

Shatin Family Life

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

Milestones and Moments

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



Congratulations to our new doctors, **Jeremy Wong** and **Ka Yan Ho**! Well done on making it through 6 years of intense studying and training. We're excited to see how God will continue to grow you and use you!



Get to Know our Mission Partners

The Rode-Christoffersen Family



Norwegian Missionary Society is one of 17 mission partners supported at Shatin Church. NMS is a voluntary organisation, rooted in the Church of Norway that works to give people a dignified life and lasting hope. In this month's issue, we're catching up with Tom & Marieke and their family.



“Updates on the family: Natasha moved to Spain in the summer of 2018, where she studies veterinary science. We miss her a lot! She is doing well, although very busy with studies. She's currently fostering two puppies, which she loves, but which also make a lot of noise and use her room as a bathroom. Sophia has started IB and is in her last two years of school, which means a lot more studying. She is involved in a lot of other activities including violin, rugby, giving out food

to the homeless, mentoring at school, Norwegian studies, etc. Jakob is enjoying school, especially the arts. He is still playing the tuba and still very noisy, but he's sounding better as time goes by.

As for their work at NMS, Tom and Marieke have lost their two colleagues who have returned to Norway. This means they are alone in the office and it's been a big change they need to adjust to.

Marieke has had to take over many of the administrative duties from our former colleagues. She is quite gifted in this area, but recently there is an awful lot of more work with new red-tape because of new legislation etc.. Tom has become a field coordinator in addition to his normal duties, which means a big increase in workload.

NMS works very closely with several local partners in China. These partners work for our projects, but not formally for NMS. We also work with ELCHK in Hong Kong. Not counting local partners, we are now the only NMS staff in China, though we get help from many people from Norway at various times of the year. For example, we'll have two young volunteers from Norway from October to April! In previous years, these volunteers have gone to Nanjing, but starting this year, they will volunteer here in Hong Kong instead! This is very exciting!

Due to the current financial difficulties of NMS we will not hire anyone this year. However, we hope to hire a local part-time colleague at the beginning of 2020.

NMS in Hong Kong manages about 15 different projects in China, 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). Below is a summary of some of those projects:

Use Yours Talents Guidebook: This involves projects that utilizes the resources people have in their own churches and communities. It's been successful in many very poor countries in Sub Saharan Africa, such as Madagascar. We want to adjust the approach to see if this can also work in China. We are currently working on making a book in Chinese to introduce the asset-based approach through churches and organisations in China. Our starting point is the story in the Bible of the servants who are given different talents.

Underneath follows a description of the training project we are currently doing with China Christian Council. In addition, we are now planning a project that seeks to help a church in Hunan set up a recycling bank in their community to protect God's creation. In the longer term, this will financially independent, but we plan to help with training on recycling and reusing etc. in the community as there is not a lot of knowledge about recycling in the area.

Environmental protection training Course of Church leadership: The world is facing serious environmental degradation and recent reports show that the situation is worse than we have previously thought. We all need to be a part of the solution. The Church in China also wants to be a part of the solution. Previously, we have supported river-cleaning in different places. Now, however, we have been asked to train the national Church in environmental protection. One session has been held, but this year a training was delayed due to political circumstances. Please pray for this project.

On a different note, we are trying to register according to the NGO law that was introduced in China in January 2017, which is a lengthy process. We can't visit most of our project sites until this is done. Being able to attend trainings and other project activities helps quality assurance, and we learn a lot from these visits, which is useful for everyone. So, we hope we can get the registration sorted soon.

How can we pray for you?

- Pray that the kid's studies go well, and that they grow in their faith.
- Pray that we will adjust well to our colleagues leaving and the increase in workload.
- Pray that our projects will have a positive impact and that God's love would be shown through them.
- Please pray for the registration of NMS and that we can follow up projects well.
- NMS had a deficit of 6 million HKD, so 10 people in the head office recently lost their jobs. Please pray that He will provide the funds NMS needs.

Get to Know the Church Family: Ivy Yu



“My name is Ivy. I came from Fuzhou -- a beautiful, medium-sized city in southern China. After graduating from a university in the UK, I found it difficult to apply all I had learnt into use in my hometown since applied science is not as common as it is in big cities. In addition, the reverse cultural shock made it quite difficult to adapt. Therefore, my family and I decided together that HK would be a good place for me to live and work.

A friend of mine back in Leeds introduced me to Shatin Anglican Church. I have been coming here for about 3 years now. The community in this church welcomed me as one of their members right away. I found the teaching here true to the Bible, as well as brothers and sisters who are really caring. I can always count on them to give me wise advice during life struggles and share happy moments together. It truly feels like a family.

I enjoy a lot of things in my spare time such as dancing, hiking, reading books and watching movies. On top of that, you can probably find me at any fun group activities regardless of what the activity actually is. I often thank God for the good health and freedom He has given me and also the good friends He has put in my life.

My journey of faith started with my Christian grandma. Growing up, I would watch her pray for everyone in Jesus' name. So, I just assumed I belonged to Christ too. I only started to understand my faith better after I moved to Beijing for university. The first church I joined helped me to study the Bible and taught me what a family in Christ meant, which was wonderful. However, growth in Christ is never meant to be easy and light.

I did not know that being a Christian is a lifestyle rather than just a religion that I turn to whenever I need it. I had a lot of issues I needed to process in order to be more like what God intends me to be and be more like Christ. Among all the issues, self-reliance and pride were the biggest ones. *I had a relationship with Christ, but I did not want to give him any control over my life. I continued to believe that I needed to strive for my value and salvation.* After a relationship failed and plans to become a scholar did not come through, I was devastated and lost. Yet, during those dark times, God never left me. Although He didn't immediately deliver me from all the emotional pain, but through the Bible, He encouraged me to get through that time one day at a time.

The most precious lesson I learnt (which was a hard learnt lesson) is I didn't have to do anything to be loved by God and he does not measure our worth with the standard the world holds. I received tremendous peace knowing that God never fails even when we fail. I am generally quite happy where I am, but being in a big city without my immediate family can sometimes be challenging. Nevertheless, it is also because of that that I can truly see God's provision for my life. I would really appreciate it if you can pray for me about:

- The major conflicts with my family regarding my singleness and the patriarchal mindset they have towards daughters.
- For me to be courageous for God, and learn to share His love better.
- God's guidance for my future life and learn to trust him, high and low times.

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*

- Pray for the upcoming guest events - Kimchi making, wine tasting, Harpsichord concert, praise night, passover meals, art jamming and more. Pray that they will bear gospel fruits.
- Praise for the appointment of Rhoda Chan as the new Youth Director. Pray that God will continue to equip and prepare her as she finishes her studies in the USA.
- Pray for the youth in their final years of secondary school; that they work hard for Christ, but also to rest in Him in the midst of all their work.
- Pray for the hope of Christ's resurrection will be clearly taught and heard this season!

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.



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