



She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins. Matthew 1:21

Christmas 2013

Dear all

Yep! Another crazy year of activity, family and fun! This year began with Tim & Sarah in Llanelli, Wales and ends with them in Xining, Qinghai, China. The rest of the family remain in the same places! Somewhere in the beginning of the year we planned a holiday and thought a river cruise might be interesting. So we ended up on a cruise boat (only 17 passengers and 6 crew) around the Dalmatian Islands of Croatia, Lots of interesting spots to stop off each day including Dubrovnik, Split, and the islands. Followed by a week in a hotel to slow down! (well, we did walk the walls of Dubrovnik, have a day in Mostar and a trip to Cavtat that week!)



The family 11th August

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MV Emmanuel in Shipanski



Mark & Jon leading worship (Dan did the talks)



Tip-it as it happens

To celebrate our 40 years of married life together we organised a "Platty Party" for relations, introducing another generation to silly games like the Chocolate game and Tip-it and a beetle drive That was on 10th/11th August, Fitting neatly between 'Due South' – and 'Razz Robots' – a holiday club at church.



Our group at Razz Robots

In all of this we have enjoyed lots of the usual things we do! The Teddy Bear Club, Razzmatazz, Job Seekers' Club, trips to family in Llanelli, Bolton, Hillingdon, Hatfield Peverel and so on. Church has been exciting with the children's work blooming to the point we have had to restrict numbers introduce a waiting list! Youth work is also going well. We are blessed with a number of families moving into the area and others starting to come to church. One parent has been baptised!

The Family grows! Tim qualified as teacher of English as a second language and they have now moved to Xining to settle down to Tim teaching English and Maths in a Chinese State School while Sarah is on a university course in Mandarin and the boys go to an English speaking international school. Mark, Becky, Zac and Anya are fully into Leverhulme community life, Anya now at school as well as Zac. Mark continues to work with their church and Becky is busy with parent and toddlers groups, children's clubs and craft clubs. Dan and Jenn are busy with their jobs and youth work and Dan and Jon lead worship and play at Hilly Park Baptist Church. Jon has had a difficult year but has ended it working at 'The Entertainer' – a toy shop - up to the New Year.

Next year will arrive with all its challenges and blessings but we thank God for his presence this year and next. We wish you every blessing over Christmas and into the New Year.

Thank you for those who send letters or cards - we are looking forward to reading them!