -Mark 12:30. Not only does following this instruction keep us grounded on our path, but there is no sense of compartmentalising faith to one area of life; all of us is to be submitted to God.

Pray for us to continue to settle and establish good patterns of family and individual life.

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*

Church

- Give thanks for God’s invisible hand in the events of our lives. Pray we would live boldly and courageously in response.
- Pray for the Lord to use our Christmas services, Ceilidh and Carolling to draw many people to himself the coming weeks - and for us to be prayerfully inviting.
- Pray for those doing Christianity Explored to come to a true understanding of the Gospel and put their trust in Jesus.
- Give thanks for our recent Mission Sunday. Pray we would have a vision for Jesus’ glory and serve as partners in the gospel.
- Pray for wisdom for the church committee as we discuss next year’s budget.
- Give thanks for the break coming up with Christmas and New Year. Pray we could find time for spiritual rest and refreshment, with hope and joy in Christ’s coming.
- Pray we would keep making the effort to eat together, making our meals signs of grace and of the gospel.

Pastoral

- Pray for Ricky & Nicole who got married yesterday as they start life together - for Christ to be at the heart of their marriage and individual lives.
- Pray for strength for Sarah Sofield as she goes through chemotherapy, that the treatment would be effective in dealing with the last possibilities of cancer.
- Continue to pray for Carmen Li and her family in their grief, for God to bring hope and spiritual light, and likewise for Alan, Christopher and David as life goes on.
- Pray for those with long term struggles and needs, that we would persevere in prayer and loving support. Pray also we would be open with each other about our struggles and difficulties so we can bear one another’s burdens

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 email mary@shatinchurch.org.hk.



Growing in Jesus • Sharing our Lives • Reaching the World