



Dear Friends

Isn't God amazing? He describes Himself as "The Rock that Moves. He is rock solid in the perfection of his righteousness and faithfulness yet He is full of surprises and He is always moving forward. His (eternal) truth is marching on.

Northern Ireland had its coldest winter since records have been kept. Many people had problems with frozen pipes, power failures and chaos on the roads and in the airports. While sympathising with these sufferers, it proved to be a wonderful time for us. The landscape was breathtaking in its beauty. Looking at some of the plethora of photos we took we are reminded of the frozen stillness, the magic of sunlight on snow and the dazzling purity covering the ugliness of man-made scars.

Teaching the Bible schools at Capernwray Hall (England) and Ecola Hall (Oregon) is always stimulating and enormously worthwhile. Preaching at Kauai Christian fellowship is a wonderful privilege too. Rick Bundschuh is pastor there and we heartily recommend any of his many books. Waikiki Baptist is another very unusual but vigorous church. The three Sunday services each have an individual flavour and embrace about 1000 people in total, of which 70% would be visitors on holiday. Hawaiian Baptist Academy is a most impressive school and it is always a treat to teach the young people there and to speak to the whole school at their chapel times.

A new and exhilarating experience was waiting for us at a boys' boarding school in Tamworth, NSW Australia. I did not know such boys still existed! While academically very bright and as sports mad as any other Aussie kids, they were equally enthusiastic about Jesus, and startlingly polite. Not only was there a standing ovation at the close of an all-school chapel, but every one of the 16/17 year olds came and shook hands and said "Thank you" after an hour in the class room.

While in Australia we spent a week with each of three couples, all wonderful old friends now in brand new settings. In each place there were plenty of opportunities to preach Jesus to a great assortment of people.

Just when we thought we had seen everything we came to Malaysia where God really began to show us what He can do! Eva and Ken arrived on March 8th at a lovely resort hotel for the Asia Pacific conference of Community Bible Study International (CBSI). Ken was keynote speaker, concluding his series on March 12th. Rev Steve Burmester (our son-in-law) arrived on the 9th and Eva left on 10th. CBSI was a new organisation for us and we were delighted to learn of the valuable work being done through them in all parts of the world. They in turn were most enthusiastic about the teaching presented.

MAJOR SHOCK! Steve and I had been promised a full programme for three weeks following the conference but the person expected to set it up had nothing planned and had no help to offer except sincere apologies. We were left with three weeks, with no accommodation, transport, work or connections and I had no information with me for any of my Malaysian friends.

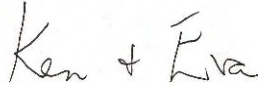
After prayer I phoned a friend in Singapore. Happily I used his cell phone because he happened to be in Indonesia at the time! He was able to connect me with Pastor Alan Tan - my closest friend in Malaysia! Within two days Alan had a full programme set up for both Steve and me. On one Sunday we were each speaking in four different churches. Steve had two services in English plus one with translation into Tamil, and another into Vietnamese while I had English, Vietnamese, Burmese and Tamil services. Six young Vietnamese men became Christians that evening. We were blown away by the love of the Christian community, their hospitality and their wonderful food! Even more exciting though was their love for the Lord Jesus, and the dynamic growth of the church. Please see the extra sheet - "A Great Opportunity for You". The Malaysian Church has outreach to all the surrounding countries and to migrants working in Malaysia on short term visas. In the past two years over 18,000 Vietnamese migrant workers have been brought to Christ in Kuala Lumpur. Training schools have been set up for these new converts, to establish them in the faith and to equip them to be pastors, evangelists and church planters. Steve and I taught in one such school where there were people from Pakistan, Cambodia, Nepal, Laos, Vietnam, Indonesia, Myanmar and Thailand. These were all actively ministering to their own people in Malaysia but would soon be returning to their country of origin within a couple of years.

This is the first time Steve and I have worked together and it was a great time for both of us. We have invitations to return either together or singly. Steve returned to Manchester on March 24th and I joined Eva on 29th after what proved to be the highlight of the trip. A lively Anglican church in Petaling Jaya had invited me to their Saturday evening service, which was then extended to include the Sunday morning also when they discovered that they could get me to my original preaching appointment if they put me in to preach first and then shuttled me across town while rest of the service took place after I left. The Saturday evening crowd were nearly all university students, about 300 of them and I do not believe that I have ever addressed a more alert or enthusiastic group. They were absolutely amazing, and some 50 or so responded to a very low key invitation to come forward for prayer.

We are now at home in Ireland where we both have opportunities to minister. Ken was invited to speak at the Tuesday evening service for Holy Week in our own church and Eva and a friend are to facilitate a Day of Reflection at Lough Derg again on May 3rd.

Thank you so much for your prayers.

In the life and love of Jesus

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken + Eva". The letters are cursive and connected.

Ken and Eva Needham