

HOZE HOZE

Tropical *news*

BRINGING YOU THE LATEST NEWS
FROM OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS
AROUND THE WORLD

JULY 2007



Editorial Ramblings



This is a special edition - Hong Kong! We have just spent ten days staying with Vonnie, in her delightful haven of peace and tranquility on Lantau Island, Hong Kong. In a village where not even a car can get to; a place where Chinese farmers, Trappist monks, bicycles and wildlife peacefully co-exist. If you're into nature: birds, snakes, lizards, water buffalo, frogs and insects - as well as streams and waterfalls, mountains, flowers and forests, this is the place to be. No wonder we extended our stay from five days to ten! As well as spending time with Vonnie, we were delighted to meet up with many friends and relatives, so a party atmosphere accompanied our sight-seeing - as well as a host of friendly guides! It was a wrench to leave and the only question now is "When can we get back there?" It would certainly make a rather special place to retire to!

Disappointingly, my digital camera failed towards the end of June. Not wishing to get it repaired in the Philippines (having had bad experiences of that in the past), I decided to get it fixed in HK. Although the repair was expensive and the camera was almost 5 days out of service while in the workshop, it was well worth it and it was a great relief to get it into operation again. I was disappointed that the guarantee was not honoured (no international guarantee). I'd also missed five days of photography in HK with it! Thankfully, we'd got the video camera with us, so all was not lost as that too takes quite good still photographs. Almost at the end of our stay in HK, Grace bought a digital camera, so it is good to see her photographs *gracing* (couldn't resist it) the pages of our newsletter. This is the biggest edition in the history of our newsletter - by far!

I would like to thank you all for your prayers for our family and David Heath and his family. You may remember that Grace's father, Leopoldo, was having a biopsy to test for prostate cancer. We understand from one of the tests that he has this dreadful disease, but we are doing more research before we can confirm this. Please continue to pray for us all.

Alan



Photograph above: Grace riding along the path near where we stayed on Lantau Island.

Front Cover photograph: Building Two, International Finance Centre, Hong Kong - the tallest building in HK.

Inside back cover photograph: The Clock Tower in Tsim Sha Tsui.

Back cover photograph: Inside the Spiral - a shopping mall in Hong Kong.

Your prayers are needed...



update!

I have just received this e-mail from David Heath in Kuwait:

Dear All,

First , I want to thank you for all your prayers and best wishes you have conveyed to us.

After what seems a long wait we now have the results of the biopsy conducted on the swollen lymph node on the left side of my neck. The Biopsy revealed the following: Left cervical lymph node: Non-Hodgkin's B-cell Lymphoma (SLL/CLL) of small lymphocytic type. There are no recognised proliferation centres or transformation into a high grade lymphoma. There are other details given but basically I will be going for further treatment, after I have gathered a second opinion.

Other test results:

Bone Marrow trephine biopsy: Negative for malignancy.

Gallium citrate study: normal distribution of tracer, No abnormal tracer localisation seen. No Gallium avid disease seen.

Gated blood pool study. LV is not dilated, resting LVEF is normal at 57%. LV wall motion analysis shows normokinesis, RV is unremarkable.

Blood tests normal

What does all this mean. I have NH Lymphoma and I will need to undergo further treatment. probably Chemo and / or Radiation treatment.

First, we are going to travel to Cebu (Philippines) where we were going to retire. This is to check out our house, and check out the medical facilities available there. We will then return to Kuwait for my treatment.

Pray for us as a family. We believe we will receive the Grace we need to come through this difficult time.

David, Ruth and Adam.

The photograph, top, shows David Heath with his wife, Ruth (far right), and their son, Adam. On the left are Ruth's sister, Yang-Yang and her daughter, Samantha.



Baloy Beach

with Marc and Tessa

After more than 6.5 years away, Grace and I were delighted to see our friends, Marc and Tessa again. So much news to catch-up on! Alan has know them since they first came to live in Sta. Monica in about 1998 after meeting Marc on the street enquiring about a place to live (story in a previous newsletter). We were also pleased to have Mama Rose (Tessa's mother) as a witness at our wedding in November 2000. The photographs here show us at a restaurant on Baloy beach. The panorama shows a 180 degree view from another restaurant at Baloy Beach that we frequent. We had some great chats and good times together before Marc and Tessa returned to their other home in Legaspi City - that has a view of the Mount Mayon volcano.



Typhoon screens in place for the rainy season in the Philippines!

A new life: Andrei David



Born on the 18th of this month to Grace's brother, Rommel, and his wife, Rowena, a son, Andrei David.



Photograph above: Rowena with their other sons, Allen Gabriel, Jake and Daryll as well as Andrei David

*and
old.....*

Grace's Grandfather,
Leopoldo (aged 94) and
father, also Leopoldo.

(all photographs by Grace)



Welcome home, Nadia



Nadia has just returned for her first visit home since going to live in Qatar, at the beginning of May 2005. Nadia arrived in Doha about one week before our little lad was dramatically brought into the world and regular readers will know that she took over Grace's job as legal secretary to a British solicitor the day after little John was born. Since then she hasn't missed a single days work or taken any leave - that must be something of a record.

Below: Nadia with Mum, brother, Michael (in green) and nephew, Daryll.



Above Who's a lucky guy? Alan with Nadia (left) and Grace (right)



Daryll's birthday party



Rice planting time



The annual back-breaking task of rice planting is with us again this month. The rains have arrived and this tedious work must be done once more in order for, not just the farmers, but for much of the world to survive as rice is such a widely eaten staple food throughout Asia. The work of these subsistence farmers is rarely recognised and the financial compensation they receive for this chore is so minute that most people in the west wouldn't believe how little money anyone can survive on. And yet, year after year, these poor farmers provide the world with the means to survive.

These photographs, by Grace, were taken on the rice farm of our family in Pangasinan. Grace and her sister, Nadia, went there to provide support services to the family, feeding the labourers throughout the days of planting.



Above: A young Carabao. These docile animals work on the farm instead of using tractors.

Left: Rommel, attending to an irrigation pipe.

Below: The family home (red roof) and the newly built home of Rommel and Rowena (left).



HONG KONG





This too is Hong Kong! After the conventional views on the previous pages, which many people believe to be all there is to Hong Kong, it is a wonderful experience to be transported (in about 30 minutes or so from the bustling lively city) to the peaceful island of Lantau - more famous for the Sir Norman Foster designed airport than for peace, solitude and tranquility. A haven for nature lovers, walkers and cyclists (such as Grace shown in this photograph).

The photographs on the previous two pages show the view from Victoria Peak (taken using the video camera; I combined four images to produce this panorama). On the lower left is a mixture of old (the rather modernised junk) and the new buildings that make famous the HK skyline - or shoreline. On the lower right is a view of one of HK's most famous sights; a Star Ferry which crosses the water between HK Island and Kowloon.

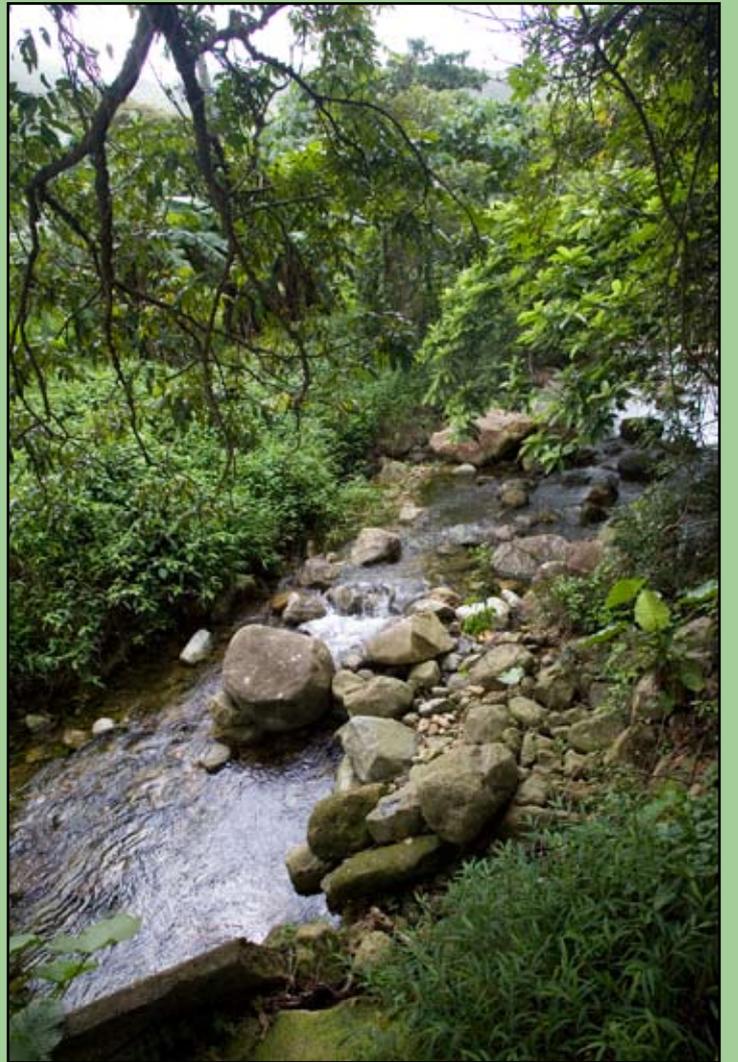
The view (top) was very close to where we were privileged to stay, in Vonnie's flat. This is on the opposite side of the island to the airport, near the village of Mui Wo - about an hour on the bus from the airport. The photograph at the top of the next page was taken from the site of the Big Buddha (Southeast Asia's tallest seated Buddha statue) at Po Lin Monastery (Tian Tan Buddha Statue) which can be seen on pages 18, 19 and 25.



With Vonnie in one of HK's many eateries.



I didn't go to HK but I've still got a brand new bicycle, thanks to *Auntie* Vonnie. (photograph by Grace)





The photographs on this page show the fantastic view from Vonnie's flat on Lantau Island (above), and the brick road (below left) and then the pathway (below right) that we travelled along to get to her lovely home (not shown in these photographs).

The next page shows the interior of a Buddhist temple near Mui Wo (Lantau Island). This is not the same site as the Po Lin Monastery (Tian Tan Buddha Statue) which can be seen on pages 18, 19 and 25.









丁巳年(1987)法會神韻表

1. 普賢菩薩	2. 觀世音菩薩	3. 地藏菩薩	4. 彌勒菩薩
5. 文殊菩薩	6. 普賢菩薩	7. 觀世音菩薩	8. 地藏菩薩
9. 彌勒菩薩	10. 文殊菩薩	11. 普賢菩薩	12. 觀世音菩薩
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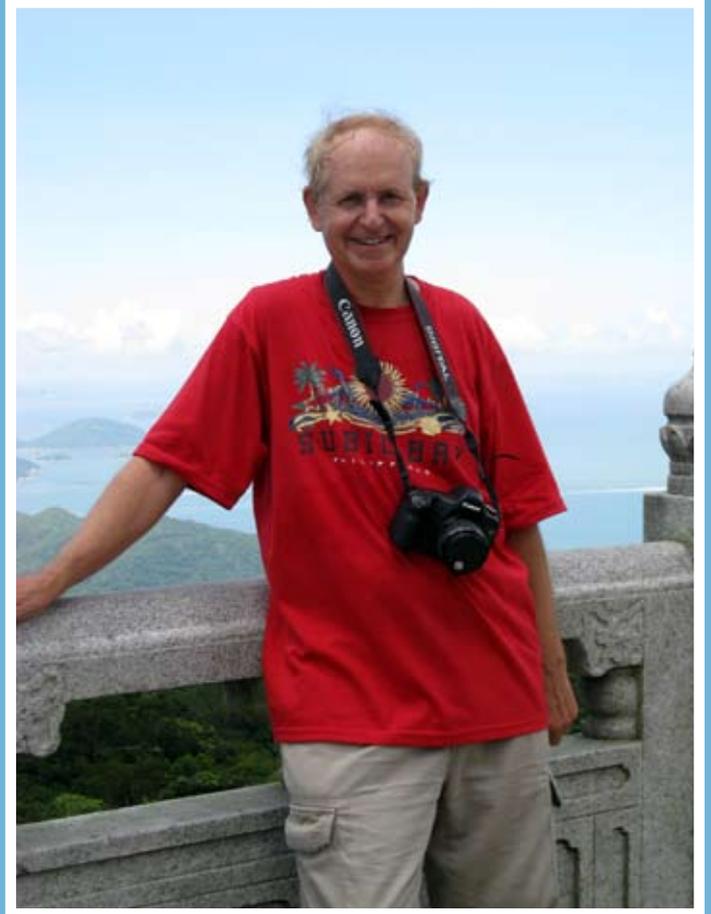
啟建觀音誕大悲法會

為慶祝觀音菩薩成道，暨法華年終於農曆六月十三日啟建觀音誕大悲法會，藉佛力的慈悲加持，廣濟會眾位誠心懺悔，攝緣攝障之功德，以內修外修，淨化起善增福，境內附屬免費遊覽，歡迎各界善信踴躍參加，共襄盛舉，同沾法益。

法華會 農曆六月十三日 啟



Hong Kong's famous shoreline



Grace's views of Hong Kong

These cracking photographs by Grace show that she's no slouch when it comes to using a camera. The Big Buddha picture was only the eighth picture she took using her new camera and, except for the flowers, the rest were taken on the same day. The flower photograph was taken in the airport en-route home on the following day.







The photograph on this page shows gorgeous Grace (right) with our great friend, lovely Lourdes. The photograph on the next page is of Maribel, one of Grace's beautiful cousins. Both Lourdes and Maribel live and work in Hong Kong. I wish we lived there too. One day!



Alan's Reflections



I was chatting to Grace the other day about how small the world has become to us. We were in Hong Kong where we met friends who had travelled from the UK, the Middle East and the Philippines, and we were staying with Vonnie, our friend from New Zealand. Our little lad has lived in and visited several countries too. All this would have been impossible when I was a young man (not *that* long ago!). In those days, unless one was paid to travel, such as a seaman or pilot or in the military services, few people had any money to use for travelling and few had travelled abroad - usually only the rich and famous.

It made me wonder if everyone now feels that way about getting around our beautiful planet. Do many people just jump on an aeroplane as though it were a bus? It made me think about whether we were unusual in our global wanderings or if most people now do it. After living outside my home country for over 10 years it is natural that the people we meet should be travellers as we are. But what about those still living in the UK, for example? Do they flit about the world like we do? I don't know the answer to the question, but I am curious. Of course the package deal holiday offers have made travellers of sorts of many, but I'm really talking about those people who are the more independent traveller and those who live and work outside their own country.

Another factor assisting global travel are the communication systems available with the internet and mobile telephones. For example, I can find a job advertised on the internet from anywhere in the world. I can reply to that advertisement in a matter of seconds, using e-mail to send my C.V., letters of reference and copies of my certificates of qualification, passport copy etc. If an employer is interested in hiring me he can call me on my mobile telephone anywhere in the world to interview me and I can carry on negotiations about terms and conditions from another country via e-mail before accepting the job and travelling to the employers' country to do the job for which I've been hired.

Our little lad was born in Qatar and has lived there and in the Philippines as well as visited (twice) his other 'native' country; England - and he is only two years old.

This isn't the future - it's now - this is happening. How the world has changed in just a few years. I can even book my 'plane tickets, rent a car and book a hotel on line from my laptop computer. I just wonder how many people actually live like this. Of course, I realise that most of the readers of this newsletter live like this - but is this now considered normal - or is it still considered unusual?

Alan



