

Dear Friends and Prayer Partners

This newsletter is our first issue in Australia's summer quarter of 2020. In the midst of the current health crisis (COVID-19), we would like to start with a prayer: "Loving God, while we venture through this summer, with all the challenges come and forthcoming, may we never lose sight in Jesus Christ. Should crises obscure our vision, may we draw closer to you; may your words be our encouragement; may your love be our hope against the storms that assail us. Amen" This love goes beyond expectations and gives hope. "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11.



The theme of this newsletter is "Beyond Expectations". Yet God's plan for our journey isn't generally like a summer vacation. He often asks hard things from us and stretches us beyond our comfort zone. The journey we embark on ministry is different than the one we first envisioned. God bestows on us the opportunities that fulfill our heart's desires (Psalm 20:4) far beyond our expectations.



National Conference ConneXion 2020

At the start of our ministry season this year, we joined Power to Change's national conference ConneXion 2020 with our co-workers for a week (11-17 Jan) in Sydney.



Our new vision statement was launched. We hope to see students "Encounter Jesus today; Impact Australia tomorrow; and Reach the nations for eternity". It was an encouraging week that we gathered to connect, learn, and

envision what God has bestowed upon us today for reaching the nations. As a mission body, Power to Change also sees the need towards interdependence. In embarking a new and renewed start in 2020 for our ministry, Ken and Florence consolidate the work of last year and take up new responsibility of this year.



POWER to Change
Connecting people to Jesus and each other

Queensland Area Retreat



In preparing for the new semester of the universities in Queensland, our Queensland missionary team is prepared for the year ahead of us. The Queensland Area Retreat was held from 25 to 27 of January in Watson Park Convention Centre located in suburban Brisbane. We got together to cast our vision for 2020 and reflect on our ministry. We discussed on team strategy and formulated ministry plan for Queensland. With the new national-wide vision statement launched in ConneXion 2020, our vision specific to International Student Ministry in University of Queensland (UQ ISM) is Greatest Love (Matt 22:34-40), Great Commission (Matt 28:18-20), Spiritual Multiplication (2 Tim 2:2).

Beyond Brisbane Project 2020

Beyond Brisbane is an evangelistic and discipleship project run by ISM at the start of university calendar. This year the program was run from 9 to 21 of February. We had missionaries and students participating. Students were trained by our missionaries in evangelization and discipleship with Gospel materials and workshops. We paired up to greet new students on campus and initiate spiritual conversations. Many of them are international students who are new to Australia and are looking for friendship.



In the program, we hosted Aussie Cultural Night and International Friendship Night which have proved to be good catalyst connecting students to Christian fellowship.

University Orientation Week

Major universities across Brisbane (UQ, QUT & GU) schedule their orientation week in mid February (17-21 Feb in 2020). It is truly a good opportunity to reach out new students. Beyond Brisbane is scheduled intentionally to overlap orientation week each year. Amidst the sudden escalation of the health crisis this year, nevertheless we were still able to connect with hundreds of students. Please pray for our insight and heart to follow up those who want to seek God and know more about Jesus.



The Celebration of Christian Life

“Celebration is central to all the spiritual disciplines. Without a joyful spirit of festivity the disciplines become dull, death-breathing tools in the hands of modern Pharisees.” (Richard Foster, 2009) This summer quarter, we have the joy to see two baptisms (Rain & Fish*), two betrothals (Daniel+Kotoko & Tom+Madi) and one wedding (Perry+Sharon) in our international student community. We are rejoicing at their spiritual maturity and relationship dedication in Christian life.



*name changed

The Christian Response to Crisis

The COVID-19 health crisis has turned into a pandemic. It is impacting all facets of life in Australia. “For I hear many whispering, ‘error on every side!’” (Psalm 31:13). “Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God.” (Isaiah 41:10). While the ways we meet our students are restricted, our fellowship and Bible study have to go online. We are interrupted by the health crisis but it does not hinder our ministry. The transition is never easy. Some students of Ken still need to meet on campus. Keep us in your prayer for this.



The Reflection from a Student

After 2 weeks of participation in Beyond Brisbane 2020, one of the participants called Belle has shared the following reflection:

“I am a participant in Beyond Brisbane 2020! I had learnt a lot about myself, faith and relationship with God and other Christians. Before this mission, I struggled to ask family and friends for support.



Nevertheless, God showed me that having trust and faith in Him and in my spiritual family. I am thankful to God that He blessed me with more than enough support and I was able to share it with others in my mission.

I was able to build many long-term friendships during this mission with my team. God softens my heart and my



judgment that I love working within a team and want to continue to explore what community is with my faith. I whole-heartedly believe that God has bigger plans for my future to walk obediently with Him. God has taught me many

things such as patience and knowledge in the Bible. I am so thankful beyond my words can express for this mission and the people whom I had met in this journey. I am excited to see where the Lord takes me in the future!”

Family News

Jan-Mar quarter in our family was eventful with celebrations, family matters and social tensions. Ken and Florence celebrated our 34th wedding anniversary coincident with Australia Day on the 26th of January. Our son, Michael celebrated his 31st birthday in January. Our brother-in-law, Hiroichi who had terminal illness passed away recently in Japan. Our niece, Briana who started year 1 at UQ is staying with us in this semester. While we need to abide by the guidance of social distancing from both the government and our mission organization to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, we strive to live our life and do our ministry as normally and safely as possible.



Praise & Prayer

- Beyond Brisbane Project has equipped many of our students. Praise the Lord! Belle has a passionate heart to serve God and has started to lead a Bible study group which includes Lily and Zac. Florence disciples Belle and therefore join this group.
- The COVID-19 health crisis has changed the way we meet our students. Since we are restricted by social distancing, we have to use online facility to continue Bible studies and fellowship as well as team meetings. Pray for the change can transition smoothly.
- Florence has 8 classes including Returnees Program and other programs. She is coaching MBs Belle and Vicky. She is using online resource to follow up returnees who have returned and disciple Mona who is still stranded in her hometown. Florence is looking after 3 seekers who are Lucy, Perrine and Yoong and 3 believers who are Shamin, Rashmi and Levi.
- Ken is discipling 5 students in various studies: Jesse in Returnees Program; Luke in PODS; Joshua in Life Management Plan; David in the Book of Habakkuk study; Robindro in the Life of Jesus study.
- Pray for the healing, comfort and protection from our merciful God come upon the people of the world against the infliction of COVID-19.

I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

Philippians 1:20

Yours in Christ,

Ken & Florence

Kenneth and Florence Chan