

METAMORPHOSIS



Prayer Letter # 86
of Ruth Perkins
November
2011



Ruth's address:
53 Doswell Tce
Kadina, SA, 5554
AUSTRALIA
<ruth.perkins@sim.org>
Tel: 08 8821 2849
Mob: 0457 448841

SIM Australia
PO Box 42
Penshurst NSW 2222
AUSTRALIA
Ph. (02) 9580 1422
<sim.australia@sim.org.au>

Visit the SIM
website at:
www.sim.org.au

Dear friends,

Greetings from a pleasantly cool South Australia where the locals think it's warming up but I think it's great! I arrived in Adelaide on October 25th, narrowly missing my brother on his way back from China. Although we would have been in the airport at the same time, we couldn't quite connect since I had another flight to catch. But I was able to spend a few days with my sister, Lois and my nieces and nephews in Adelaide. Having just completed a course in costume design and construction, what better 21st birthday celebration for my niece, Naomi, than a fancy dress party? Her 18th century dress was a veritable work of art!

The following weekend Mum and I enjoyed a womens' camp on Eyre Peninsula. It was lovely lying in bed and being able to hear the waves, though this went on a bit longer than I would have liked, due to accidentally getting the regular coffee instead of the decaf! It was rather like having jetlag again!

Now it's down to the business of trying to get back into life in Australia, which usually involves a lot of filling in forms, phone calls, emails and waiting in queues. However, most things are now sorted out and I'm thankful that I only had to retrieve my car from storage, rather than face the rigmarole of buying a new one. Driving on the other side of the road takes a bit of getting used to though, and I need to get some lessons in parallel parking as I'm very out of practice! Parking is pretty random in Niger.

Back in Niger, I had a hectic last few weeks as I handed things over to David and Tim. Unfortunately they had to be in Niamey for orientation the week I was supposed to be packing up, so I was still having to be back and forth to the office somewhat. However, I did get done the things I needed to do. That week



Naomi in the
dress she made



Redcliffs beach is a
wonderful, quiet place for
reflection

was also complicated by tragedy—the sudden, unexplained death of a young man who ran errands for the project, did maintenance on our lights, did my Sunday watering, and had been helping to cart my boxes to the storeroom as I packed them. I left the MP3 radio with Bible stories which he had been listening to with his young, pregnant wife and trust that she will find comfort and help in them. She has returned to her family.

Sowing Seeds of Change in the Sahel has just hired a young, Christian man named Vincent, who will work with David and Tim in the agricultural teaching and research work. Vincent speaks English, French and Hausa and has an agricultural degree. Pray for these three men as they work with each other, village farmers and the research farm workers. David's agronomy skills will enable better use of compost and fertilizer, as well as bring some solutions to pest and disease problems which farmers frequently face. The rains had been good in most of the Maradi area, but destruction by pests greatly reduced the harvest for many. Some other areas of the country did not fare well.

For a while before I left, the church women in Maradi had been wanting me to give them some teaching. But what kind of teaching? When the subject was broached, they requested health teaching, so I began some nutrition lessons.

Unfortunately, the women had other commitments on many Saturdays (it was wedding season) and we were only able to meet a few times, but they seemed to appreciate what I did and hopefully it can be picked up when I return.

Next on my agenda are medical checks and debriefing. Over the coming weeks I will begin to plan my travels for next year. I expect to visit southern Victoria and probably the South East of South Australia as soon as school resumes in the new year. I will also travel around other parts of South Australia and Sunraysia, and hopefully a little in New South Wales, south of Sydney. With the time restrictions of an 8 month home assignment I will need to curtail traveling somewhat, but if you live in any of these areas and would like me to visit or hold a meeting, please let me know and I'll see if I can fit you in. I look forward to catching up with as many of you as possible.

Blessings,

Ruth



**David dissecting a plant,
Tim looking on**

Praise God for

- Safe return
- Good handover
- Project funding for next year

Keep praying for

- Someone to lead the agricultural work from June 2012
- Village women who have learnt about health and heard the good news about Jesus
- Good planning for travel and opportunity to be bless those I meet
- Trips to Adelaide (several in Nov/Dec), Sydney/Newcastle

If you have changed your address, wish to discontinue receiving this letter, or wish to receive it by email instead of post, please notify me or <churchofchrist@yp-connect.net> or Kadina Church of Christ, PO Box 449, Kadina, SA, 5554, AUSTRALIA