

Merry Christmas



Happy New Year

Dear Friends and Family,

We pray God's richest blessings upon you and your families during this season in which we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Jesus is the reason for the season.

This year is a significant Christmas for us as it marks the first Christmas in our own place since we've been back in Hong Kong. In 2003 we were with YWAM and last year we were in the United States. We are finally feeling settled in our new home. Things are beginning to feel "normal" again. Three years of upheaval, traveling, unsettledness, and adjusting are over. And we're still here! Glory to God!

Karen has had lots of fun decorating our home. We even put up a Christmas tree for the first time in four years. It's amazing how something as insignificant as a Christmas tree can make you feel settled – something familiar in a new environment which is still becoming familiar to us.

The tree has also become a point of contact and a tool for reaching out to our neighbors. They have all come to see it and it has opened up opportunities for us to share about Jesus. As we put up and decorated the tree, the Lord reminded us of the symbolism.

- The Tree: reminds us of the fact that Jesus came to die on a tree for us so that we can be reconciled to the Father and have relationship with Him.
- The Lights: remind us of the fact that Jesus is the Light of the World and that we are to let His light shine in us and through us to all nations.
- The Decorations: remind us of the splendor and majesty of our King.
- The Gifts: remind us of the ultimate Gift which the Father sent to us in Jesus.

Thank you for all your prayers and support as we have made the adjustments of settling into a new home, a new culture, a new country. We appreciate you. It has not been easy, but with your love and support we have made it. Thank you!

Once again, we pray that you will have a blessed Christmas and a prosperous new year in the Lord. Remember that Jesus is the reason for the season and that He is the one who blesses us and causes us to prosper so that we can be a blessing to others.

We're looking forward to an exciting new year as we continue to walk out the plans and vision that God has put in our hearts. Thank you for being a part of what He is doing in and through us.

Blessings,

Stephen & Karen