

Harris Headlines



News in Brief

- This winter we've had heaps of snow (for Holland) and actually had a white Christmas – a special memory
- John's visit to Ireland was a very positive time. He met with our missionaries who are in a time of transition
- We are both attending ITeams international leadership forum in Turkey in May
- The Hoehner family, former DCU colleagues and friends, will be with us for a week in late March – it will be great to reconnect with special friends
- Permit update – our lawyer is exploring an alternative option – please pray for a clear path forward

Home Service Assignment 2010

When we flew out of Australia back in August 2007 there was so much ahead of us – new country, new ministry, new team, and new school for the boys to name a few. Well that was over 2 ½ years ago.

So it is time for us to return to Australia and report on our ministry. We have so much to share with you. God has been at work in so many over these years and you have been a part of what God is doing in Europe.

Unlike previous furloughs our time will be limited by the dates of André and Dane's school holidays. Thankfully, Kathy's parents are coming to look after the boys for the month of June, which means Kathy and I will manage to squeeze in an extra few weeks. Kathy and I arrive early June, while André and Dane will arrive in late June with their grandparents.

Our Schedule

Queensland: June 5 – 23 (just John & Kathy)

Taringa Baptist – June 6 and 13

Kingaroy Church of Christ – June 20

Sydney: July 4 – 22

Telopea Church of Christ – July 4

Glenbrook Baptist – July 11

Glenorie Mission Church – July 18

Melbourne: July 24 – August 2

Wattle Park Chapel – July 25 and August 1

Nambucca Heads: August 8

Depart: August 16

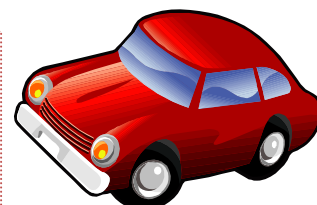
As you can see we have a full schedule - a lot to do in a short time. We realise that we will not be able to attend all our supporting churches on a Sunday. Nor will we be able to meet individually with everyone.

If you can attend one of the services we will be sharing in that would be great. This time we will also be organising open gatherings so that we can catch up with as many of you as possible at one time. These are tentatively set for: Brisbane - Saturday June 5 or 12, Sydney - Saturday July 10 or 17, and Melbourne - Saturday July 31. We will confirm these dates as soon as we can. We will be available to share at a limited number of home groups and week day meetings – especially for those churches we cannot attend on a Sunday.

So let us know about your group!

Can you help?

We will need a car for the Sydney and Melbourne leg of our time in Australia. If you have a car that you can lend us for all or part of the time or know of any options then please contact us as soon as you can. Thank you!



New Ministry at Thousand Hills International Church

Prayer:

- For God's enabling in our new roles at Thousand Hills
- That our plans for furlough will develop well
- For a car for our furlough
- Many of our teams, including our church, run Easter outreaches – please pray for God's empowering as they share the Gospel and hearts that are responsive
- IT Australia urgently needs a person to serve in the finance department

Training New Missionaries

This last month we've had the privilege of training 7 new missionaries for IT Netherlands. We taught on team work, spiritual formation, planning, communication, ITeams values, Orthodox Christianity, and partnership development. One couple are serving on the leadership team for a church plant in The Hague from our Thousand Hills church. Training workers for the mission field is great.

IT Netherlands
training 2010



Since we first started attending Thousand Hills International Church we have been exploring ways that we could serve in the church. We have shared with the pastor, Sebastiaan van Wessem, our heart to serve and see the church grow in its vision of reaching international people for Christ in The Netherlands, as well as the rest of Europe.

However, life and ministry took an unexpected turn when, last month, Sebastiaan asked us to consider taking on a part time associate pastoral role within the church. They have been looking for someone who is international, has theological training, cross-cultural and ministry experience, and a missional outlook. We certainly ticked all the boxes.

After much prayer, seeking input from key people who know us, discussing it with and gaining approval of our colleagues, Barth & Mathilde, and our IT Australia leader - we agreed. Due to our visa status this is a voluntary unpaid position.

We believe that our calling is best expressed by Eph 4.11-13. God has called us and gifted us to equip the

saints for works of service. We are achieving this in our role for ITeams and for Thousand Hills. Our role with the church is an extension of this calling as we work and serve in the cross-cultural setting of an international church.

So it is with excitement and anticipation at what God has in store for us that we will serve one day a week each in this role. John will preach, lead services, oversee some ministry leaders, plus help run baptism and members classes. Kathy will be involved in church communications, the missions committee, and exploring opportunities for church members to serve in the local community.

In taking on this role we want to make it clear that our main ministry focus remains as associate regional leaders with ITeams. However, we see that there will be good synergy between our mission and church roles - mission after all is always an outworking of the church.

*With thanks for your interest,
prayers and financial support*

John, Kathy, André and Dane

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