



Chan's Newsletter

Christmas Greeting 2021
&
New Year Wish 2022



Greeting to our Families and Friends

Kenneth, Florence and Michael of the Chan Family from Brisbane in Australia are gratefully to greet you with the joy in celebrating Christmas and to wish you with the hope in receiving the New Year. We want to extend a personal greeting and well wishes to you for the reasons of the season: *“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”* (Isaiah 9:6); and *“They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.”* (Jeremiah 29:11). May these words be your encouragement that all things are renewed and made new: striving for a meaningful life and thriving through the embrace of life.

Challenges and Perseverance of Life in 2021



2021 again is a year of challenges, yet unparalleled is also a year of perseverance in life. Brisbane where we reside has gone through four lockdowns due to COVID-19. Australia has adopted a national strategy for COVID-19 vaccination. In Queensland the ‘Check In Qld’ app is mandatory for many means of access to amenities and transports. Because our work requires contact with people, all the households of us are fully vaccinated.



In the midst of lockdowns and restrictions, life still goes on. Yet the prevalence of social isolation may have taken its toll on some people’s lives. Staying socially connected while being physically apart is a good way to keep wellbeing in the time of social distancing. So we had an Easter Outreach in uni to give free hot cross buns in exchange for thoughts on Easter where we could engage good spiritual conversations with people.



More often than not, spiritual conversations turn into deeper question about the purpose of life. Many such encounters result in commencing a pastoral care relationship with students we minister to. While we care for other people, we are aware of our need for self care. Celebrating festivals is a good self-care routine. We had a good time to celebrate the Chinese mid-autumn festival (Moon Festival) in Australian spring time.



Celebrating a cultural festival in a foreign diaspora triggers much sentiment in a western multicultural society. While lingering with own identity for years, the assimilation into local communities is taking over at present time. We enjoy a lot watching sunset in a locality at Wellington Point where a land bridge will surface over water in low tide which allows us to walk to an islet from the mainland. It’s a tranquil walk of peace.

The Chan Family News

Allow us to repeat our yearly blurb: Ken and Florence celebrated our 35th wedding anniversary coincident with Australia Day on 26 Jan while Michael, our son, celebrated his 32nd birthday in January earlier this year. Florence and Ken have both turned 63 in October and November respectively later in the year.



We have the joy to see the engagement of our son Michael and his fiancée Zara in July this year. We are excited and joyful in anticipation of their wedding scheduled in May 2022. Michael’s grandma, Ken’s mum is particularly overjoyed for this day.



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From Michael

Michael, our beloved son is taking a new turn in his pursuits of life. Motorcycle riding was a thing of the past and solo climbing becomes a less enthusiastic activity of his leisure. Michael does a lot mountain trekking with his fiancée Zara today. They have been engaged since July this year and are preparing for their wedding in May the coming year. These days they are busy in planning and preparing for their marriage and family.



From Florence

Ken and Florence have taken part in different vaccination programs due to our different body's reactions to different vaccines. While Ken received his Pfizer vaccine in a public hospital, Florence received her AstraZeneca jab at her GP's clinic.



In August this year, Florence has entered her 6th year in campus ministry. She is grateful for the life change and spiritual growth of students. The ISM mission team of Brisbane came together to celebrate the year end. Florence will transition into the South Brisbane Team in the coming year.

From Kenneth

Ken broke the elbow of his right arm after a fall in South Bank boardwalk late last year. He had undergone a 6-month rehabilitation this year while Florence was providing much care for Ken's restful recovery at home.



Now Ken is back to work in evangelism and discipleship as a natural and exciting way of life on university campus. He is looking into his chaplain work in the hospitals next year which has been in suspense due to COVID-19 restrictions in the current year. He is hoping to integrate both works seamlessly.

Remembrance of the Chan's

When this newsletter was penned down, we received a sad news that our old neighbor, Boyd passed away peacefully after battling cancer shortly. We remember that some time ago we had a reunion party on the cul-de-sac where it was the very first residence of our Australian living started 28 years ago. This was the last street party when the last original residents moved out. Now children have become adults and adults become aged.



Blessings from the Chan's



We want to conclude this letter with thanks for your continual interest in our journey and seal this letter with blessings. We wish this letter conveys the message that you are in our hearts and we are in your thoughts. We treasure each one of you as our families and friends. May the timeless message of Christmas fill your heart with endless joy and may the eternal outlook of the New Year fill your life with satisfied resolutions.