

### Dear Friends and Prayer Partners

We'd like to use the theme of reconciliation to begin with our Sep-Oct newsletter as a precursor to Remembrance Day. Australia remembers this day by observing one minute's silence at 11am on 11 November each year to commemorate those who suffered for Australia's cause in armed conflicts. 2 Corinthians 5:18 says, "All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation." Ministry of reconciliation refers to the responsibility given to believers to proclaim the Gospel that forgiveness of sin is available through Jesus.



### The Context of Mission

Every believer plays a part in this ministry. Our ministry is on university campus. We do it by journeying with students in their spiritual life.

### Story of Jessie

Two years ago, we (Ken and Florence) were queuing outside a new ramen shop when we discovered Jessie behind us. She came from a Catholic background. We engaged in spiritual conversation with her. How amazing



it was! Two years later, on 20 Sep, Florence met Jessie again on Herston campus. Jessie shared her life journey with Florence since the ramen shop meeting.

Since then Jessie followed her classmate to join life group and church in university - where she explored more about Christianity. She realized that her Christian faith should not be based on tradition, but rather should come from practicing the truth. Finally, she was convicted and, on that day, prayed a prayer of repentance. Below is her testimony of how she came to know God:

*"Coming from a Catholic background, I was brought up to believe what I was taught and follow what my family and friends did on Sundays. For the longest time, I thought that simply following rules and being nice to other people was the way to be a believer.*

*But things started to change as I grew up. Shortly after I came on my own to study in Brisbane 3 years ago, I was queuing outside a new ramen shop when Florence and Kenneth approached me. We talked and realized that even though we believe in the same God, there were differences in some fundamental concepts we had of Christianity that influenced the way we practice our life*

*of faith. This was when I started to rethink why I believed or practised in a specific way, and explore answers from different sources. To figure out the answers to my many questions, I joined a Christian fellowship in university, and did multiple Bible studies.*

*This journey took 2 years, and what I discovered was this: the Bible is the only reliable source of information with regards to who God is. All these years I have not put enough emphasis on understanding God through the Bible, but was trying to know God through other people. My faith was weak because it was based on things that can change over time. I also gradually realized how many of my previous practices were not biblical, which made me question my identity as a believer. It was an emotional and confusing period, where I prayed to God asking for forgiveness and direction, yet on occasions questioned on what He wanted from me. It took me many months, through prayer and perseverance, to convince myself that God is forever faithful and reliable, which helped me be rid of my previous misconceptions and false practices.*

*Now, I am still trying to understand God more day by day, but am glad to say I have become more independent, mature and open-minded when it comes to practising my belief."*

Amazing what God has done for Jessie! Florence disciplined her through the First Steps Program. Florence has a connection with Winky, a mature Christian who also studies on Herston campus. Florence disciple Jessie and Winky. We pray that this small group will develop multiple disciples in the future there.



### Story of Vicky

This 2nd semester (in July), Vicky came to Florence to the First Steps program. Praise the Lord, Vicky finished this program! This is her sharing:

*"I started to go to church and study the Bible in 2016 when I was in the United States for an exchange program. I joined the Bible study group in my church regularly during my stay there. When I went back to China, I often read the Bible by myself before I went to sleep at night. But there were always some questions in my mind: Should I read the Bible from the beginning to the end? If not, which book or chapter should I start with? What should I do when I don't understand the story?"*



Luckily, after arriving here, God led me to Florence who is working as a missionary in Power to Change. Florence introduced me to the Bible study courses and asked me if I wanted to start with 'First Step' which is designed by

Power to Change for new believers. I was very happy to know about the courses, and agreed to start with the 'First Step' courses with Florence because I knew deeply in my mind that even though I became a Christian in 2016, I didn't really know about and understand God's words from the Bible.

After the "First Step" courses with Florence during my first semester in Australia, I found that I know more about the stories of Jesus and the words from God. I am now more certain about what we Christians believe in. I found that my spiritual life was so fulfilled during this semester, and I have grown so much as a Christian. I appreciate Florence's patience and dedication towards me very much during every meeting for the Bible study. And thank you my dear Father, my Lord for your love, guidance and your amazing plan on my way to grow as a Christian. Amen!"



During summer holidays, Vicky stays in Brisbane. Florence invited her to help lead a new believer, Samin (from Iran), through the First Steps program. Vicky is very happy to do that. Praise the Lord.

### Story of Jiali

Florence invited Christian friends and non-Christian friends to celebrate her birthday on 8 October. Ken and Florence served them that day. How wonderful it was! They shared their stories. All responses were great. Jiali shared her feelings regarding this birthday party:



"Believe that God's love brings us to the home of Ken & Florence. We didn't know each other, but because of this couple who are enthusiastic in the Lord, we share the love in the Lord, we eat together,

we share the bits and pieces in the Lord, we count the grace of the Lord, big and small, can't forget... The Bible says: We don't know what love is. However, we love because he first loved us. God scarified his only beloved son. He died on the cross for my and your sins. How wide and deep the love of Christ is revealed. Every time I think of this unrepayable gift, it is both grateful and unavoidable. Only the eternal God can prepare for us

and offer Himself. What a love! In contrast, how limited we are; we can easily love those who deserve to be loved or know, rather than love those who are strangers. Only by imitating the way of Jesus can we live the way God wants us to live."

### Praise & Prayer

- Praise God! On 20 Sep Florence led Jessie N to Christ at UQ. On 3 Oct Florence shared the good news with Jenny W in the hospital while visiting her husband. Jenny decided to follow Jesus. In the month of September and October, we witnessed Cherry and Shuang being baptized. On 3 Nov, Evelyn was baptised. Pray the Lord helps them grow in God's word. They will take root below and bear fruit above. Remember seekers Lucy F, Sandy, Jessie W, Emily, Lydia and Ray who come to Ken and Florence's Bible study class. Pray for their heart open to the Gospel to follow Jesus.
- Praise that each week in semester 2, 60 to 70 students came to Catalyst fellowship consistently where there were 4 to 11 new friends and 8 to 15 seekers. They are willing to learn from God's word.
- Beyond Brisbane Project 2020 (9-21 Feb), the short term mission evangelistic and discipleship program is underway. Thankful that 25 students have joined. Pray that they can raise 400 dollars as the mission fund. Thank God for the participations of various summer short term missions: Gold Coast Schoolies (16/11- 30/11); Philippines Medical Mission (1/12- 14 /12); Mission Megumi in Japan (23/11-23/12) and Narina (representing a country) in December. Pray for their safety.
- Power to Change still maintains Bible study meeting, Bread of Life during summer break (Nov to Jan) in Brisbane. We aim at maintaining the spiritual movement and help the students who stay in Brisbane.
- Ken and Florence are busy in our ministry. In addition, we need to pastoral care and provide spiritual support for several students who have personal issue. Pray for God's wisdom and strength.
- 14 students have graduated and returned to their home countries. Thank God that 3 of them have settled in local churches. Some of them have found jobs. Pray for the rest can find suitable church and job. They can maintain close relationship with God.
- Ken and Florence depart for Hong Kong on 19 Nov and will return to Brisbane on Christmas day. We will visit our families and friends to share our testimony; report to our supporting church about our ministry. Pray God to protect us; give us rest.

Yours in Christ,

*Ken & Florence*

**Kenneth and Florence Chan**