

### Dear Friends and Prayer Partners

A fresh greeting from Ken and Florence in Brisbane! This newsletter is our second issue in 2020 wrapping up the autumn season in Australia. As we have thrived through the ongoing health crisis (COVID-19), we would like to thank with a prayer:

“God, when we aren't sure, help us be calm; when fear makes us hard to bear, help us know you are with us; help us reach out with our hearts to those who are also in fear; help us be socially connected in a socially distant situation with your love bestowed on us because love casts out all fear. For you assure us, ‘So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.’ ”



The theme of this newsletter is “Fear Not”. The season has changed as we live through the isolation during the corona virus pandemic. The Australian autumn has passed. Winter has finally arrived. In Brisbane, the day is cooler while still warm; the landscape of university campuses is changing color.



As the season turns, our cautions in health and faith in God amidst the current health crisis remain. At

Power to Change, we use alternative ways (online) to continue our ministries in the midst of the COVID-19 restrictions on campus gatherings. Although many things are beyond our control, we learn to trust our sovereign God for He is our strength and shield (Psalm 28:7).

### Living in the Season of Pandemic

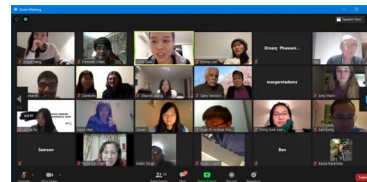
The Easter season during this precarious period in April has taken us to reflect and work our way through darkness. COVID-19 has impacted many aspects of our lives. Prime Minister Scott Morrison says the story of Christ's sacrifice and resurrection serves as a ‘source of strength and hope’ in these challenging times. He said, “For Christians, Easter represents a time of reflection and renewal,



as we remember the sacrifice of Christ, His resurrection and the divine story of redemption. Life has changed and it will continue to change in the many months ahead. Though we are separated from one another, faith teaches us we can be together in spirit, even if we are physically apart.”

### Campus Ministry in Alternative Ways

As for the campus ministry in May and June, social distancing has restricted the ways we meet our students in fellowship meetings and Bible studies. We had to go online and mostly one-on-one. The change was never easy nevertheless unhindered.



Moreover the transition had an unexpected positive outcome. While the number of participants decreased, the geographic reach had increased, not only nationally but also internationally. We could meet our students interstate and even overseas via online meetings.

Due to the health crisis, many students are facing various challenges: personal depression, study stress, family and financial issues. They need much emotional and spiritual support. We are walking with them and helping them cope with their problems by applying biblical principles. So we tailor different Bible materials according to their personal needs. Praise the Lord! God is working with them and answering their prayers. Keep us in your prayer for them.



### Leslie a Returned student's Testimony

Leslie, an Ecuador student returned home a year ago. Florence discipled Leslie last year and continues to disciple her online this year. Below is Leslie's testimony:



“I graduated last year from UQ after living for 5 years in Australia. During my studies at university I was involved with the ministry of Power to Change. Due to this, my journey with God changed completely because I

discovered that I can have a personal relationship with Him. I was so touched by God and his people in Australia in both my church and ISM. I grew so much in my faith and discovered that I can be part of a ministry. I went back to my home country Ecuador last August. Since then, I have to confront many challenges that came my way. It was difficult to adapt myself again to a different culture, people and society values in Ecuador. I struggled finding a job due to lack of job experience and networks. I had issues with my family, it was difficult finding a church, and sometimes I felt fearful due to lack of financial support from my family while searching for a job. It was definitely challenging but I thank God for two friends: one friend in Ecuador and Florence in Australia. These two people encouraged, advised and prayed for me. I think that God sent them during these difficult times.

*I felt that all the things I did not struggle for 5 years in Australia, I had to face during these few months living in Ecuador. However, I had to learn to trust God in all the circumstances and continue putting my faith on Him. I had the opportunity to work for short periods of time in two jobs before the COVID-19. I was praying for a stable job that has a good salary and can be related to my degree. I recently received a call from a job I applied to, they are going to hire me, all the recruiting process was during the quarantine in my country. So, I can definitely say, this is a true miracle. Many people lost and are losing their jobs which is a very sad situation in Ecuador and other countries. But I was so blessed to be able to get a good job in the middle of all of this. God is answering my prayers, even when I have not been faithful. But He is faithful because when I am weak, He is my strength. I want to encourage you to trust God even in the most difficult times and please continue praying for international students returning to their home countries. Each of them is living a different situation, and it can be challenging when you do not have mature Christians around you. So please pray that they can find a church and continue growing in their faith because God is everywhere and he looks after all his children. Blessings from Ecuador."*

### **Vicky a Graduating Student's Testimony**

Since last July, Vicky has been coming to our activities. Florence has discipled her through the 1st and 2nd Steps programs followed by the Returnee Program. Vicky has



shared many situations manifested in her growth in faith. She has a heart to share the Gospel with her family, classmates and friends. For example, Vicky shared with her mum about life and death in a Christian perspective which made her Mum think about heaven when their family dog died.

Another example, Vicky invited her classmates to come home for a meal where she engaged in spiritual conversations and shared God's story with them. Vicky has demonstrated to find truth through the teaching in the Bible. She has experienced Jesus through the practice of prayer. Praise the Lord that she made a decision to be baptized before returning home.

Below is Vicky's sharing of her outreach experience: *"This is what I have experienced about God recently. I have talked to a lot of people about God lately. Some of them are non-believers and some of them are Christians. One thing that amazed me was, my classmate MJ has become a Christian but she didn't know about it herself. She joined the online church services a few times and was touched by the Word one day, so she followed the sinner's prayer at the end. Last time when I was talking to her, she asked me what to do to become a Christian and also shared this story with me. I told her that, as far as I know, you are a Christian already. How powerful God's word is!"*

### **Family News**

In the Apr-Jun quarter, for health precaution against the coronavirus, we have been confined at home mostly for our ministry and work. However this has given us more time reading the Bible and reflecting God's word. Pray that God will protect Ken and Florence physically, emotionally and spiritually everyday and abundantly provide for our needs.

### **Praise & Prayer**

- Praise that National Digital Winter Conference (DWC) is held on July 14-16 this year. More than 400 students, missionaries and guests will join.
- Pray for the DWC that:
  - Not-yet Christians are learning from training;
  - MC and 3 speakers are engaging every session;
  - Technical setups are without difficulty;
  - Missionaries are well prepared for trainings;
  - People are open in heart to receive God's word.
- Pray for Florence and our team's planning and promotion for Beyond Brisbane Project 2021 which will be held on Feb 14-26 in 2021. We will invite students to share what they have learnt and how they are inspired by Beyond Brisbane Project at DWC. Also, every 2 weeks we will have a meeting for Beyond Brisbane Project planning.
- Praise God that Vicky is ready to be baptized before returning home. Pray for the arrangement of Vicky's baptism in August.
- Praise that the 5 students Ken was discipling in the previous quarter have wrapped their studies with Ken. Jesse has finished the Returnees Program and is ready to go home. Joshua in exchange study has completed Life Management Plan and will return home to finish his last undergraduate year. While David has concluded the study of the Book of Habakkuk, Robindro and Luke will discuss new schedule with Ken in the next semester for further study in the Life of Jesus and PODS respectively.
- Pray for God's protection for our students and that they will grow in faith. While our current students will continue their study in semester 2 at UQ, pray for God's preparation for new students.
- Pray for the continual healing and ongoing protection from our merciful God to come upon the people against the infliction of COVID-19.

*But God will never forget the needy; the hope of the afflicted will never perish.*

Psalm 9:18

Yours in Christ,

*Ken & Florence*

**Kenneth and Florence Chan**