

### Dear Friends and Prayer Partners

This newsletter is the last issue for 2019. While it is sent out in the start of 2020, it is not intended just a document reflecting the past, it is desired as an outset for the forthcoming. First we'd like to take this opportunity to greet you in the New Year with a quote from CS Lewis. "There are far better things ahead than any we leave behind." Lewis actually did say this, but not in the context so often used for expression of optimism about the future. He was not giving a speech to tell us all will come well. It was written in a letter to a woman, Mary Willis Shelburne facing the end of her life.



During the year, along with many other things, we experienced the hottest and driest spells of weather in Australia and we have the worst bushfire ever recorded. The Bible gives many insights into what we can look forward to. "Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. (Phil 3:13b-14)." CS Lewis captures God's vision for eternal hope in difficult times.



### Returning Home Well

For international student ministry (ISM) at University of Queensland (UQ), we praise God for a fruitful past year. Throughout the semesters in 2019, there were about 65 students coming consistently to Catalyst fellowship with average of 7 new friends and 11 seekers each week. This year saw 24 students becoming Christians and 25 friends and families members of their oikos following Jesus.



While we welcomed incoming students for their fresh arrival, we also congratulated graduating students for their honors of study. We are thankful that they have both achieved academically in their study and learnt about Jesus Christ in their faith. Many of them have committed to continue their spiritual journey. We rejoice to see them graduate, discipled and ready to disciple others to build spiritual movements in their hometowns and everywhere.



International students impact their nations. By reaching them and sending them with the Good News back home, Christian value will gradually and surely find its way into people's lives in ethics, morality and belief. The spread of the Gospel to the world becomes a reality. This year 14 students have graduated and returned to their home countries. We thank God that some of them have settled in local churches. Some of them have found jobs. We pray for the rest can find suitable church and job. They can maintain close relationship with God.



### Queensland Team 40th Celebration

The Queensland ministry team celebrated our 40th anniversary in campus ministry. In August, we gathered with the old and new co-workers over half a century. Together with student alumni and ministry partners, we thanked for the providence and guidance of God in these 40 years. We were listening to the outpouring of blessings in stream of stories.



### Homeward Mission

Ken and Florence departed for Hong Kong from Brisbane in mid Nov until Christmas. We did a number of things there in visiting our families and friends to share our testimonies; reporting to our ministry partners about our ministry; catching up with students who have returned home. Two special visits worth mentioning:

#### Hong Kong Campus Crusade for Christ

It is an honor to visit the Hong Kong Campus Crusade for Christ national office. We had the opportunity to meet some ministry colleagues there. With Alfred Leung, national director of HKCCC, we shared our respective ministries. We prayed for Hong Kong's divisive situation over politics and for the co-workers who serve facing this challenge.



#### A Special Side Trip to Japan for Reconciliation

We were heavy-hearted to travel to Japan to orchestrate a meeting for our nephew to meet his ailing father who was terminally ill. For a long time, their relationship had been broken. After a lengthy conversation guided by the word from the Bible, they shook hand and hugged. Father and son are fully reconciled. We rejoice for the reconciliation.



## The Blessed Dawn of Christmas Day

Ken and Florence returned to Brisbane on Christmas Day. We arrived in the first light of the morning. The sight of alpenglow caught our attention. While our eyes saw the warmth of God's glory, our mind knew Australia's land was burning. Our heart prayed in a blessed dawn of Christmas day for the strength, courage and hope that keep us faithful and alert to support people who are affected by crisis.



## The New Year Vision and Outlook

As we enter into a new ministry season, we are looking forward to "better things ahead than any we leave behind" by laboring faithfully to "win the prize for which God has called us heavenward in Christ Jesus."

### Innovative Evangelism

Beyond Brisbane Project 2020, our annual campus outreach project aiming at reaching out international students during orientation week is underway. The project was launched in late October last year to sign up student leaders whom are prepared and discipled to participate in evangelistic mission from 9 to 21 Feb this year where missionaries and students will work together to initiate spiritual conversations and present the gospel to international students across the major universities in Brisbane.



### Lifelong Discipleship

In preparing and discipling students for evangelism, below is a sharing from one of our students:

*"This semester I started to share the Gospel with non-believers. Florence helped me by praying for me and encouraging me even when people were not interested in listening. We also invited them to English Conversation Class and Catalyst Fellowship. We shared the love of God. I prayed for them and care about them. I realize that Salt Hours is a great opportunity to train me in Gospel sharing where I can share bravely to strangers as well. I hope I can never stop sharing."*



### 100% Sent Vision of ISM

In John 15, Jesus talks about producing fruit that remains. Spiritually fruitful people are fully surrendered to Christ and express love for Him over a lifetime by making disciples. Our vision of "100% Sent" is helping our students continue to grow in spiritual maturity; they continue to propel the spiritual movement; and find a spiritual home where they return.



## Family News

Nov-Dec saw a period of busy overseas visitation. After returning home, we took time off to recuperate to be ready for the coming ministry season. We went to



Montville, the Sunshine Coast hinterland to reflect the past. We went to Mt



Coot-tha, the Brisbane suburban mountain to plan the future. During this time, we were informed our nephew's father passed away. It was a day after his birthday which was celebrated in the hospital. It was on

the day where he was surrounded by his family and a rainbow appeared outside the window. We cannot hide our emotion to mourn. We thank he is resting in heaven.

## Praise & Prayer

- Praise for God's grace in our ministry on campus. Florence led 8 people to Christ. She also discipled 14 students and follows up 6 returnees. Ken worked with post-graduate students, post-doctorate researchers and faculty community to cultivate Christian fellowship. While Ken and Florence share the Gospel, pastoral caring and disciple making go hand in hand.
- Praise the Lord that our students joined various summer projects for short-term missions. They had great experience in exploring mission overseas.
- Pray for our national missionary conference in Sydney during Jan 11-17 and our Queensland area missionary retreat during Jan 25-27.
- Pray for our local campus evangelistic program, Beyond Brisbane Project 2020 during 9-21 Feb. God prepares our hearts to equip the participating students to connect with new students.
- Pray for the much needed rain to ease the bushfires, courage to fight the bushfires and generous donations to help people who suffer from the bushfires.
- Pray for Ken and Florence's wellness both bodily and spiritually, balanced in work and life, abundantly provisioned for our daily needs.

*Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.*

Ephesians 3:20

Yours in Christ,

*Ken & Florence*

**Kenneth and Florence Chan**