



Chan's Newsletter

Christmas Greeting 2016
&
New Year Wish 2017



Greeting to our Families and Friends

As the year comes to a close, we want to write to you in person to greet you! Kenneth, Florence and Michael of the Chan family would like to wish you and your family a joyful Christmas 2016 and a blessed New Year 2017. It has been 3 years since our last newsletter from which we had stopped sending due to family circumstances (2014 our extended stay in Hong Kong due to mum's health & 2015 our perpetual distraction in Brisbane due to work/study busyness and stress). This year we send this letter conveying the confident wish of a new season sealed in the hope of anticipating peace and love to you and us. The hope is expressed in Jeremiah 29:11 which says, "For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." And this hope is manifested by the true meaning of Christmas in Isaiah 9:6 which says, "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." It is our wish and prayer that peace is with you; love overflows from you; hope carries you through each day. Thank you for making a difference on us in so many ways. Your prayers, giving and interest have encouraged us to speak the Good News and to live the Gospel, among many of the vulnerable, needed and hard-to-reach in our daily encounters.

The Chan Family's Update (A New Season of Life)

This year sees a natural and social season of change. As the Jacaranda tree blossomed in purple during October and the Kurrajong tree flowered in red during December outside our residence, Florence and Ken have gone through the 30th anniversary and have been ministering on campus and in community respectively in full term. Michael has graduated from his second degree in engineering after completing a psychology degree and has been living independently from parents while working in remote Queensland. We look forward to 2017 as a new and renewed season, a time of continuous endeavors and faith in physical, emotional and spiritual wellness.



Let's start with Michael (A Graduate Engineer)

Our beloved son, Michael, has graduated from his 2nd degree in mechanical and materials engineering, a remarkable milestone of his university life for 8 years. Resigned from 6 years as part-time hospital orderly with Uniting Care, he has begun his full-time engineering profession with Hanson Construction Supply this year. We attribute Michael in many aspects: he has grown into a fine and mature young man; he has studied from the mind of people (psychology) to the science of materials (engineering); he has worked and earned his independent living; he has acquired skills for his life as well as visions of his ideal. As parents, we are proud and honored to be by his side for those years. Today, we respect him, cherish him and love him always. While rubbing shoulder to shoulder with his classmates of the faculty, colleagues in projects and friends across campus in UQ, we also commend Michael in many ways: he possesses such a sociable persona with agility and stamina; he has climbed the treacherous mountains and skied the snow fields to claim his high ground; he has ridden the bikes as well as the waves to seek his adventures. While he is chasing his dream, his parents are in anticipations and blessings for his life, career and family.





Chan's Newsletter

Christmas Greeting 2016
&
New Year Wish 2017



Then comes to Florence (A Campus Missionary)

Life for Florence is busy but so good. She is rejoicing as she serves with the Power to Change International Student Ministry (a.k.a. Campus Crusade for Christ Student Life) on the University of Queensland campus. Since 2011 in a week's mission involvement with Student Life at Griffith University, she started as a volunteer worker at UQ. In 2014 an invitation from CCCA was extended to Florence to attend a missionary seminar. She began seriously considering... and a further confirmation came... She embarked on Power to Change ISM in 2015. In 8 months' preparation for partnership development and support raising, Florence is a full-time missionary on campus since August. Even though it is challenging, in the beautiful UQ lake where she can have quiet devotional times communicating with the Lord through the scriptures and lots of prayers for her family, students and ministry partners before starting her work. She is thankful for her mission. Just a few months, she has led 4 students to Christ. She also has been discipling new believers as well as caring for their personal issues. An exciting year sees Florence's participation in the new Brisbane International Student Ministry (ISM) team. Florence is also thankful to join the BST study tour to Greece and Turkey (Sept 11-28). She had seen, first-hand, where Paul shared the gospel in Greece and Turkey, and was taken to the place on Patmos Island where the Apostle John wrote the Book of Revelation.



UQ

QUT



GU

How is Kenneth going (A Community Chaplain)

Since 2014, clinical pastoral care has put Kenneth in a situation of meeting people's spiritual need in parallel with their medical care. Life experience and sound theology are required from him. He has realized that he should carry out the work with humility and compassion, being genuine in his Christian faith while respecting the religious beliefs of the others. Hospital chaplaincy offers pastoral care and spiritual support in clinical context. As hospital chaplain, Kenneth gives emotional support to patients and their families and friends as well as caring for staff in times of their stress and crisis. He also offers prayers and sacraments where appropriate. In this year, Kenneth is serving voluntarily as a hospital chaplain at a public acute hospital (PAH) and a private Christian hospital (SAWMH) as well as a cancer supporter for RBWH via CCQ. He has visited thousand of patients. At a twist and turn in mid year, miraculously Kenneth secured a highly paid IT management job with University of Queensland. He was in a dilemma. While relieved from financial stress, he had to give up chaplaincy. Unexpectedly, his probation could not finish and the department where he worked dissolved. For him, he had worked in ITS of UQ for 3 months and now has concluded for not so good and good reasons. While in disappointment, Kenneth is grateful to be back to chaplaincy. There is a discovery Kenneth has realized on campus with the faculties. When he came into conversations with staff, some of them were stressed and looking for pastoral care and counseling. On a side note, Kenneth is also thankful to finish a double diploma in counseling and community services this year with which he has more skills under his belt.



RBWH

SAWMH

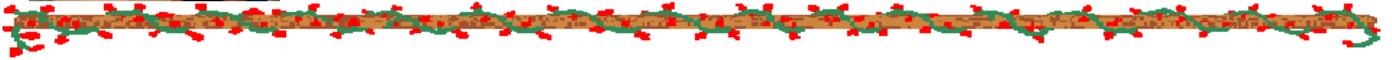


PAH



Chan's Newsletter

Christmas Greeting 2016
&
New Year Wish 2017



Where are we heading (The Complete Circle)

Pastoral care to us is a grateful ministry to care for people faithfully and compassionately. We see this work an important part of our vocation where we can serve the communities and campuses with a prospect in the mission field. Pastoral care is both demanding and emotional draining, yet we have learnt humbly and served willingly. In a compassionate, respectful and attentive presence to people, Florence and Kenneth are providing the listening ear, companionship and faithful reflection to students and patients in our respective fields on campus and community. Following Kenneth's conclusion with ITS of UQ, Power to Change has encouraged Kenneth to join Florence as a missionary couple to become part of the QLD mission team to reach both the students and staff. Are we heading to a complete circle? While Florence is enthusiastic about sitting and dancing on campus, Kenneth is reflective about how the line of this circle be jointed. And for this, we need your prayer and support. We will update you in the coming year.



Reflection from the Chan's

As next year is around the corner, we want to conclude this letter with an open remark. When we gaze at the present, a glimpse at the future, Kenneth, Florence and Michael of the Chan family are grateful that we may continue to reach you and draw your continual interest in our journey. Again, we treasure each one of you as our families and friends. We would like to close this letter by sending a blessing sealed in faith. The faith is explained in Hebrews 11:1 which says, "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." This hope is manifested by the true meaning of Christmas which we greet you in the beginning of the letter.

at Ijen Crater



at Bulimba Riverside



at Nelson Bay



Blessing from the Chan's

May the timeless message of Christmas fill your heart and home with joy now and throughout the coming year. We wish this email can reach you well that you are in our prayers and we are in your thoughts with much love and many blessings from the Chan's.

