

Week ending Sunday October 23rd

Celebrating the return of David and Ashleigh Burge Darcy, Jack and Maisie

On Sunday, our returning mission partner David Burge will be preaching from 2 Peter 1. The Burges are stopping off with us on their way home from almost 8 years of service in Mongolia. Here's an extract from their newsletter.



To our dear friends and faithful supporters,

As our time here in Mongolia draws to a close, we feel so many different emotions. Confusion – at leaving a place that has been our focus and obsession since 2001. What is life actually like when you take Mongolia out of the picture? Sadness – at saying goodbye to people we love and want to serve. Lostness – at not knowing what we are doing next. Excitement – what does God have in store for us? In this roller coaster ride one thing is sure - GOD IS FAITHFUL! We trust that even when we face changes, nothing takes Him by surprise and He will take care of us no matter where we are and what we are doing. I (Ash) find great comfort in this. I am so grateful to our Amazing God who is ever faithful and true – PRAISE HIM!

What next? A type of sabbatical - a sabbatical is a rest in order to recharge and re-focus for ongoing ministry. We feel we need some 'time out' from formal ministry in the months ahead to enable a healthy transition into whatever lies ahead.

Why?

After our return to Mongolia in April 2010, it became clear that Dave was not his normal self; he was exhausted. A year later, in April 2011, we realised that even though Dave had only focused on working at the Bible College without church involvement, he was still fatigued and in need of a break. The pressures associated with life and ministry here in Mongolia have made that rest difficult. After talking with our team leader and some of our good friends here, in Oz, and with Pioneers, it became clear that some extended leave would be helpful for Dave in the long run.

How?

We are so grateful to you, our supporters, and know that you have given so generously and graciously over the years - we praise God because of you! As we come to this transition period, we will completely understand if some of you may choose to shift your support elsewhere. If, on the other hand, you would be pleased to continue your support of us through a six month period, until June of next year, we would be humbled and thankful. This would of course take pressure off us to find an interim job for that time, thus enabling the rest we feel we need. Because we are unsure of what our future holds, and remain open to working overseas elsewhere, we would like to stay with Pioneers until we know what we are doing. Again, regardless of your ability to support us during that time, thanks for your partnership of our ministry up until now – for some of you it has been for about 8 years!

What will the next period look like?

Here's the rough plan...

19th Oct – December: Arrive in Australia and begin home assignment, visiting supporters and some of our supporting churches in QLD and then NSW. Also, Lord willing, we will have baby number 4.

January – June: Period of rest and rejuvenation and prayer as we commit ourselves afresh to the Lord for 2012 and beyond. If it is helpful for Dave, he has a couple of low-stress but important writing projects that he could put together while having this break from formal duties. About 80% of 2 Peter commentaries insist that 2 Peter was not written by Peter, but Dave would like the chance to put down on paper (and hopefully publish) the evidence he found while doing his PhD that points to Peter as the likely author, while it is still fresh in Dave's mind. This he hopes will influence future commentaries, which are read by pastors and Bible teachers.

July: We hope to be ready to begin the next chapter of life and ministry.

With love from

The Burge Family

Prayer Points

Please spend some time in your group praying for the Burge family as they re-enter life in Australia. Give thanks for David's work at the Bible College in Ulaan Baatar, Mongolia. Pray that the college would continue to grow and thrive.

Pray for good rest and refreshment over the next few months.

Pray that suitable ministry opportunities would be opened for Dave and Ashleigh in the year ahead.

Study—2 Peter 1

A Quick Look

Read 2 Peter 1.

What evidence is there in this chapter that these are the words of someone who has actually met Jesus?

For those of us who didn't get to meet Jesus first hand, there might be a feeling of disappointment. But what does Peter say we have received?

- * What do we have in abundance?

- * What ingredients do we need to keep adding to the precious faith we've received?

- * What benefit will we have if we keep growing in these qualities?

- * What if we don't?

- * Why will Peter keep reminding them of these things?

Can you find the incident in the gospels that Peter is describing in v17 and 18. Why do you think it stands out in Peter's memory?

Compare verse 19 with what we saw in Hebrews 1 and 2. What are the similarities?

Those of us who didn't meet Jesus first hand rely on the words of Scripture as men like Peter "spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." How does Peter expect his words to be useful after he has 'departed' this life?

Do you find the scriptures helpful this way? Why or why not?

Stay tuned for more on 2 Peter 1 from David Burge this Sunday!