

Needham News

October, 2007

Dear friends

From conversations with many of you it seems that tomorrow is upon us before we have registered yesterday.

Here in Europe we have been enjoying some spectacular autumn weather, but I expect it will be Christmas when I wake in the morning!

Our summer began with a fairly brief trip to N America. We had a very enjoyable visit to Boulder CO. The fellowship with our hosts (John and Pat Jones) was of a deep, beautiful and rare quality. There are many memories, but one outstanding one is the sound of sobbing. It came during a suggested one minute of silent reflection following one of Ken's talks and it came from a rugged rodeo champion, a former bronco busting, bull riding legend, now turned master plumber. No, his career was not going down the drain! He was weeping his way back to Jesus, and to a new life of hope and joy.

On another occasion John and Ken were the only two customers on the go kart track, and so were given the best cars. The wild ride gave a new twist to "keeping up with the Joneses"!

Whilst in the Rocky Mountain State we also had the treat of lunch with our former boss, Major Ian Thomas, founder of Torchbearers. He was on a journey from Malaysia (where he had just opened a new centre) to heaven where he is now celebrating. Also we were delighted to have some time with Joan, his wife of 66 years, and with Chris and Bonnie.

We always look forward with great anticipation to a week at Barnabas Landing (BC). The place is so beautiful and the personnel are very special. Ken gets to do four teaching periods daily and Eva leads a couple of listening prayer sessions. This year was as good as any of the previous nine times at Barnabas.

Forest hills, CA turned the heat up for us (40C, 104F). We had a great week at the Calvary chapel there. Another larger than life character in the shape of the owner of the local pizza parlour featured prominently. He was notorious for his loud and aggressive nature and his extensive use of "colourful" words not normally heard in church. He showed up on Sunday morning and God really got hold of his life. He then attended every evening for the whole week, and asked for baptism. His teenage son was so amazed at the change in his dad that he too asked for baptism, so Ken and the pastor baptised Mike and Mike and the youth pastor baptised Mikey, the son on Friday afternoon. Ken says it was a great excuse to get into the cold waters of the Sacramento River on a blazing hot afternoon.

Church activities were a bit muted in Singapore as our visit coincided with national Independence Day. There was nevertheless useful work to be done, and it was good to join in the celebrations.

After Singapore, Eva came home to run a Quiet Day and to begin to catch up in the office. Ken went on to Malaysia where a very full programme was set up in five churches. The largest of these is organising a camp for all the churches in June 2009 and have asked Ken to be the speaker.

Another great programme was set up for us in Norway, two days of renewal for pastors of different denominations, a quiet afternoon, several church events and a particularly popular and lively youth outreach in a downtown coffee bar.

Three busy weekends in Denmark were interspersed with visits to Sweden and England. The reason for the English trip was to be at Capernwray Hall for two days for the memorial/thanksgiving service for Major Ian Thomas. It was a most impressive event with some very distinguished guests telling of the ways this remarkable man had been used by God to enrich their lives. He was 92, and was telling the medical team about Jesus the day before he died.

Please pray for Mette Hansen, she has organised all our activities in Denmark for more than twenty years, and has done it with flair and grace. She is ill now, and we have reluctantly decided to relieve her of any further responsibilities. Her place will be taken by Henrick and Marianne Bentzen who have volunteered to continue where Mette has left off. We thank all three for their wonderful support.

Bodenseehof is the Torchbearer Bible School in South Germany. It was a particular joy to be there again after an absence of more than twenty years. In addition to the Sunday ministry, Ken was entrusted with 15 hours of lectures on the letter to the Hebrews.

Daughter Jo is busy and happy as a pastor's (vicar's) wife, mother of two girls and owner of two small businesses. Steve after five years in his first pastorate feels that it is time for a move. Please pray for the right guidance for them

Son Paul is working in CAD for a lumber (timber) company in Washington State, and has a small business selling photos on the internet. Leeanne home schools their three children, with the extra burden of suffering from shingles on her face (diagnosed Oct 23rd).

Andrew (our youngest) turned 40 on October 24th. He and his partner Jane have relocated, but are now struggling with settling into the new area with Jane's three children, and coping with two mortgages plus support for Andrew's wife (Ros) and son Connor.

Watch those gaps!

There is a huge gap between the Almighty, Holy, Just God and sinful careless finite frightened man. This was most wonderfully bridged by the Lord Jesus who laid aside His Majesty, and became man to get alongside us, then sacrificed Himself to bring us to God.

There is the gap that develops between the reconciled (Christian) man and the Lord who seeks our constant fellowship. This happens all too easily when our vision gets filled with the material and the "urgent" and we lose sight of what really matters.

Thirdly, there is the gap between the Jesus who loves the world of lost individuals, and those same ones who are hurting, lonely confused prisoners. Believing themselves to be free, they continue to serve the lower nature and propagate their confusion constantly. You and I are to be the vehicles through whom Jesus continues His wonderful work of rescue and restoration. Will you join us in being completely sold out to Him for all that He intends to do through us?

Thank you so very much for your prayers, and where appropriate, for your financial support.

In the life and love of Jesus

Ken and Eva Needham.

Itinerary - October – December 2007

October			
1-5	Copenhagen		Denmark
6-13	Bodenseehof		Germany
13-31	Home		Northern Ireland
November			
4-10	Dungannon		Northern Ireland
11-21	Home		Northern Ireland
22-30	Spokane	WA	USA
December			
1-7	Lake Tapps	WA	USA
8-10	Portland	OR	USA
11-31	Home		Northern Ireland