

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

18 December 2010



"...The star appeared to them again, standing over Bethlehem. Their joy knew no bounds!"

Matthew 2:9-10

**May the Lord fill you with His peace and presence.**

Love, *Allan, Christine, Caleb & "Joey"*

Dear friends,

2010 has been an eventful year but we are very thankful to the Lord for guiding and protecting us through many changes and challenges.

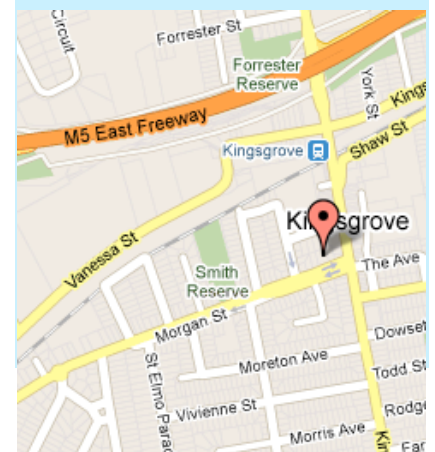
### **Family times**

We've both enjoyed this second year of parenting and particularly in these past three months have been blessed with more time together as a family since Allan has been working part-time from home.

Over the year, Christine had the chance to take CJ to the under-2 program at BSF (Bible Study Fellowship) which he loved and she has cherished the few hours of uninterrupted fellowship and teaching. CJ has also been to swimming lessons and spends a day with Por Por and Goong Goong (CJ's maternal grandparents) whilst Christine continued to work as a hospital chaplain. He loves tractors, cars, bulldozers, trucks, trains - basically anything with wheels. His level of concentration has increased at an alarming rate. Only yesterday he was intrigued with a Kyrgyz Babushka doll - sitting for minutes (not seconds!) putting the "baby" one inside the "por por" (the biggest one).

### **Invitation**

A special invitation: We'd like to invite you to Allan's Induction Service at SWCCC on Sunday 16th January, 2pm. in the St Thomas Kingsgrove Church building at 4 Morgan Street, Kingsgrove.



\* This photo was taken by <http://www.photographybyclementine.com>

And he's finally learnt to build rather than destroy with Duplo which to us is a huge achievement! It's a lovely stage of life that's been made more sweet having both of us around full-time to observe all the details.

God willing, we'll welcome our second child in early February 2011. The pregnancy has been smooth and uncomplicated so far - apart from growing extremely BIG! CJ knows there's a baby in Mummy's tummy but is blissfully unaware of how his world is going to radically change in a few short weeks.

### What's next?

Over the past four years God has placed a burden on our hearts to serve the migrants, esp. those from China, in St. George area. We've clearly seen the vision that God has moved a massive mission field into our backyard for many local churches to reach out to. In response, we consider ourselves as missionaries to our local community. Living in Hurstville for these years, God's blessed us with many opportunities to meet people who've recently moved to Australia and Allan is very keen to use his heart language to share God's grace and love with others.

In 2011, we will start the next phase of our ministry. Allan finished working at Hurstville Presbyterian Church at the end of November. He has been offered a position as the Mandarin pastor at South West Chinese Christian Church in Kingsgrove (SWCCC) which will start in

January 2011. Since he hasn't given talks regularly in Chinese before, he is currently teaching himself to type faster in Mandarin and is reading the Chinese Bible to get accustomed to the Biblical vocabulary!

SWCCC is a new church plant (2 years old) which has both an English and Chinese congregation. Take a look at their website to find out more: [www.southwestccc.org](http://www.southwestccc.org)

God has been so gracious in guiding us to this community throughout the past year as we've prayed about where we could best serve as a family. Not speaking any Chinese, Christine will attend the English service which has quite a few young families so there are lots of opportunities to support other mums and encourage the children. Many people have insisted she learn (and teach CJ) Mandarin - perhaps now is the time!

Allan has also volunteered to be the NSW Team Leader of CultureConnect - a ministry of Interserve (<http://cultureconnect.net.au>). This ministry aims to help the local church engage in cross-cultural ministry within local communities through training, networking, resourcing and recruiting. Allan has also gained a lot serving on the Interserve State Committee over the past year as it's given him a broader perspective of the world and also what's happening in our country regarding ministry to new migrants. In 2011, Allan will serve as the chairperson of this committee.

"My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,"  
Luke 1:47



18 December 2010

**FOR THOSE WHO PRAY:**

**praise** God for His provision of all our needs over this year and opening and closing doors in specific ways that we really didn't expect

**thank** God for our family and ask for a healthy, safe delivery in Feb 2011

**pray** for God's wisdom, humility, patience, grace and trust as we adjust to many changes

May you have a peace and joy filled day celebrating Christ's birth and time to reflect and give thanks for the past year.

Thank you again for your prayers, care and support that have really spurred us on this.

With love,  
Allan, Christine and Caleb + "Joey" (inside)



Please note our new email details:  
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