

Spot the flag and guess the location...

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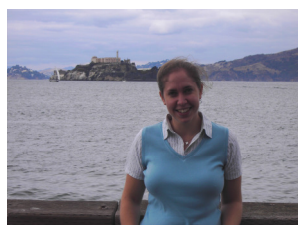
HeLLo!!

How are you today?! We hope this finds you well, and happy and enjoying all that's happening in your life right now!! We just thought we'd drop you a line to update you with all that's been going on in our lives... There's been many events.....!!

At the beginning of the year, we were just engaged (Pete proposed New Year's Eve 2005), and we enjoyed the excitement of preparation and anticipation of the five month wait to our marriage in May. As well as trying to organise people and places, there were other adjustments and changes during those five months: Gayle handed in her notice at Lonza Biologics in Slough, where she'd been working since October 2005, and finished work just a week before getting married in Oxford. It was a great eight months with Lonza, and she really enjoyed the team work and atmosphere. She attempted to find another job simultaneously, but none was raising its head, so she waited 'til after settling in her new home with Pete in Ware. Initially, it was frustrating not having regular work but Gayle soon got accustomed to the domesticity accompanying marriage, and, though her regular job-searching seemed fruitless over the summer months, she enjoyed consolidating her presence in a house that had been a bachelor pad for 10 months! After much interaction with scientific recruitment agencies, and a few interviews, a dilemma presented itself: Gayle was offered two jobs on the same day!! Both totally different roles, as well! However, the decision was made, and Gayle accepted the role as Technical Support Specialist at a small distributor called Presearch (www.presearch.co.uk). This company is a distributor of scientific research equipment and consumables, dealing mostly in the field of automated separation technologies. Within two days of being in the office, she was sent to California for training, and wasn't about to turn down a trip to San Francisco! It was an intense training programme, but an opportunity to see the hilly streets of San Fran and to acquire some yummy Ghiradelli's chocolate...! All this to learn about the application and troubleshooting for a nanoHPLC system! Gayle has since also travelled to Kentucky for another meeting with a manufacturer – this time for an automated benchtop peptide synthesiser! All attendees were very well looked after, and Gayle got to travel over the Ohio river on the Kennedy bridge (the I-65) to the state of Indiana!! Gayle's role within this company will be to learn the function, application and operation of several pieces of kit from several suppliers (check the website for the list of 28 suppliers..) and be able to take a screwdriver to it to fix it when it starts sprouting leaks and bleeping other errors. There is a lot for her to learn in a short time, but it's exciting and gives her a chance to be right at the frontier of new lab technologies! Oh, and she really enjoys driving the company car – a five door Peugeot 307 SE, 1.6L HDi SW! There's a five CD changer, air con for both the front and the back sections of the car, cruise control, reverse sensor, a great big window in the ceiling, tray tables for the rear passengers and cup holders!! Heehee! ☺



Be Ware



All smiles after her release from Alcatraz...

Our honeymoon in June was truly wonderful! We boarded The Grand Princess at Barcelona, and then set sail for various destinations, including Marseilles, Civitavecchia (Rome), Mykonos (Greece), Istanbul, Kusadasi (Ephesus), Naples (sorry, Napoli..), and Venice...!! It was so nice to be able to have champagne breakfast in bed, and to take everything at a leisurely pace! We enjoyed it all! As you'll see from the pictures, Pete enjoyed a tippie here and there as we regularly stopped at the local cafes to try the coffee and to soak in the local atmosphere! Gayle's favourite city was Pompeii, which was just an extraordinary experience! Before we took the trip to the coastal city we stopped for a caffeine break at a local café in rainy Napoli. But the sun emerged in the afternoon and Pompeii was great! You could easily have imagined all the bustling activities of the ancient inhabitants. Pete enjoyed Istanbul, where we saw the ancient obelisks at the Hippodrome, visited The Blue Mosque, the Hagia Sophia and the Topkapi Palace. Oh, and we stopped for coffee. Again.



Champagne breakfast
in the Med



Coffee in
Ephesus



Coffee in
Istanbul



Outside St Albans
cathedral

We took another holiday in August, travelling to the small town of Bad Aussee in Austria. This is where Pete's grandmother still lives and we met up with others from Pete's family for a get-together. Gayle tried hard to pick up some of the German and managed to say a few phrases by the end of the week. However, she still doesn't have a comprehensive knowledge of the language, so has signed up for an evening class in German. Now she can say more than "sleep well" and "where are the toilets please"...! Pete is teaching her a few bits of vocab every now and then, so hopefully the drip-drip-drip approach will help to consolidate the weekly classes! While we were in Austria we saw some beautiful locations! The trip in the cable car to the top of Tauplitz was just exhilarating! Pete wouldn't necessarily agree; he drove the 30 minutes to the top instead...!

At the end of September this year, Pete was ordained priest at St Albans cathedral by the Bishop of Hertford, Christopher Foster. Pete went away on retreat for a few days (at the Boys Brigade centre in Hemel Hempstead); he didn't forget to take his bottle of single malt and Tom Clancy novel with him... The service on the Sunday morning was at the same time very exciting but very sobering and moving. Pete (and similarly Gayle, though she wasn't up front..) was making a fresh and conscious decision to commit his ways to God. He was surrendering again his life and purpose to God, promising to serve the body of Christ, the church, and to choose God's ways over his own. We believe God is very good, that He will guide us in the way He wants us to go; and we believe that when we surrender our lives to Him, God will do extraordinary things in our lives and in the lives of those in the community to whom we minister! We're excited to see what He will do over the next few years!! You can check out our church at www.christchurchware.co.uk, and even listen to some of the sermons Pete's had a go at preaching by clicking on the appropriate link ...! Pete is really enjoying the variety and challenges of parish work! He has been preaching and pastoring and leading, and though he doesn't see himself in small parish work in the longer term, it's great experience and preparation for whatever God holds in store in the future! He has been very warmly welcomed onto the church team and we've been kindly invited to lunch on many a Sunday!

Aside from the work aspect, married life is suiting us both very well! It has been so easy for us to adjust to living together, and we've not argued yet... It's just great having your best friend around all the time, being there to listen to your garrulous effusions, to smile at your unique idiosyncracies and to love you all the same! We have plenty of space here so if you find yourself in the neighbourhood we would love to see you!! But until we see you, please do keep in touch and let us know what's happening in your life! You can contact us at the address and telephone number at the top of this letter.

With love and every blessing,

Gayle and Pete
x x



Just a little postscript: the words below are from the song played as we both walked out of church as Mr and Mrs (or Reverend and Dr, if you want to be pedantic...!). The words of this song resonate strongly with both of us, and the only thing from our wedding day that we regret is that most people would not have heard these words. The song tells the story of how God is our source of life, how He is faithful and compassionate, and how His love makes us sing! As we walked out of the church we wanted to say with this song that we are where we are today because of God, and as we left the church to our lives outside of the joy of that special wedding day we want to sing His love in every step we take, in every word we speak and in every activity that we engage in. Please help us to do that!!

Sing His love

Andrew Osenga

Father, long before creation
Thou hadst chosen us in love
And that love so deep, so moving
Draws us close to Christ above
Still it keeps us, still it keeps us
Firmly fixed in Christ alone.

*And the world will sing His love
Yes, the world will sing His love
And we'll all join hands
Every woman, every man
And sing His love*

Though the world may change its fashion
Yet our God is ever the same
His compassion and His covenant
Through all ages will remain
God's own children, God's own children
Must forever praise His name

God's compassion is my story
It is my boasting all the day
Mercy free and never failing
Moves my will, directs my way

This marvellous album by Caedmon's Call, entitled *In the Company of Angels: A Call to Worship II*, is available from all good Christian bookshops and 'Sing His love' can be heard on Peter's website: www.peter-ould.net at the Christmas link.....!!! ☺

