



Chan Family's Christmas Wishes 2012 & New Year Greeting 2013

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Dear our friends and families,

[The Hope of a New Year \(The confident expectation of a new season\)](#)

As the year comes to a close, we want to write to you personally to say thank you! Kenneth, Florence and Michael of the Chan family would like to wish you and your family an enjoyable Christmas 2012 and an auspicious New Year 2013. Despite in the unsettled world of financial issues, political crises and humanity tragedies, the wish of this new season is sealed in the hope of anticipating peace and love. 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 Counsellor, 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 Word of Christ, among many of the vulnerable, needed and hard-to-reach in our daily encounter. Grateful we may continue to reach you and draw your continual interest in our journey. Again, we treasure each one of you as our friends and families. Shalom!

[The Chan Family's Update \(A new season of life\)](#)

Our season of life in 2012 is surrounded by a season of change. It is demonstrated by the fullness of grace (John 1:16) in every way (Eph 1:23). In early 2012, we came back to Hong Kong to trace our family tree and found all the surviving family members to date, immediate, extended and distant. Throughout the year at home in Australia, we have built a progressive relationship remotely with our nephew (Akitaka) in Japan after a miraculous reunion in 23 years of waiting. In the mid year, we had the blessing of going to Israel, a pilgrimage to walk on the footsteps of Jesus Christ. We then received a family visit to our Brisbane home from Florence's sister and her family (Hon, Cecilia, Rota & Briana). We also re-connected with some of our old friends in Hong Kong to share our ministry vision. Whilst Michael has enjoyed his first year engineering study after graduated from a 4-year psychology course, Kenneth and Florence have graduated from M Div and Dip Min in the Bible college respectively. In the forthcoming year, while Michael is still working part-time at St Andrew Hospital in orderly, Florence will continue to study BTh full-time in Crossway, Kenneth is going to work in community care. We are joining a new ministry with a young international church to gain more pastoral and ministerial experience in preparation for our future mission. We will miss our home group and home church. We look forward to 2013 as a new season, a time of new endeavours, a test of our renewed faith, grasping God's purpose in the gasping of His blessing in a new journey.



Kenneth's Report

This year is passing like fast playing the timeline of my past 4 years. In 2009, I had a dream to enter the Bible college, to become a fisher of man. In 2012, the time has come to my realization. The trip to China in 2010 saw my passion to minister an indigenous hill tribe group in central China. The 2011 Queensland outback mission saw the enormous need of the sadly neglected aboriginal people in outback Australia. In a pilgrimage to Israel at the conclusion of my study in 2012, I was in awe to see the wailing Jews in the Western Wall, fighting a life without the Gospel in the holy land. In a night venture to Jerusalem, when I prayed in Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36), I was confused to hear the sound whether it was Muslim prayer from the Temple Mount or the Lord's voice from the Kedron Valley. As I continued to walk round the city wall to Golgotha (Mark 15:22), I was lost to find myself strolling through a busy bus stop beside a street market below the skull-face cliff. As I came to the empty garden tomb (John 19:41) outside Demascus Gate (Hebrews 13:12), I found some assurance, however without knowing exactly what it meant to me in terms of my ministry. In the last 3 months, I have undertaken an aged care training. I realize my ministry should start from home, literally, socially and spiritually. Instead of talking the talk, I should walk the walk. After an initial placement in Jan next year, I will work in nursing homes as a carer. I am also aiming for a broader community care service in disability, mental and hospital chaplaincy. In the last 3 weeks comes to another turning point, Florence and I are invited to join a new ministry in a young international church. We will work on voluntary basis. To me a non-vocational tent-making ministry will best prepare me for the future mission. Whatever that might be, I will listen quietly and attentively to the voice like the other night in Jerusalem and I will say here I am (1 Sam 3). This year is concluding like a pause-play frozen in motionless moment in reflection and in anticipation. I have to thank for the nurture from my home church and the support from my home group. As we go forward (Matt 28:19), we do not go alone. We go with your blessing. Of course we go with our Lord Jesus as the ambassadors of Christ (2 Cor 5).



Florece's Report

Study

In 2012, I thank God for giving me the opportunity to be part of a study "Israel Study Tour" with Ken at Crossway College. This year our routine was that Ken and I went shopping in the Sunnybank area after Sunday service. I remember when Ken and I discussed our new ministry with Pastor Roger in November at Grand Plaza, Browns Plain it was the first time for a year that I had been to a big shopping centre and it felt so special as my focus for the year had been on study at Crossway College. I did not expect to graduate this year so I am thankful to my mentor Vivian at Crossway College for guiding and working with me in order to enable me to graduate with a Diploma of Ministry. I am especially excited because Ken and I will both graduate together. Ken will receive a Master of Divinity and I will receive a Diploma of Ministry. They will be conferred on us by the Australian College of Theology at Crossway College's annual graduation and commencement ceremony on 5th February, 2013. Praise God for all my lecturers' tireless teaching and tutors Graham and Ellie's guidance at Crossway College; my special friends, Susanna in Hong Kong, Thelma and Les, Aman, Lynda and Kim; SIC prayer partners and home group members for their prayer and encouragement. They support me so that I can complete the course. May God bless them and their families. During my time at Crossway College, God has built up my spiritual, academic and vocational development. He shapes my life. I have learnt to be more open to God's leading and to face various disappointments in life and ministries. I have learnt to be more patient and have greater acceptance of others. Regarding my future prospects I have unfailing hope for God's leading and I continue to pray for God's strength to study for a Bachelor of Theology degree beginning in 2013. God has called me to be a pastoral worker, helping people grow in their knowledge and love for our Lord Jesus.

Ministry

A university student has graduated and returned in Japan in December this year. She thanked me for her support to overcome problems in her life. I thank God for being able to spend 2-3 hours a week in semester one, 2012 doing voluntary work for the Student Life ministry at University of Queensland. I have discovered my spiritual gifts in discipleship, pastoral care and evangelism. For team work as it says in 1 Cor 3:6, "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it and God made it grow." We see from this team ministry that 4 people Grace, Jay, Michelle and Tommy were baptized in December.

Support

God is a really provider and supplier of our needs. We really thank God's blessings of Austudy for our living expenses. Our special friend in Hong Kong gave financial support for Florence's full time study at Crossway College for the last 2 years. I am touched by her generosity. We are also grateful for receiving some financial support to start our new ministry from January to August, 2013. Although Ken is going to work in community care, our savings are running thin. We are trusting God's providence.



Michael's Report

This year has been a good year for me. After taking a year off university to work, I decided to go back to study. I am currently studying a Bachelor of Engineering, majoring in Mechanical and Materials engineering. As of the end of this year, I have another three years to go before I graduate. In the beginning of the year, I went to Japan to ski for a second time. I love snow. Over the year I have been involved in car projects, two BMW 321i's, a Mitsubishi Lancer and a Toyota MR2 so far. In the year end, I participated through UQ the Formula SAE competition in Melbourne. This is something I feel that I am passionate about. With my family, there are rough edges and smooth times. Recently, we had a discussion on our family future. My parents have expressed their view of future direction. As for me, I am going in my pathway. I fully support my parents and love them. No matter whoever I will be, it will not change my lineage to the family. I will care for them when they need me. Nonetheless, I am being cared for at the moment as the only son of my mum and dad. Well, I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May God bless you all.



The Chan Family's Prayer and Praise

1. Praise God for commissioning Ken and Florence from the home church to help a young church. Pray that we serve the new church faithfully. Florence will still be able to attend the worship service at our home church once a month.
2. Pray for us for a continual mutual support with our home group and home church.
3. Pray for Michael's commitment to the Lord's call.
4. Prayer for our family's protection in physical, emotional and spiritual wellbeing.
5. Prayer for Ken's pathway in community service and in hospital chaplaincy.
6. Pray for God's strength for Florence as she studies for a Bachelor of Theology degree for the next 2.5 years.
7. Pray for God's providence of finance for Florence to join the Crossway Mission to India from August 10-25, 2013.



We wish this email can reach you that you are in our prayers and we are in your thoughts with much love and many blessings.