

Country of Birth: **The Netherlands**Date of Arrival in Australia: **April 1958**

Han Spykerboer

Right from the beginning, we had talked about living and working in an immigration country to minister to new settlers... We felt increasingly challenged by the call of the church to young ministers couples to identify with the migrating members of the church. The rather poor response to this call was a very important consideration in our decision. Another factor was my original decision to go into the ministry to meet the challenge occasioned by a shortage of ministers.

Some of our friends disapproved of our emigration plans: "it is a shame and a betrayal of your upbringing and university studies." But that did not deter us. Thus, we migrated to Australia in April 1958. I was fortunate to be

the only one of seven migrating young ministers to whom the in-laws did not say "if you love my daughter you would not go." In our case, Hanna's parents organised a festive family farewell dinner on the eve of our departure. Life in our new country has far exceeded our expectations. After two months as chaplain at Wacol Migrant Centre, I became the minister of the Presbyterian Parish of Norman Park.

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