

# Shatin Family Life

A monthly newsletter by and for the Shatin Anglican Church family  
February 2019

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## We Welcome You!

*Congratulations to everyone who was baptised last Sunday, 20th January.*



*(From left: Miriam, Viola, Phyllis, Ankit, Peggy, Yen, Jennifer)*

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## Bon Voyage Owens!

Rhys and Keturah have faithfully served and loved our children and youth since 2014 when they were called to serve in Hong Kong. They've learned to adapt to and grow in a foreign culture, lifestyle and even speak some Cantonese. After nearly 5 years, God is now calling the family to serve in Switzerland. We pray they will be used in mighty ways to serve and love the church there.



### **What have been some of your favorite times in Shatin Church and/or Hong Kong?**

There are too many to mention, but the easiest way to sum them up would be sharing life with God's family in this fun and vibrant city! We've loved having BBQ's on the beach with Solid Rock, studying God's word with our Links group in our home, experiencing the love and care of the church family, and seeing the children and youth grow and mature over the past five years. It's been a real gift from God to be a part of the ministries here at Shatin, serving alongside so many gifted and loving people. We've also enjoyed lots of adventures in HK and will take many wonderful memories away -- walking round the peak, taking the sampan to the beach, riding the star ferry and of course eating!

### **How have you changed during your time in Hong Kong?**

Living in HK was the first time we had lived overseas and we have learnt a lot about integrating into a new culture. We've learnt the importance of listening to and watching the people around you and how things are done. We are sure there will always be influences in our family life from our HK days like using chopsticks much more than before, eating seaweed and craving a hot bao!

The past few years have been the hardest of our lives dealing with sickness and death; it is so very difficult seeing your children suffer. But through this God has grown us and deepened our faith; forcing us to depend on Him in each moment in ways we never had and holding fast of the hope we have because of what Jesus has done.

### **What do you look forward to in this next stage? What might be some of the challenges?**

Rhys is looking forward to a new challenge and getting to know the youth and students at our new church in Lausanne. He will be working full time again so that will be an adjustment for us all, but it means Keturah can stay home and spend much more time and energy being a Mum! Additionally, we are looking forward to fresh air; hopefully a slightly slower pace of life and being nearer to our families. Joshua cannot wait to build a snowman. We are all excited to meet 'baby sister' too.

Moving to a whole new country itself is going to be a challenge and we know we will miss our HK friends very much. In terms of ministry, Switzerland is more secular compared to HK, which will be challenging and we will all need to learn French.

### **How can we pray for you?**

Please pray for all the logistics involved in packing up here and setting up in Switzerland; pray for the right healthcare for Micah; for a smooth delivery of the baby; and for us all to make new friends. Pray for us as we parent the boys and help them make this transition and for us both as we adjust to our new roles in Switzerland. Pray that we would be obedient to Hebrews 12:2-3 always!

*A farewell party for the Owens will be held on 2 February, 3pm to 6pm at the Church Centre (King's Wing Plaza 2, 8K, Shek Mun). Stop by to wish them well and pray for them!*

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## **Get to Know our Mission Partners**

### **Misha Del Favero**

#### **How have things been going this past year?**

2018 was a challenging year, both personally and in ministry. But I saw God's faithfulness mainly through the friends He provided to be there at times when I needed. When I injured my knee playing sports last February, friends were there to help me up and bring me home. When I needed to get away from the busyness of city life, He provided a new friend to go exploring with and find refreshment in the outdoors. And when I got asked to staff a Bible course run by YWAM Perth, He gave me the wisdom I needed to disciple the students. He brought leaders and friends

alongside to counsel and guide me where I needed help. Throughout this last year, God showed me what He is like in very practical ways through those people around me who have lived out what it means to look like Jesus.

### **What sorts of trends are you seeing among the youth you disciple?**

I don't know all the challenges and struggles facing young people today, but one issue I have seen is a lack of worth or value stemming from a lack of quality time with significant people in their lives, especially authority figures. Too few authority figures use their influence to speak worth, value and life into children. These children then grow up believing they are not worth the time, not worth the effort, not worth much, if anything. This presents a challenge for ministry, because it means we need to spend quality time with them to show them that they are valuable and worth it. And that can be difficult when we are doing something, such as a short-term outreach overseas or in a different part of the state. For that, we rely on the local church and youth workers who are constantly there, and we try to partner with them whenever possible to serve and strengthen what they are already doing.



**Misha Del Favero** is one of our our mission partners who is faithfully serving the youth in Perth, Australia. You might have also noticed her familiar surname -- Misha is also the eldest of the Del Favero children who attend Shatin Church. **Come hear more from her at the Praise & Prayer Meeting on 1 Feb.**

### **What are your projects or goals (personal and/or ministry) for 2019?**

I will undergo surgery for my knee this Feb 6, and the recovery process can take up to 6-9 months. That makes planning certain ministry goals challenging, as I'm not sure yet what I will or will not be able to do while I recover. Certainly office work should be manageable. But running a NIKO camp, for example, would be something I could only do after I've fully recovered. I do hope that by October, I should be well enough to run NIKO again, as I was not able to do so last year. But we shall have to see what the doctor says. In the meantime, I will be praying and processing with my leaders as to what I can do ministry-wise after the surgery.

### **How can we pray for/support you?**

Prayer for the surgery and recover process would be very much appreciated. My surgery comes under the Australian healthcare system, which I qualify for because I am a New Zealand citizen. So I think I should be covered financially for this. But I would very much appreciate prayers for the process and recovery afterwards, and also for wisdom as to what ministry looks like this coming year in light of all that.

*Come pray for Misha at our prayer meeting on 1 February. Like last month, we will start with praise & prayer at **7:30pm**, then have a meal together afterwards at 8:30pm.*

## 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*

- Give thanks for the baptisms of Ankit, Phyllis, Peggy, Yen, Jennifer, Viola and Miriam last week. Pray they would continue to grow in Christ as part of Shatin Church.
- Pray for Rhys and Keturah as they prepare to move to Switzerland in February. Pray for the right healthcare for Micah, for a smooth delivery of the baby, adjustment to their new roles and for them all to make new friends.
- Pray for the right people to see our vacancies for a youth worker and children’s worker, and that both Kingdom Kids and Solid Rock would continue to run smoothly during this time of transition.
- Give thanks for those reading the Bible or doing Christianity Explored one-to-one in our church. Pray that by God’s grace these little meetings would have a big impact for the kingdom. Pray we would be looking out for such opportunities ourselves.
- Pray for fruit from Pastor Heewoo’s recent mission trip. Pray for those he ministered to to be encouraged and remain faithful to Jesus, and for us all to learn more about and pray for the church around the world.
- Continue to pray for Sarah Sofield as she undergoes chemotherapy.
- Pray 2019 would be a fruitful year for a church as we grow in Christ, share our lives and reach the world. May we be aware of what God is doing and live our whole lives for him, because we are certain of the salvation Jesus has achieved.

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**Owens Furniture** - The Owens family has various furniture, electrical and baby items for sale or to give away. Have a look at <https://www.shatinchurch.org.hk/owens>. All items are in Wu Kai Sha, and if you want anything please contact [keturah@shatinchurch.org.hk](mailto:keturah@shatinchurch.org.hk)

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**Employment Opportunity** - Staff wanted for a Japanese ski resort located in Hakuba, Japan from now until the end of February. For more information, please contact Joanie Chee at [info@wadanoforesthotel.com](mailto:info@wadanoforesthotel.com).

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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 email [mary@shatinchurch.org.hk](mailto:mary@shatinchurch.org.hk).*



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