

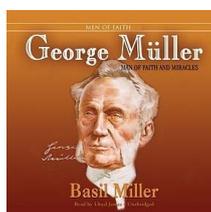
### Dear Friends and Prayer Partners

We would like to greet you in our first newsletter of 2019 with the Bible passage Philippians 3:12:

*“Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.”*

### Pressing Toward the Goal

George Mueller (1805-1898), a Christian, pastor, social reformer, wrote in his devotion journal about a prayer:



*“In Nov 1844, I began to pray for the conversion of 5 individuals. I prayed every day without a single intermission, whether sick or in health, on the land, on the sea, and whatever the pressure of my engagements might be...Day by day,*

*I continued to pray for them, and 6 years passed before the third was converted. I thanked God for the 3, and went on praying for the other 2.”*

In 1880 these 2 individuals remained unconverted, Mueller wrote again 36 years later:

*“But I hope in God, I pray on, and look for the answer. They re not converted yet, but they will be.”*

In 1898, 53 years after Mueller began to pray, these 2 people were finally converted, one at Mueller's funeral and the other shortly thereafter. (Basil Miller, “George Mueller: Man of Faith”, 1943, p146)

We tell you this story as a reflection of us in pressing toward the goal for which God calls us in campus ministry. It is vitally important to be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer (Romans 12:12). This is what we want to share with you in this newsletter.

### A Tale of Two New Years

From the month of January to February, Brisbane saw the advents of 2 new years, one in western and the other in Chinese culture. This seasonal campus recess gave us the much-needed rest to regain our

physical energy and spiritual wellbeing.

While we were restful, this period was not entirely inert. We used this time to visit our ministry supporters and partner churches to thank them and to report our ministry. We sought the opportunity to catch up with students who need pastoral care. We also spent some

time within our denomination, C&MA. Praise the Lord! At Southside International Church, Florence led a newcomer Jady greeted by Ken to faith. At New



Hope Community Church, with joy we witnessed the baptism of our student Icey whom we introduced to a spiritual home suitable for her.

### Preparing for the New Season

The campus season in Queensland starts in mid February when most universities commence their first semester where new students are coming in and old students returning. As missionaries, we are prepared as a team and as individuals for the new season.

### Nexus, Connecting with our Mission

Nexus is a biannual national conference of Power To Change that brings together all national teams of campus strategy across Australia to share and encourage in campus ministry.



The purpose of Nexus is to connect with God, with each other and with our mission.

Nexus this year was convened from 14 to 18 January at Mt Tamborine Queensland. For us, Nexus has affirmed

our vision: a Movement for every campus; the Gospel for each student.



### Missionary Retreat, Queensland Team



The Queensland missionary team retreat was held in Sunshine Coast at a retreat village from 2 to 4 February. We got together to cast our vision for the work in 2019

and reflect on our spiritual journey. We discussed on team strategy this year as we will have 2 ISM teams working on UQ and QUT campus respectively. We have embraced the vision and mission to launch spiritual movement on campuses.



### Our Own Annual Leave

In these 2 months, Florence and Ken had extensive overseas travels and much local visitations. In view of the upcoming ministry engagement, we felt we needed to take our own annual leave to restore our energy. Therefore we spent 3 days on North Stradbroke



Island, an outskirt isle off Moreton Bay. There we went for hiking, fishing, watching sunrise, sunset and meditating. At the end of the holiday, we felt afresh.



### **Entering into the New Season**

With physical, emotional and spiritual preparedness, we enter into the ministry season in full steam. The evangelistic program was launched outreaching major universities in Brisbane in their orientation week. It is followed by discipleship programs like Catalyst and various Bible study groups. We see each student a precious soul and we will journey with them throughout this campus season with the grace of God.

### Beyond Brisbane Project 2019

Beyond Brisbane is our annual mission project. We train and guide students to reach out other international students during orientation week. This years it was held from 11 to 22



February. Thankfully, we had 24 students in the team, learning how to share the Gospel and their faith on campus. It was such an amazing time to meet so many international students. Praise the Lord that during the project, 6 students have come to Christ!

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### Welcoming Nights, Catalyst and Community Groups

New students were welcomed into our fellowship. Aussie Cultural Night and International Friendship Night attracted more than a hundred people to come. Catalyst receives these new students into our community. Many of them have started joining our Bible study and community groups. Our heart rejoices in seeing these people enjoying the community as well as seeking their faith in Jesus.



### **The First Fruits**

It has been such an amazing semester. Since the start of this semester, we have seen 12 students coming to Christ in our International Student Ministry (ISM). Their names are written in the Book of Life: Wakana, Evelyn, Roger, Yan, James, Eva, Nammy, Rashmi, Ivan, Kishi, Belle and Angela. Out of these new students, Florence has led 3 into their faith: they



are Nammy and Rashmi from India, and Ivan from China. All of them are attending church and have joined a community group.

### **Family News**

Florence and Ken celebrated our 33rd wedding anniversary this year on 26 Jan. We have come a long way together through the hard times and the good, we have to celebrate. Praise the Lord.



### **Praise & Prayer**

- Praise God for the 12 students who came to faith in this semester, 6 of whom received Jesus during Beyond Brisbane Project. Pray for their continuous seeking God in their lives.
- Pray for the new semester, with a new ISM missionary team structure across UQ and QUT that new student leaders step up and more students will come to spiritual encounter in Christ on campus.
- Florence led Jady to faith at church; Ivan & Nammy (QUT), Rashmi (UQ) on campus. Remember Icey's baptism. Pray for the new believers' growth in Christ.
- Pray for Florence facilitating 9 classes in 5 programs for new believer Rashmi and seekers Gloria, Sandy and Lucy Fang that they will open their hearts.
- Pray for Ken who is developing faculty ministry for staff, researchers and visiting scholars.
- Pray for Ken and Florence be restored to our strengths and be provided for our needs so that we can continue to serve God in campus ministry.

*I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 3:14

Yours in Christ,

*Ken & Florence*

**Kenneth and Florence Chan**