

MEKONG NEWS

News for our family and friends

from Christoph, Lanette and Lydia Meister-Konze

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2021 greetings to all!

Somehow the last six months look like a slow descent into a deep valley. The summer was full of nice weather and less restrictions. Our family stressed some over Lydia's work to apply for doctor office assistant (MPA) internships. Thankfully, we enjoyed eight days in the Swiss mountains (obviously). On our way to the mountains, we celebrated Christoph's father's birthday outside on their lawn with amazing weather and were blessed to see many relatives. We also had great weather while in the mountains and we invested some big money in taking Lydia up the Jungfrau and the Schilthorn for the first time. We also got to spend a few days with Christoph's brother and sister-in-law while vacationing and enjoyed the August 1st fireworks from their hotel balcony!



In the end, **Lydia** applied to nine doctor offices, but was turned down for all of them. Midst in the process, Lydia realised that her real dream would be to study theater, so she was thankful for the final rejection notices so she could pursue theater school (FMS) next year and will take the exams in March. She currently enjoys creative writing in her free time and will start voice lessons next semester.

Christoph's work remains unchanged - still finance manager for OMF Switzerland. Since the beginning of this year, he has an intern who is supporting him in some of the work before she can hopefully be sent onto the field to do language and culture study in Asia.



Lanette handed over her role as AIDS Care project manager last June and thus only has four main roles left: IPC Children's Ministry elder, IPC Covid Team member, BSF leader and Saisampan (Thai Ministry in Switzerland) consultant. All ministries require a lot of personal relationships and communication with others, which she loves and which she mostly does from home.

Somehow a bumpy time with lots of need for flexibility at the end of 2020 turned into a rougher ride last week and, since there isn't much to report otherwise, we share this for levity... Lydia returned to in-person school after the holidays on Jan. 4th. On Jan. 6th, Christoph discovered he had Shingles and thankfully is healing well so far. By Jan. 8th, we realised we had all potentially been exposed to Covid because of our lunch guest on Jan. 5th. Since Lanette had her 50-year-old colonoscopy check-up scheduled for the next Monday, we basically shut ourselves in for the weekend. Monday, Lydia came home for lunch (as she does every day), but on her way back to her afternoon classes, realised she couldn't get down our building's outdoor staircase because smoke was pouring out of one of the neighbor's kitchens. We all ran down through the smoke just as the emergency vehicles were arriving. However, Lanette, the ever diligent teacher, told Lydia to hurry to the bus and Lydia, the obedient 15 year-old did just that. Now, anyone whose building is on fire should probably not go running off anywhere (including to school) until it is clear what is going on! Fortunately, the police officer heard of Lydia's whereabouts and commanded she come immediately back to the scene, so Lydia had to hop off the bus and come running back and get tested for smoke inhalation with the rest of us. This is not the first time Lydia has been sent to school when it would have been better she stay home or even go to the doctor, so Lanette is still learning discernment in parenting! (FYI, we didn't have smoke inhalation, we didn't get Covid yet, the kitchen fire was extinguished and thankfully did not spread to other apartments).

With this, we send our wishes for a healthy and joyous 2021 despite uncertainties. As for us, we are thankful for God's provision, health and callings to serve Him.

Hugs from Uster, Christoph, Lanette and Lydia

Keep in touch!

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