

Dear Friends and Prayer Partners

We are entering into Australia's summer with the ending of spring and in the passing of a warm Christmas. Yet it is still truthful to greet you with a Christmas blessing:

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6). Moreover it is just in



time to celebrate the forthcoming New Year with you in anticipations for *"they are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."* (Jeremiah 29:11).



Be Strong and Courageous

Ken and Florence are gratefully reporting to you from our residence in Brisbane. First we wish you a joyful and peaceful Christmas followed by a safeguarded and reassuring New Year. For this hope the theme of this newsletter is "Be Strong and Courageous". The LORD said: *"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."* (Joshua 1:9).



Courage in the Crisis

Coping with the COVID-19 crisis demands courage of us in many aspects. It's like climbing a craggy mountain as we experienced recently. We need to have physical, mental and spiritual endeavor to conquer the climb. Likewise in our campus ministry, we need to have: hope in the crisis to step out in faith to overcome the social isolation; grace in the crisis to hold up our health; mission in the crisis to defeat anxiety by practicing gratitude during trials and hardships.



Strength in the Crisis

We have discovered that our personal and collective courage as individuals and as a team (UQ ISM) is crucial in coping with this ongoing crisis. Prayer is a powerful connection with God to ask for the necessary help (Phil 4:6-7) because the peace of God will transcend all understanding and guard our hearts and minds in Jesus.



Counting the Blessings in 2020

With physical, emotional and spiritual endeavour to thrive through this challenging year, we are counting the blessings of this campus season in full gratitude. We see each blessing a precious grace of God.

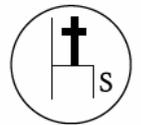
People reached

UQ ISM's signature fellowship Catalyst meets every Thursday. The meetings usually attracted 60 to 70 students each time. New students were welcomed into the fellowship. These new students would be invited into our community. Many of them would join our Bible studies and community groups. With the COVID lockdown, we had to go online. While the number of participants decreased, the geographic reach had increased, not only nationally but also internationally. We could meet our students interstate and even overseas via online meetings.



People saved

It was still an amazing year despite many students could not return due to the close of Australian border. By the end of this campus season, we still see 7 students and their oikos coming to Christ in our International Student Ministry (UQ ISM). Their names are written in the Book of Life.



People baptized

We see spiritual maturity of our students. In UQ ISM there were 3 students who professed their faith to be baptized. On an October Sunday, we witnessed their baptisms in a local church. Each one testified their life transforming experience and made decision to follow Jesus Christ.



People sent

We also see spiritual fruitfulness of our students who fully surrender to Jesus Christ and express their love for Him over a lifetime to become disciple and make disciples. After the Digital Winter Conference (DWC) 2020, 2 of our students pledged to be sent as disciple makers. And at our farewell meeting for our graduating students, many of them expressed their willingness to continue spiritual movement where ever they return to.



Wrapping up 2020

Through chaos and crisis, we thank God for His mercy. We have come to the end of a year that changed the way we work. We did experience hardships and suffering but we do see God's faithfulness. We have been forced to live life and do ministry differently. Nevertheless we still count our blessings. We are grateful to fulfill our vision and mission in campus ministry.

Last Catalyst Meeting and Farewell

29 Oct was the date of our last Catalyst meeting of the year. Thereafter students would start their final exam preparation. In saying farewell to our graduating students, while they were sharing their testimonies and we gave them our encouragement.



Final UQ ISM Team Meeting

We convened our final team meeting on 4 Nov in Brookfield Gardens Cafe. It has been such an amazing year! We as a great missionary team, a mix of young and old having different gifts and strengths, together to achieve the goals of our mission.



Year End Brisbane Team Social

With thanksgiving, missionaries of the Brisbane Mission Team came together at 17 Miles Rock Park on 6 Nov to celebrate the end of ministry season of the year. As we congregated, we thanked for the protection of God in this tumultuous year.



Preparation for 2021

We acknowledge 2020 has been an extraordinary year. CS Lewis said this: "There are far better things ahead than any we leave behind." Lewis did say this but not in the context so often used for expression of optimism about the future. We need to prepare well for the worst. Let's be even more mindful for next year in 2021 as it will be another challenging year.

Beyond Brisbane Project 2021

The launch meeting for Beyond Brisbane Project 2021 was held on 2 Nov. The body of work was outlined. Sharon introduced the schedule. Florence prayed for commissioning.



Movement Builder (MB) Evaluation

We got together all our MB's for an evaluation meeting on 19 Nov. The purpose is to review the work of student leading in 2020 and propose the necessary change for 2021.



Family News

Florence and Ken celebrated our 62nd birthday in October and November respectively. Life of Florence has been busy nevertheless grateful. Florence is providing much care for Ken's recovery at home in December as he has broken his right elbow after a fall in South Bank boardwalk recently. Ken has quite a significant transition in his vocational life. After 3 years working with Florence as missionary on university campuses, he finally concluded all his engineering credentials by relinquishing all professional ties with EC and IET affiliated for more than 30 years. Ken's broken right elbow was replaced with stainless steel prosthesis.



Praise & Prayer

- During the summer break, we will run Alpha course. Pray that God will guide non-believers to know the Lord and believing participants to grow spiritually.
- Vicky will return to her home country by year end. Pray that she can be close to the Lord everyday; finding suitable home church; and living with family in harmony.
- Praise the Lord! Ken's surgery to replace his right elbow was successful. He is now recovering well and needs physio rehab. Pray for the healing and Ken can recover in health soon and his right arm can resume proper movement.
- In the midst of caring for Ken, Florence's preparation of devotional materials for the Beyond Brisbane Project due on 20 Dec is delayed. Pray that Florence can finish well in Jan 2021.
- Beyond Brisbane Project will be held from 10 to 23 of Feb next year. Pray for the preparation and unity.
- Pray for the Power to Change annual conference to be convened in Mt. Tambourine from 18 to 22 in Jan 2021 that Florence can drive safely between home and the venue.

Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love.

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

Yours in Christ,

Ken & Florence

Kenneth and Florence Chan