

Joyeux Noel & que la présence et la paix de Dieu soit ton soutien tout au long de cette nouvelle année 2021.

愿主的同在与平安使你在新的一年得安慰，圣诞快乐。

Merry Christmas & may God's presence and peace be your comfort in this new year 2021.



Artist - Rembrandt van Rijn
Year - 1633
Medium - Oil on canvas
Movement - Dutch Golden Age painting
Dimensions - 160 cm × 128 cm (62.99 in × 50.39 in)
Location - Whereabouts unknown since 1990

Last year, for our Christmas 2019 year-end update, we included an image of the painting by Rembrandt, Adoration of the Shepherds.

This year 2020, as we approach the end of this year, we share the following painting, also by Rembrandt, called Storm on the Sea of Galilee. As we are ushered into the new year 2021, let us be encouraged as we face the many challenges ahead, that Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, is with us in each of our boats.

The Storm on the Sea of Galilee was previously in the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston but was stolen in 1990 and remains missing. The painting depicts the biblical story of Jesus calming the storm on the Sea of Galilee, specifically as it is described in the fourth chapter of the Gospel of Mark. It is Rembrandt's only seascape.

(all excerpts taken from Wikipedia): [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Storm_on_the_Sea_of_Galilee]

Description of painting

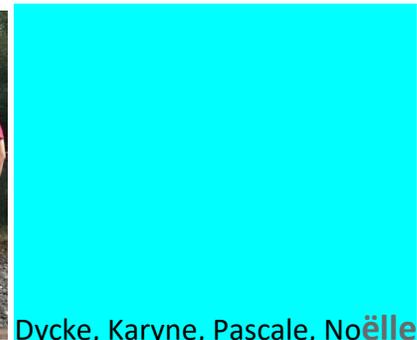
- The painting in horizontal format shows a close-up view of Christ's disciples struggling frantically against the heavy storm to regain control of their fishing boat. A huge wave beats the bow and rips the sail. One of the disciples is seen vomiting over the side. Another one looking directly out at the viewer is a self-portrait of the artist. Only Christ depicted on the right has remained calm.
- Rembrandt's painting follows the portrait format [...] and also depicts the boat in a forward tilting position. [...] most of the space of the work is taken up by the main motif, which is the disciples on the boat struggling against the elements.

Theft of Rembrandt painting in 1990.

- On the morning of March 18, 1990, two thieves disguised as police officers broke into the museum and stole The Storm on the Sea of Galilee and 12 other works in what is considered to be the biggest art theft in U.S. history. The heist remains unsolved.
- On March 18, 2013, the FBI announced that they knew who was responsible for the crime. Criminal analysis has suggested that the heist was committed by an organized crime group. There have been no conclusions made public, as the investigation is ongoing.

In this Year-End Newsletter:

- January to December 2020 -- Ministry Update
- Financial Partnership (Tax Receipts provided for Canadian, U.S.A., France donations) – Detailed Instructions for donors



Dycke, Karyne, Pascale, Noëlle

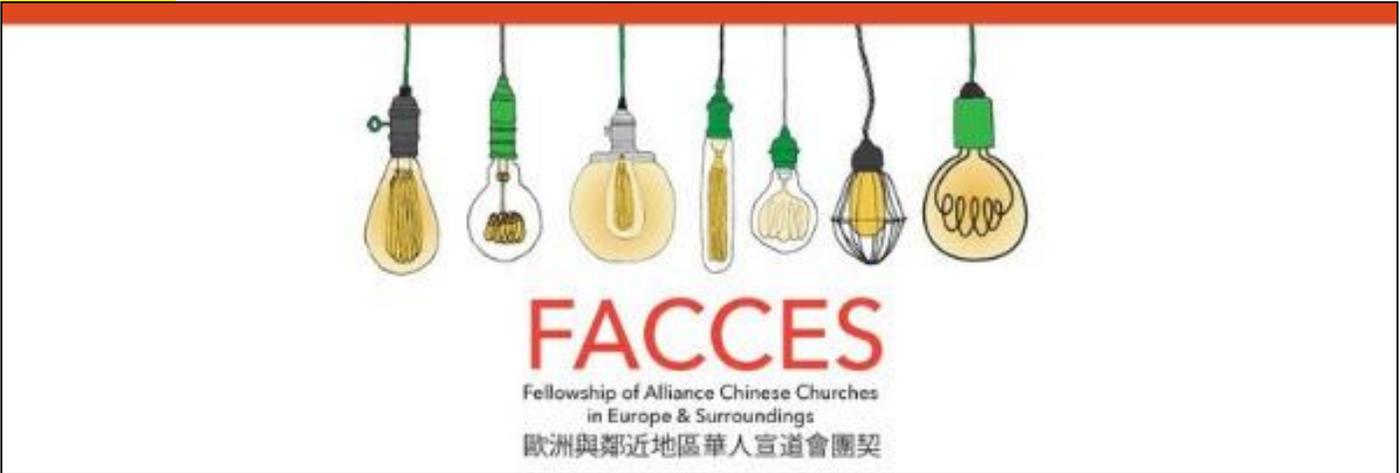
The Year 2020 at a Glance

Since our arrival to Europe in 1996, our **ministry focus** has been on **local diaspora churches** –

- **Pioneering** new churches, planting daughter churches;
- **Connecting** workers to churches in need of a shepherd;
- **Discipling** churches (via short-term mission trips, organizing children’s VBS, youth retreats, family conferences;
- **Hosting** pastoral-leadership symposiums;
- **Training** workshops, etc.); and
- **Mobilizing** churches to do community outreach & engage, themselves, in mission projects).

Based in France and serving as point-person of Chinese diaspora ministries on behalf of CMA-Canada throughout Europe, and together with **FACCES (Fellowship of Chinese Alliance Churches in Europe & Surroundings 歐洲與鄰近地區華人宣道會團)** --- it has continued to be a roller coaster ride. However, as we look back on 2020, we are amazed at **God’s providence and blessings**, in and through His Church.

FACCES website (still work-in-progress) with church directory: <https://jocec2.wixsite.com/facces>



Last year’s bible passage was from Psalm 121, “**God neither slumbers nor sleeps**”.
This year we declare from Job 42:2 “**I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted.**”

Our **FACCES teams** have gathered -- **to pray, to discuss future initiatives, and to address** ongoing concerns and ways to help support our partners, including

- CMA-Canada, CMA-U.S., overseas national CMA-offices,
- CCACA-Canada (Canadian Chinese Alliance Churches Association 加拿大華人宣道會聯會),
- CCA-U.S. (Chinese Churches Association 美國宣道會華聯會), and
- AWF (Alliance World Fellowship).



Despite the various issues needing to be followed-up by dialogues and even mediation, our **focus and main objectives** continue:

1. To increase **mutual caring** among churches
2. To **support** lay leaders and pastoral workers
3. To promote cooperation in **missions, church planting, and discipleship**
4. To develop **2nd generation** work

Praise God as He has opened so many **ministry doors** for us to seize.

photo: Paris Chinatown 13th district with red Chinese

traditional character of “**door**” – pinyin Mén



This newsletter recounts God’s calling, guiding, leading, working ...

throughout this year 2020 ... in and through His churches ...

Fishing in France ... and beyond ...

January 2020

November 24 - January 8

Alvis Tan’s short-term mission work in Tokmok (KYRGYZSTAN)

Last year (Sept. 23-30, 2019), God opened the opportunity for me to be part of a team (14 people from US, Taiwan, & France) -- to visit, learn from, and serve alongside the **Global Life Enrichment Centre** in Kyrgyzstan (Central Asia; historically under foreign rule by Russia; attained sovereignty as a nation-state in 1991).

- I was invited by **James Hung (Executive Director of GLEC in Kyrgyzstan; head office in U.S.A.)**. I met James in Paris (2018) while he was teaching a mission-discipleship course.
- This mission centre began in 2001, when a retired U.S. Chinese sea captain, Yang Jia Shan (楊嘉善長老) responded to God’s call to establish a Christian school in this Muslim country.

- Today, the Centre serves > 1400 non-Christian Kyrgyz students (cultural background: Uzbek, Russian, Persian, Mongolian, Dungan).
- The Centre runs 5 Christian schools, 1 orphanage, 1 school for special needs children, and the **International University of Central Asia (IUCA)**.



- This year, I invited **Alvis Tan** (CMA itinerant pastor-missionary) to serve, together, among the students for 7 weeks: leading University Men's Student's Fellowship Group; participating in **The Way to Success Conference** (teaching leadership ethics and character building to university students).
- If you would like to teach at **IUCA** (e.g. English, Chinese, etc.), or serve at **The Way To Success Conference**, please let us know.
- **Information about TWTS conference:**
<https://www.ceoglobalusa.org/twts-curriculum>

December 28 - January 2

Chinese church in Athens (GREECE)

God opened the door for me to return to Greece, to share at the **Athens Chinese Christian Church's** Revival Meetings and Deacons Fellowship Group.



Mainland Chinese seek new **employment** (e.g. open small corner stores) and a place to **root their families**, while also reaching out to **diasporas**.



Like many other Chinese churches across Europe, the Greece church is also quite **isolated (often 1 Chinese church per city/country)** and does not receive much needed support or fellowship from other Christian workers serving locally.



- The church is an independent church, founded by **Wenzhou Christians** who immigrated to Greece (note: many have also immigrated to Italy since both EU countries have introduced attractive **immigration programs** to sponsor small business investors from mainland China).
- Pray for longer-term pastoral couples willing to **move and serve in Greece and other EU countries**.
- **Praise God** for the Richmond Hill Mandarin CMA Church (Toronto) and pastors Tung Hoi Yu & Dong Han – who I recommended to attend the Europe Chinese Missions Conference (Rome, 2017) and who later co-planned STMTs to Greece.

I previously connected with the Greece church leader, **Brother Sun** (lay leader; business man working in Athens) at various Chinese Christian conferences.

- Most recently, at a discipleship training conference in 2019 (Valencia, Spain), Brother Sun once again extended his invitation to preach to his **church in Athens, and daughter church in Thessalonica**.
- The Athens church rents office and worship facilities for their regular congregation of **approx. 80+ adults, 60+ children/youth**.
- Although short-term interim pastors and teams visit, these (and many other Chinese EU churches) remain without full-time shepherds.

I travelled to Guadeloupe to celebrate the church's **Building Dedication** (purchased in 2019).

- I made my first **church-planting survey trip** to Guadeloupe in 2004, with my father, Jonathan Kaan.
- At the time, there were only a handful of Chinese believers – mainly small shopkeepers who emigrated from Wenzhou to this France Outer Territory (official language: French).
- They were eventually joined by other immigrants from Cayenne Chinese CMA church and from Paris 13th Chinese CMA church.
- We helped them organize monthly, and then weekly family and small group worship services, and bible study-prayer meetings.
- In February **2017, they officially established a CMA national Chinese-French-speaking church**
- Currently there are 30+ adults and 12+ children-youth.
- Again, there is no full-time pastoral couple and so I regularly travel there, or send short-term teams/workers – to lead VBS children's camps, youth retreats, discipleship training, etc.
- In 2018, I invited Michel Viguiet (France CMA national president) to make his 1st visit to this France Outer Territory and new church pioneer plant.



This fall, Edmond & Anne shared (at Ottawa Chinese CMA Church's mission conference) about their **French Territory missionary work (2017-2019)** and what God is doing in these France Islands.

- **Photo:** Church Dedication celebration (also with **Rev. & Mrs. Emmanuel Tso**, first pastoral couple in Cayenne church).
- We are thankful for **Edmond & Anne Lau's** ministry in Guadeloupe (they were based in Martinique).
- I recruited them (from North Toronto Chinese CMA Church; former IWS in Abu Dhabi and Vietnam) from 2017-2019.

February 2020

February 6

Ordination Interview of Paris Chinese CMA pastoral worker (from China & Kenya)

What a privilege to **journey alongside Tan Wu & Tie Ming** (originally high school teachers in Beijing).



photo: Tan Wu & Tie Ming live in the church and often treat overseas students to their **delicious dumplings**.

- We 1st met them in Kenya while they were running a garlic business.
- They **met Christ in Kenya** and then dedicated their life to full-time ministry.
- After graduating from **Singapore Bible College Seminary (2011-2014)**, and realizing that ministry doors were closed in Kenya with SIM – I **recruited Tan Wu & Tie Ming to come to serve in Europe**.
- God miraculously guided their speedy French visa application process, and they started **a ministry internship (2014-2017)** at our Paris-Pantin suburb Chinese CMA church (formerly an independent church;
- which we helped process their journey to **joining the CMA France national denominational family/a.k.a. AECM Alliance des Eglises Chrétienne & Missionnaire**, in 2011).

Following Tan Wu & Tie Ming's internship at Pantin church (2014-2017), we invited them to be the mandarin-speaking **pastoral co-workers at our Paris-Massena Chinatown CMA church**.

- Tan Wu completed the France national CMA **ordination requirements** (book reports, written answers to theological questions) as well as the **panel interview** (February 6, 2020) overseen by the France CMA committee/Le Conseil d'Administration & Comité de Consécration Pastorale.
- Due to Covid, Tan Wu's **ordination service** was postponed and celebrated on October 5, 2020.

February 16

Church-planting in Dusseldorf (Germany)

Since 1997, we have been ministering to this **German Chinese church** (independent church without a pastor).

- At the time, the church had **20+ believers**, mainly from Taiwan & Mainland & Hong Kong.
- Today, the church is one of the largest Chinese churches in Germany (with **150+ adults, 30+ children, 20+ youths**).
- They meet in rented facilities and continue to look for a full-time pastor.
- Most members originally came as **overseas students** and stayed when the German government implemented an **immigration program** that welcomed graduated students to seek local employment.
- The congregation is made up mostly of young professionals with young children.
- There remains a **great outreach & harvest opportunity in Germany among international students** who are attracted to the many university hubs in Aachen, Cologne, Essen, Leipzig, and Munich ... and open a faith that offers Truth, purpose, and a lasting peace, joy, and hope.
- We are praying that God will lead CMA-Canada to send out more IWs **to reach international students and to plant (or pastor the already existing) indigenous multiplying discipling growing fruitful churches (who can do better than us foreign IWs -- to reach the local communities) across the major EU cities where there are so many immigrant diasporas so open to the Good News.**



- Mark travels twice a month from Germany to Netherlands via train to shepherd this daughter church plant.
- Li Ping has just completed her internship at a **local German State Church (German-speaking)** and was recently hired as a substitute teacher (**teaching Religious Studies**) at a **local German elementary school.**
- Pray as God continues to use this faithful couple to reach both **Chinese and German-speaking communities in Germany and the Netherlands.**
- Pray for me, together with FACCES, as we seek **God's will and guidance for the future.**
- Perhaps there can be some **partnering work between our 3 remaining Canada-CMA IWs** living in Germany (although their work is among Ms or non-Chinese-speaking, together with Mark and Li Ping (who serve among Chinese and German-speakers).

Pray with us, also for **Mark Chao Yu and his wife, Li Ping** (and 2 sons) who live and serve in Wuppertal (and Amsterdam).

- In partnership with the CCA-U.S., we recruited and shared in raising the financial and mentoring support of this couple when they **first helped us plant and pastor the CMA Chinese church in Dortmund (2009-2015).**
- As the church became fruitful (with **35+ adults and 15+ children/youth**; renting worship facilities and also using it to start an outreach Chinese School) they purchased a church building (with tithing, and with CCA-U.S and us helping to raise financial donations among CMA Chinese churches in North America).
- Unfortunately, however, they were suddenly wrongfully dismissed by the CCA and national CMA German leaders in 2015.
- Pray for the Wuppertal church as they continue to face **many challenges** since the departure of Mark & Liping and their 2 young children.
- Nevertheless, God is faithful. He has protected this couple -- they were unexpectedly **granted their European residency cards** (despite no longer having employment).
- As well, Mark and Li Ping, were each able to successfully complete doctoral studies:
 - **Mark's thesis:** Philosophy in International Theological Education, Columbia International University (USA, July 2020) – “Teacher as Servants – An Analysis of Servant Leadership At Theological Institutions in China (仆人式教师—中国神学院校仆入式领导力分析)
 - **Li Ping's thesis:** Doctorate of theology in local German University (2015) --- “The Chinese Christian Communities in Germany – Their Religious Educational Tasks and Possibilities” Die chinesisch-christlichen Gemeinden in Deutschland – Ihre religionspädagogischen Aufgaben und Möglichkeiten
- Following Mark's wrongful firing in 2015, I was able to connect Mark to serve, as **part-time pastor, at our Amsterdam Chinese (mandarin-speaking) CMA daughter church** (rents facilities in a catholic church; formerly pastored by CMA-Canada IW, 2006-2013, Anne Louie, who is now posted in Mexico because she was unable to renew her Netherland visa).

In addition to the **Amsterdam Mandarin CMA church** (mentioned above), there are **4 other Chinese (CMA or independent) churches** in Amsterdam (central or suburbs):



- **CMA (Mandarin-Dutch speaking) Chinese church in Zoetermeer** (formerly pastored by Pastor Hans Wulffart, retired in 2019).
- **CMA (Cantonese-speaking) church in Almere** (east of Amsterdam) pastored by W.F. Chan Liu.

- **CMA (Cantonese-speaking) mother church** that we co-planted the 1st Chinese CMA church in Amsterdam with the Suriname Chinese CMA church (in May 2000; following our survey mission trip & discussions with Dutch local CMA National Office leaders), which was then shepherded by former CMA-Canada IWs whom we recruited (2002 -2007), Manjohn & Christina Wong (now pastored by Rick Wan).
- **Independent Mandarin-Cantonese-Dutch speaking church**, the Chinese Amsterdam Christian Yan Chuen (formerly pastored by Joyce Wong, transitioned out 2016; ... and Dandy transitioned out in 2019 following her call back to full-time social work. The remaining co-workers are Kam Kuan Billy Chong and children's ministry worker, Nathasja Chin who is being mentored by Karen Quan, children's ministry pastor at Richmond Chinese Alliance Church, British Columbia after having met at our 2013 FACCES conference).

Our connections and ministry in the Netherlands first began when we first took a **joint STMTeam** (1992; team of 13 people from the **Ottawa Chinese CMA church & the Montreal Chinese CMA church & the Vancouver Chinese CMA church**) to Amsterdam & Paris.

- Then in 2000, Karin and I accompanied Frank Wong (Elder at Suriname Chinese CMA church) for a survey church-planting (report available) & outreach trip.



- **Suriname** is one of the most ethnically diverse countries in the Americas.
- **Suriname** was occupied by the British in 1799, after the Netherlands were incorporated by France, and was returned to the Dutch in 1816, after the defeat of Napoleon. The Dutch abolished slavery only in 1863, although the British had already abolished it during their short rule.
- In 1975, **Suriname** left the Kingdom of the Netherlands to become the independent country of **Suriname**.

- Frank is **fluent in Mandarin, Cantonese, Dutch, and Taki Taki** because Suriname was a former **Dutch colony**. So one can clearly see how God uses **Chinese-Dutch-Taki-Taki-speaking co-workers, from Suriname**, with a **heart and savoir-faire for missions** to point people to Christ.
- The Suriname Chinese CMA church has planted **Chinese, Javanese, East Indian, and Surinamese churches & groups** – both locally and beyond (in Cayenne/**France**, St. Martin/**France**, Campinas/**Brazil**, Amsterdam/**Netherlands**), Aruba/**Netherlands**, **Guatemala, Panama, Dominican Republic**).
- What a privilege for me to have learned how to strategically “be a **missionary on mission for Christ**” and plant **indigenous multiplying fruitful churches** with the Suriname church as a model leader.
- Only God knew that such a naive **summer 2000 church planting pioneering survey trip** would become the launching pad for the eventual church plant in Amsterdam, as mentioned above (formerly pastored by retired IWs, Manjohn & Christina Wong).

- **Pray for full-time shepherds or IWs** willing to disciple these strategically multiplying indigenous churches that God is using to reach for Christ.
- Pray for us as we often **travel to co-serve** alongside these European churches.
- In the U.K., **Gus & Annie Fung** (CMA-Canada IWs) were not able to stay on at the London Chinese CMA church; and **Sophie Kuo** (Good TV, Taiwan) had to leave Jerusalem & the Tel Aviv Chinese CMA church.

As of March, France has undergone 2 complete nationwide **confinement lockdowns (2-3 months)**,

- which included mandatory facemasks in all public settings (even **while walking on sidewalks**),
- **curfews** between 8 PM - 5 AM, and
- requirements to carry **official documentation “Attestations de Déplacement”**, even when limited to travel within 1 hour & 1 KM.
- Daily deaths were often averaging 200 – 500, with daily infections peaking at 25,000 - 52,000.
- So when combining all EU country death & infection rates, when compared to a similar sized U.S.A., our **EU rates were not lagging far behind**.



medical supply & masks & grocery deliveries



- Some have needed to rely on **charitable** and **compassionate** bodies that -- run soup kitchens, distribute free grocery-provisions, deliver pharmaceutical supplies, accompany the vulnerable to medical appointments, translate for immigrants who are not fluent in the local language, etc.

Social distancing is challenging in EU cities that are so dense in population.

- For example, in our younger daughter’s high school, students continue to be cramped in old school buildings, with **> 35+ students**, in poorly aerated classrooms and hallways (with no lockers, no gym, no library, and no other larger breathing spaces).
- Several of our **elderly church members went to be with the Lord**, as they had contracted the virus while living in nursing homes, or died in the hospital without family at their bedside.

The **impact on our church families** has been serious, especially among the majority employed in the **blue collar sector**.

- Most of the Chinese church members work as restaurant or shop owners, dishwashers, cooks, hairdressers, taxi drivers, hotel or school or hospital or domestic cleaners, tour guides, factory workers.
- And as these **generous tithers’** livelihoods are at stake – churches with rented or mortgaged facilities, and national CMA offices with hefty spending habits will wisely **rethink an austerity & stewardship** that encourages **consolation** rather than desolation, greed, hoarding, self-interest, and self-preservation – thus **helping those in greater need** or **empowering faithful and discerning servants** who produce and bear **good fruit**.



- Chinese lay and pastoral leaders in Paris (who meet regularly for our monthly prayer fellowship), decided to meet online.
- We organized a special **Good Friday inter-church (online) co-worker's joint worship**. Together, we were **37+**.



Dycke in the kitchen (online) since the other areas of our 1-bedroom apartment were also being used by the rest of the family.

- **Pray for FACCES** as we co-serve with and support churches (train, equip, resource, and organize retreats, workshops, and other renewal events).
- **Pray for teammates, co-workers, church members** (e.g. Sunday School teachers, fellowship mentors, families, couples, elderly, professionals, students, youth, children).
- Pray for all the preparation poured into our various **Chinese & EU language (online & physical gathering ministries & dual-time Sunday Worship Services)**.

April 20 **A time of grieving (London & Paris)**

- Our church families experienced a **steep learning curve** as we tried to **support one another during many moments of grief**.
- In particular, one of our **Paris deacon's daughter, Estelle** (22 years old), died while on an exchange work program in London.
 - Due to COVID, I was unable to accompany Estelle's parents to London.
 - I am deeply grateful for **London teammate, Alvis Tan, who compassionately served as interpreter and pastoral shepherd**.
 - I later connected the parents to a **professional Christian (Mandarin-speaking) counsellor in Germany**, who walked with them (via online sessions).
 - **Pray for these parents** as they continue on this difficult journey of sorrow.

May 2020

May 21-May 31 Ascension Day to Pentecost (7 a.m.– 8:15 a.m. Zoom) inter-denominational prayer gatherings (FRANCE)

- For **10 consecutive early mornings**, Chinese-speaking **prayer warriors** from our France churches joined together.
- 100+ adults
 - 20+ churches)
 - We experienced the peace of the Holy Spirit, as we gathered to intercede.
 - This culminated in the June 1st **Fête de Pentecôte** Joint (online) France Chinese **inter-denominational** Worship.

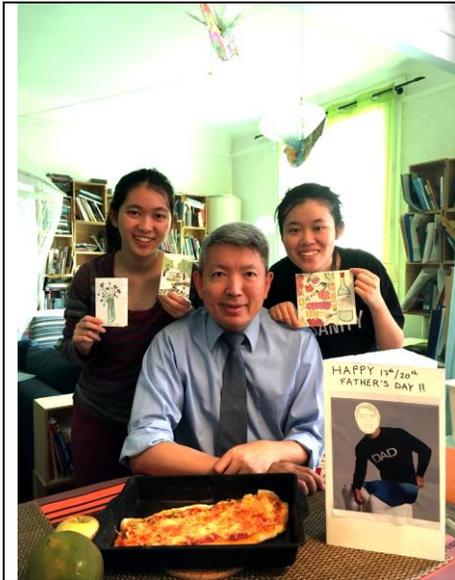


- **Photo:** Me participating in the **Spanish-speaking** College & Career (Zoom) Fellowship of the **Hope Fountain Chinese CMA Church (Madrid)**
- **Pray for this Spanish-Mandarin-speaking church in Madrid:** Previously it was shepherded by Zhang Tao, who was later unexpectedly transitioned out by CCA-U.S. to Barcelona.
- Again, like many EU Chinese churches, this Madrid church now **remains without a pastor**.

For the 1st time in the **history** of the France churches,



- the Chinese held a joint (online) inter-denominational (Monday) Pentecost Day Celebration Worship Service.
- Over 500+ participated in this Chinese-speaking **revival** meeting (and even shared in Holy Communion).
- What a deep sense of **unity and God's presence** among His people, even in the midst of crisis.
- Even prior to the pandemic, many of our churches continue to be **isolated** (from inter-church fellowship, national denominational support, and limited personnel/financial resources).
- Pray as God blesses all efforts as **churches unite to support, share, and serve.**



- By partnering and wisely stewarding God's resources, God will continue **to multiply and bear fruit** among our multi-cultural-intergenerational mosaics of diaspora churches across Europe.
- May we continue to reflect Christ and **offer that cup of water to the thirsty** within our neighborhoods and communities.

photo: **Father's Day (in France)** on June 21 – home made pizza & home-drawn cards after preaching online.

Pre-covid May 4 & October 5, 2019 were so different –

- when FACCES was able to host **workshops to 100+ Sunday School teachers & Youth coaches (in Paris & Zoetermeer)**
- from **22+ local churches** (not all CMA) serving **French, Vietnamese, Tamil, Kabyle, Hmong, and Chinese, and English-speaking** congregations.

This year, with our Ateliers cancelled, our **main objectives** continue to be

- to join the **4/14 Movement**
- to **"Reach, Rescue, Root & Release"** young people (**between the ages of 4 and 14 years old**)
- the **largest "least-reached group"** in the world.

【觸動】孩子的心，
使他們藉著耶穌【得拯救】，
【扎根】在祂的話語上，
然後像祂的門徒一樣【奉差遣】。

Reaching the heart of children
so that they are **rescued** through Jesus,
rooted in His Word
and **released** as His disciples.

TOUCHER le cœur des enfants
pour que Jésus les **SAUVE** et
les **ENRACINE** dans Sa Parole
afin de les **ENVOYER** comme Ses
disciples.

<p>REACH</p>  <p>TOUCHER les cœurs des enfants 找尋孩童。 Reaching the heart of children</p>	<p>RESCUE</p>  <p>pour que Jésus les SAUVE et 使他們藉著耶穌得拯救。 so that they are rescued through Jesus,</p>	<p>ROOT</p>  <p>les ENRACINE dans Sa Parole 扎根在祂的話語上, rooted in His Word</p>	<p>RELEASE</p>  <p>afin de les ENVOYER comme Ses disciples. 然後像祂的門徒一樣奉差遣 and released as His disciples.</p>
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Bookmark we made for teachers

- **Pray for all the Sunday School and Youth teachers** --who are tirelessly committed to teach the Word of God to our “busy & bombarded” children.
- **Pray that despite limited resources**, personnel and church building facilities/classroom space (and now further needing creative juices to lead Zoom classes) – teachers, parents, and churches will continue to **closely partner** to disciple the children & youth that **God has blessed and entrusted us** with.

June 14

Preaching (online) anywhere, anytime



Despite **travel restrictions** between EU cities,

- We were thankfully able to **stay connected** to churches (praying, encouraging, discussing, resolving, planning, preaching, teaching, etc.) via telephone and Zoom.
- And because of different time zones, we sometimes had to **pre-record** ... which was time consuming given that we are high-tech dinosaurs!



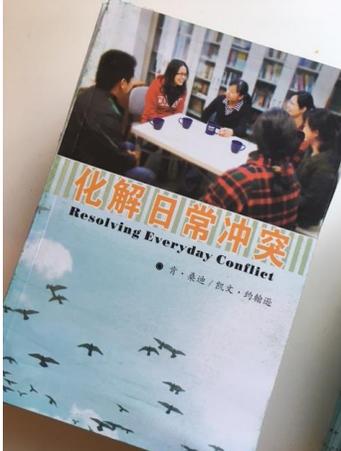
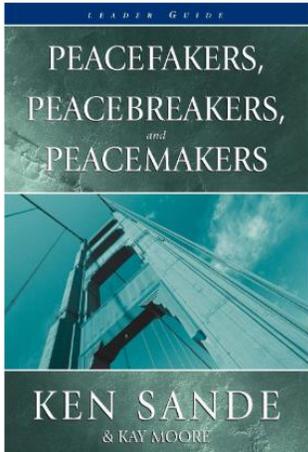
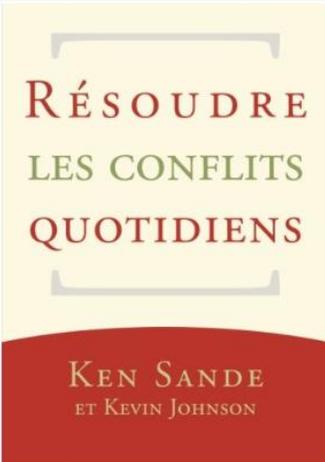
- In one day, we would sometimes be fellowshiping with people in **different time zones** –
- from France to Martinique, Guadeloupe, Cayenne, St. Martin, Spain, Germany, Greece, Netherlands, U.K., Suriname, Kirghizstan, Senegal, Morocco, India, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Canada, and U.S.A.

June

Blessed are the Peacemakers

Throughout the 24 years of serving in Europe, God has allowed us to gain the trust of co-workers and national leaders – permitting us opportunities to **help resolve and mediate conflict, and to address concerns** when they arise.

- **Cultural and language barriers, coupled with, for example, character issues** – can aggravate ongoing tensions that demand attention, care, support, and follow-up (such as ongoing **mediation since 2016, 2018, and more recent issues** requiring the added input of Tim Westergrin, U.S. CMA Field Director in Spain, on Oct 9).
- Despite the high fee cost, we hope to complete the **Collaborative Mediation & Conflict Resolution certification** at the Justice Institute of British Columbia (recommended by VP of Global Missions, Donna Frentz, and completed by former Regional Director, Michelle Derkson) – which will **equip us to train others in local churches**.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As well, Karin & I continue to learn and equip ourselves in the “art” of peacemaking. Last October 28-31, 2019, Rick Stein (lawyer and Director of Peace Making Ministries at the CMA-U.S. head office, was invited by France CMA to lead Level 1 training (among the CMA French/English/Chinese/Hmong-speaking churches in France). Pray as we raise funds to cover training course speaker fees, and the costs to translate, edit, publish, print & ship materials. 	 <p>Pray for us as we also work with Rick -- to help translate English peace making materials into Chinese & other EU languages.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discipleship materials (in non-English languages) are needed outside of North America. Pray as we seek volunteers -- to help translate resources, study guides, PowerPoints, handouts, etc. (into Chinese, French, Spanish, etc.). 	 <p>This upcoming Fall 2021, Rick is scheduled to lead Level 2 -- Learning to Reflect Peace Making & Conflict Resolution in a Biblical Way that Honours God (in our churches, families, everyday life).</p>	 <p>Following Level 2, we will be able to train church members Level 1.</p>
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July 2020

July 7 Eviction & Dycke's Heart Condition (FRANCE)

On July 7, we were **supposed to be evicted** from our 1 bedroom apartment rental. Long story short ...

- Our new neighbor-owners upstairs did major renovations (in 2016) that caused **serious water damage** in our apartment downstairs. They did not want to take any responsibility (since the work was not insured).
- For almost 4 years, our family lived in **humid, mold and mildew conditions**.
- CMA-Canada told us to raise funds to pay for repairs. However, this was not possible once we were to only raise funds for GAF/Global Advance Fund/IW Support Fund (and not IW Work Funds or IW Outfit Funds).

		<p>1 (and only) bedroom where Noelle & Pascale sleep & study.</p>
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The landlord (and property manager) did not want to take help or take any responsibility. Instead, they debited money from our personal bank account to pay for any eventual **renovation fees and legal fees**.

- Then they sent a **bailiff with an Eviction Notice** -- simply stating that we were required to move out. Motive: landlord (who after 10+ years of retirement living in the South of France) now suddenly wants to move back in our apartment.
- We had invited free City Hall **Mediators**, twice, to try to intervene and seek resolution. Both times, the landlord did not appear.
- Instead, they are now **taking us to court on January 15, 2021**.
- **Pray for the judge** – that he/she grasps the 4-year situation (quickly and accurately), and deals truthfully and honestly.
- Since 2009 (the time we moved into this apartment in the heart of Chinatown and **close to our ministries and the people we serve**), we had never had issues with neither the landlord nor the manager.
- Due to Covid lockdowns and confinements, we have been unable to find another suitable apartment – especially since our children hope to remain in sufficient proximity to their current schools (where they are **both completing their final graduating year**)... And Chinese tenants are not on the top of landlord's "**selective criteria**" at this time ...



Pray also for **Dycke's health** (more details in September Update, below).

- I was experiencing shortness of breath and fatigue. My heart was racing due to a condition called **Atrial Fibrillation** (chaotic electrical heart activity, causing racing heart beat; and
- if not immediately cared for can lead to permanent heart damage and stroke).

August 2020

August 31

Health & Travel safety & Protection

We travelled from France to Canada this summer for our pre-scheduled **Home Assignment year, and to fulfil Canadian residency rules** for workers temporarily assigned overseas.

- As well, I/Dycke needed **blood tests, Holter Monitoring, Echocardiogram, Electrocardiogram (ECG), MRI, CT Scan, and medication** to prepare for when the hospital could schedule a **CardioVersion** (shock treatment to re-calibrate and re-set my heart rhythm) and a second procedure called **Cardiac Ablation**.
- Since I was not able to receive travel clearance from the cardiologist in August, our daughters Noelle and Pascale flew back to France **on their own until Karin & I could return to Europe, 2 months later** (just a few days before France shut the borders for incoming flights from North America).



- **Praise God** for our family's **travel safety & protection & resiliency**. Training our girls to be independent paid off ... and permitted Karin & me to remain in Toronto for ministry and to cardio treatments.
- **Atrial fibrillation** is a quivering or irregular heartbeat rhythms and disorders (**arrhythmia**) that can lead to blood clots, stroke, heart failure and other heart-related complications.
- Doctors suggested possible causes of my Atrial Fibrillation may be connected to **work-related physical or emotional stressors**.

Photo: For my **60th birthday** and my father's **94th birthday**, Noelle and Pascale gifted each of us a hand-made shepherd's staff.

September 2020

September 24

Cardio Version (heart shock treatment), Pickering (CANADA)

Despite the Covid-related delays experienced in France and Canadian hospitals, the **Centenary Hospital** was able to schedule my **Cardioversion** very quickly (and the Cardio **Ablation** next summer/fall).

- **Cardioversion** is a medical procedure that restores a normal heart rhythm in people with certain types of abnormal heartbeats (arrhythmias). Cardioversion is usually done by sending electric shocks to your heart through electrodes placed on your chest.
- **Cardiac Ablation** is a procedure to scar or destroy tissue in your heart that's allowing incorrect electrical signals to cause an abnormal heart rhythm. If no surgery is required, diagnostic catheters are threaded through blood vessels to your heart where they are used to map and "zap" your heart's chaotic electrical signals.

October 2020

October 4

Brother Tan Wu's ordination church celebration, Paris (FRANCE)



Tan Wu & Tie Ming – Ordination Celebration with CMA-national France president and Committee Pastoral Team

- **(photo)** Following the ordination interview panel (February 2020) – **praise the Lord, Tan Wu was ordained on October 4** at our Paris-Massena CMA Chinese church.
- Because of the 2 events (mentioned below), coupled with **hate-filled twitter** messages sent to Asian students (inviting the public to target Asians blamed for Covid), our daughters were **afraid to be out, alone**, for early morning or late night walks to/from school (despite sightings of **soldiers with machine guns reinforcing patrolling armed police**).
- For 2 months, Noelle & Pascale asked me to accompany them to/from school whenever it is **pitch dark outside**.
- And with the onset of earlier **lockdown curfews (8PM-6PM)**, the streets will be even more deserted earlier in the mornings/evenings, despite the arrival of Christmas.



October 16, 2020 – decapitation **assassination** of high school teacher.



- Oct 29, 2020 – day of **stabblings** of 3 adults at the Basilique Notre-Dame de Nice.
- Continue to pray for **true peace and eternal hope to reign** in each of our hearts, as continued aggression causes social unrest.

November 2020

Yu Du Bing went to be with the Lord at the age of 86 years old (following heart pacemaker replacement surgery complications and infections).



- Rev. Yu was a very well respected servant of God who immigrated to France in 1982, from Wenzhou (China) – photo standing 2nd from left
- The (independent) Chinese church he pioneered (one of the largest in Paris), joined the CMA France family in 2011.
- I have fond memories of learning from, and serving alongside, Rev. Yu -- especially when he invited me on a special trip to Wenzhou in 2016.
- Pray for Dycke as he prepares to officiate the funeral in December).
- Wenzhou is considered to be the Jerusalem of China, where many Chinese Christian immigrants come from, and whom God has guided to settle and plant churches throughout major cities in France, Italy, Spain, Germany, etc. -- to reach diaspora kinsmen and locals.



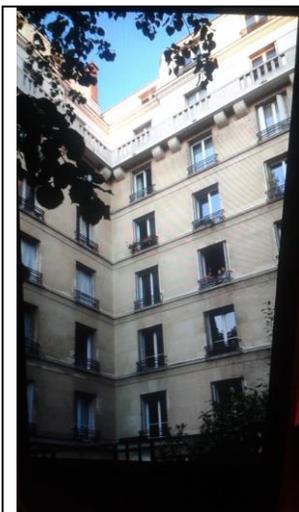
- This Paris suburb (Pantin) Chinese CMA church graciously & freely lends out its building facilities whenever other France CMA national churches have special workshops, conferences, outreach events (e.g. Singer Amy Sand Concert in 2017).
- They care for the elderly and pray for discernment as to whether God is leading them to purchase land and start an elderly homecare centre.
- During the start and peaks of the Covid pandemic, the Chinese Christians mobilized to distribute masks to health care clinics, community care centres, and our neighbours.

December 2020

December

Diasporas, such as Asians Face Racist Attacks (FRANCE & beyond)

With all the social, political, and economic unrest -- many, including Asians, are increasingly targeted by racism, hate crimes, or passive, covert, overt bullying, as well as other aggressive behaviours and innuendos.



- During France's 1st complete lockdown, each night at 8 PM our family would join neighbours at our windows -- to applaud the front line health workers.
- On May 8, passerby's displayed obscene gestures and swear words ... blaming us for all things bad and telling us to "go back to China".



'It's Hate': Asians in France Face Second Wave of Racist Attacks linked to COVID

- A string of attacks linked to France's 2nd lockdown and a hate-filled Twitter post have shocked the Asian community.
- <https://www.vice.com/en/article/pkdpmb/france-covid-anti-asian-sentiment>

A (2016) killing in Paris: Why French Chinese are in uproar

- <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-37720780>



Although many of our scheduled regular ministries are work-in-progress and needing to be redefined and recreated (e.g. in London, Amsterdam, Barcelona, Bordeaux, etc.), as well as those ongoing ministries beyond the EU (e.g. in Senegal, Morocco, Algeria, Israel, India, Kirghizstan, Russia, etc.) ...



Nothing is better than responding to **God's call** and joining Him in **His harvest fields ... TOGETHER.**

Thank you for your **fervent powerful prayers** & **generous sacrificial giving.**

Stewards in Christ,
Dycke & Karyne (together with Noelle & Pascale)
December 2020

Photo: Thank you to Uncle Gary & the Toronto Simpson Chinese CMA Church – for the boxes & boxes of masks, and for chauffeuring us off to the airport.



and
suddenly
there was with
the *angel*
a multitude of
the heavenly host
praising God
and saying
Glory to God
in the highest, and on earth,
peace, goodwill towards
men
Luke 2
13-14