



CHERIL AND BRUCE

Teaching team in Central Asia

During the 25 years in which Bruce and Cheryl had leadership roles in communities in Victoria and Queensland, they maintained a keen interest in cross-cultural work.

In 2003, by which time their children had become independent of them, they were invited to take up a leadership role for a Teaching English as a Second Language team in Central Asia.

Their initial three-year term of service involved caring for the team, liaising with universities for continuing and future teaching contracts, helping new teachers settle in, teaching part time in one of the universities, and hosting visiting cultural awareness teams and students. They also welcomed other Australian visitors and introduced them to the sites and cultures of the area. They began learning the local language and developed close relationships with many students and teachers, some from the majority community and others from other ethnic groupings.

Their maturity, warmth and approachability bring many opportunities for significant conversations with students and teaching colleagues. It is always a thrill for them to respond to questions, and to see young people make life-choices that bring hope and joy to themselves, their families and others. Bruce and Cheryl delight in encouraging and nurturing students in their life journeys.

Leading a team comprising Australian and Indian cross-cultural teachers is immensely rewarding, though it brings challenges at times.

