A Christmas message from Dr. Mel. Kieschnick, the former supervisor and principal of our school

Dear Principal Wong,

This is our 50th consecutive annual Christmas letter. Over the years, we shared our loud hallelujahs, confident fear-nots, and promises of peace. This year, we feel extremely grateful, but also more pensive. We again rejoice, but our message comes with the soft voice of an angel whispering its comforting words of hope.

For our family, the highlight of the year was a wonderful celebration in Ozark woods and lakes of our 50th wedding anniversary, arranged and pulled off perfectly by all of our kids, their families and Mel’s siblings. Memories, photos, music, stories, food and laughter were shared in abundance. Then in the quiet of the woods we heard the voice of families, our hearts and God whispering “it’s all a gift”.

When our loved local congregations experienced inexpressible difficulties and we heard the stentiment voices of disagreement, we found ourselves listening with heightened attention to the whispered voice of a baby in a manger offering hope and the possibility of healing and peace.

And, of course, September 11, Mel was in Hong Kong completing a wonderful week of celebrating Christian education when the tragic noise and visions of that day reverberated around the world. Our hearts ached especially for our colleagues in New York with special pains for some 50 children in our Lutheran schools there who lost a parent in that terrible tragedy. We mourn the new waves of suffering still occurring daily worldwide as a result. In the midst of it our ears strain for and then hear whispers of the possibilities of peace, health and hope promised by the One whose birth Christmas celebrates.

That’s our prayer for all of us this year. May the whisper conquer the noise. May hope triumph over despair. May joy not be denied. May there yet be peace in our hearts and in the world. May whisper of these promises fill the echo chambers of our hearts.

Thank you for your continuous love and support and for what both of you for the youth of this world.

Mel and Jane.

Dr. Kieschnick visited the school on September 11, 2001 and took a photo with principal David Wong and Mr. John Chu

Our New Native-speaking English Teacher, Mr. L. N. Weidlich

March 18, 2002

Dear Students of Concordia Lutheran School:

My name is Lorraine Behling Sonnenberg. In 1948, aged 24, I went to Whanzhou City, Szechwan, and taught at Concordia Lutheran School. The next year, all missionaries had to leave China. Therefore, I came to Hong Kong with three other Lutheran missionaries and started a Lutheran Church in Hong Kong. My particular area of work was teaching and opening Christian schools. For 10 years, I had worked in Hong Kong and opened 7 primary schools and Concordia Lutheran High School. I remember the great joy we had when dedicating your beautiful school to the Lord. I was there for the first year, teaching and directing the choir and working with youth groups.

It was great joy for me to come back two years ago for the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the church. I was thrilled to hear the school choir and orchestra, and see all the new schools and churches in Hong Kong! I pray for all of you every day that God will bless you and that many of you will be called to become Christian teachers, pastors and missionaries to all the world. Remember – Jesus loves you all very much and has a work for each one of you to do on this earth which will prepare you for your eternal work.

You are coming back soon! We must be prepared.

You are in my prayers!

Lorraine Behling Sonnenberg

Greetings and Encouragement from Mrs. Lorraine Behling Donnenberg, the Grandmother of Concordia.

This school term, we have a new English-speaking teacher, Mr. Weidlich, who came from Australia. He studied in English Education, Computer, German and Psychology in the Newcastle Macquarie University of Technology in Sydney.

He had been a teacher in Australia and Germany before teaching in Hong Kong. He taught German, English, Hungarian and French. He thinks students in Germany are more sporty and relaxed than students in Hong Kong. Meanwhile, Australian students are more active. They have more discussions and questions.

This is not his first school to teach in Hong Kong. He had taught in a school on Hong Kong Island from 1998 to 2000. After that, he went back to Australia.

He thinks teachers of our school are very helpful and he receives support in teaching. However, he still faces a big problem that students are not active in class. They are always passive. Some even sleep and do not take part in the lesson. Although some students behave badly, Mr. Weidlich’s impression to us is friendly. Our standard of English is high and students can do much better if they can participate freely.

Mr. Weidlich loves wind-surfing, running and taking a walk at lunchtime. And he has visited many places of sightseeing in Hong Kong, for example, Discovery Bay, Lamma Island, the Peak, etc.

At last, Mr. Weidlich suggests some ways to improve our English:

1. Just relax, less worry with exams
2. Enjoy and have fun with English lessons
3. Choose some articles in newspapers in which you are interested, read them several times and underline new words.
4. Watch VCDs or listen to CDs several times. Don’t just understand the meanings, but learn the sentences and their uses.