

From Karina, Winter 2010-11

Happy New Year

I hope you had a very happy Christmas and New Year. It was good to get warm greetings from many of you in December (apparently the coldest December in the UK since the Met Office began records).

20th Anniversary



Twenty years ago this month, I began my Candidates' Orientation with WEC International and officially joined the Mission in April 1991.

Since I last wrote....

I continue to look after my mother and we are grateful that she has been keeping fairly well. When I was away for a couple of weeks in September and again in December, she was well cared for in a local Home which offers respite care. She appreciated lots of friends visiting her.

September travels

I enjoyed my day at the Highland Theological College in Dingwall and a Saturday Ladies' Conference in Aviemore. It was good to share about mission and meet up with friends in both places. At Bulstrode, I had some helpful meetings about the Training Department as well as good input into some resources that I'm editing. A Global Connections Forum in London on Lifelong Learning was useful in terms of contacts and ideas.

December travels

I was glad to get to WEC's end-of-year Conference, having missed out on the June one. The snow only kept me back a day on the way. I then headed to a German conference centre near Frankfurt for a Leadership Development Seminar attended by WEC workers who are based in Europe and Africa. It was good to take part in the week of seminars as well as joining the facilitators for some training beforehand.

After various travel adventures on the way back, I just managed to get my mum home for her 91st birthday. We were both delighted to have my little grand-nephews - with their mum and granny - visit us around New Year.



(One of their newer island experiences was feeding carrots to my cousin's friendly horse.)

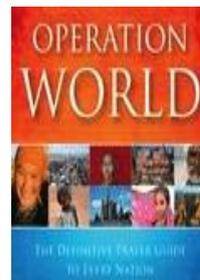
MTC in Brazil

During the 25th anniversary commemorations, the MTC's new swimming pool was inaugurated. A dream becomes a reality. I'm trying not to be jealous.

The two graduates from Guinea Bissau, Julio and Intchambu, will now be settling back in to life in their home country. They will be involved in the local Bible Institute. Four current students, with a member of staff, are spending December and January in Guinea Bissau for their cross-cultural placement. Others are in a Chinese community in Brasilia and one is in Portugal.

Operation World

Prayer Handbook



The new edition of *Operation World* is now available. As well as benefiting from the book's information, you can sign up for a daily prayer focus from the web site: www.operationworld.org

WEC UK Training Department

There are training initiatives at WEC UK's Sending Base and in other places that at some point I'd love to be involved in. For the moment, however, I'm concentrating on just a few areas.

My catchphrase at the moment is 'Mind the GAP!', as I edit a Growth Awareness Profile (GAP, for short) put together by a group of trainers. The aim is to have printed booklets and a web version of the Profile available for WEC UK's June conference. Members will be encouraged to use the GAP to assess where they are in personal growth and ministry skills. Once they have drawn up their profile, they can more easily establish a learning plan. To help them take this forward, a further booklet (and the software) will identify resources that could be useful for them.

GAP Booklet

Various colleagues have helped me with ideas and formatting. Some are piloting the paper copy of the Profile just now and giving me feedback.

GAP Web Version

Questions from the software company didn't mean a lot to me! Thankfully, however, my role is to summarise what other people pass on to me, liaise with the company and keep the project going. My lack of expertise in computer software doesn't matter too much.

Resources booklet

There is still a lot to be done on this.

Some Diary Dates

January

Work mainly on the GAP

February

11-13 With my mum, hopefully, at Islands' Study Conference

25 *Specifications for the GAP to software company*

March

Work on resource booklet, etc.

Liaise re GAP web version.

9-19 Attend meetings and a training course at Bulstrode – part of my own 'learning plan' (*approximate dates*)

April

Pilot the GAP web version

May

27 Jane Baker (MTC, Brazil) at WEC Prayer Group, Stornoway

June

1-15 Bulstrode conference – *and, hopefully, 'launch' two versions of the GAP.*
Visit friends involved in training.
(Brother/sister-in-law with mum)

End of June/beginning of July

Holiday (My sisters stay with mum)

Some Prayer Points

1. The GAP – my work on the Profile and Resource booklet
 - Incorporate suggestions; make tool as useful as possible; include the right information in Resources...
 - Software company developing the web version
 2. Development of a training team
 3. My travels
 4. Emily's chemotherapy (my neighbour's seven-year-old has leukaemia and reacted very badly to her first month of treatment)
 5. Julio and Intchambu
 - Quick adaptation after four years away from home
 - Fruitful ministry in the Bible Institute
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Thanks once again for your fellowship.

Every blessing,

Karina

*Karina Macleod, 62 Coll, Isle of Lewis HS20LR
M: 07787 341421 Skype: karina.macleod
karinascot@hotmail.com*

*Sender: Mr. R Martin, 7 Mill Road, Stornoway HS1 2TZ
Rmart7@aol.com*