

## **-Blessings at this Christmas and a Happy New Year- 2020**

**Dear Friends:**

**This past year has had its times of joy and sorrow.**

**The first was David's passing in February just two years after Richard's. He was not well for the last couple of years and in the hospital for about a week before he became palliative. The whole family were there with him for his last day and we shared thoughts of our happy times together. Sat noon we were with him for our last farewells and prayers. He went peacefully to his heavenly home at 8 p.m.**

**His Memorial Service was most moving and a great witness to his life. He had planned most of the service and many remarked how great a witness it was to them. He also prepared our stone at the cemetery after Richard died as David, Marlene and I and Richard are all to be there. We continue to miss him greatly and especially at the special times we shared as a family.**

**At Easter we shared a milestone for Marlene for her 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday with the immediate family. She continues to enjoy curling, golfing and working in the flower garden. She has been downsizing as they had their name on the list for Legion Village and she thinks her time is getting close.**

**Jason and family are always busy and into many sports, etc so we do not see them quite as often but we were at their home for Thanksgiving. They now have David's piano as Jordan is taking lessons, doing great and loves to play. Cole has also become interested in music by playing the recorder many times throughout the day and even trying his Dad's sax...so see where this will take both of them.**

**Andrew continues in his love of music with his cello and a newer instrument nyckelharpa that he has taken up. As well as being in the orchestra he plays at some church services, and shares in "gigs" with his friend. He has been a great help to me around here "downsizing 80+ years of things" and helping other seniors.**

**As Christmas approaches we are busy in Advent in December and preparing for Christmas Celebrations especially in our church with the special services.**

- ❖ **Our Choir's Cantata "A New Birth a New Beginning" on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>, and earlier on 12<sup>th</sup> at the Legion Village. We now have about 24 choir members**
- ❖ **Our Chimers both adults and children have performed most Sundays in Advent.**
- ❖ **Service of Carols/Music on the 22 and again on Christmas Eve.**
- ❖ **Our other groups are having Pot Luck Meals together. WA went out to dinner rather than cooking for ourselves. We had a busy year but since many are getting older and not as able to do as much as we used to. We, sadly, have had to decide to close this group. It is hard to find leadership. We love the fellowship so will see where this leads us in the coming year.**
- ❖ **Our "Young at Heart Group" of 15 years also decided to take a break as we lost some members this past year and down to 5-6 people. Winter is hard on getting out and keeping our people safe.**
- ❖ **Pastoral Care Visitors delivered plants, cards, etc to 20+ of our faithful members now many over 90 and others because of their health. Our Pastoral Care visitors keep in touch the rest of the year.**
- ❖ **Our family has our Christmas together here on Sun Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> with everyone home. Jason, Shandelle, Cole and Jordan, Jonathan and Natasha.**
- ❖ **Christmas Day -plans not complete yet.**
- ❖ **Our cousins are getting together over holiday as we enjoyed it the last couple of years. The women had a get together in summer; Men separately as well.**

Our family shares in Jordan's 5<sup>th</sup> Christmas Sock Drive. We usually receive about 500 here in Cobourg. They will be dedicated at church on 22<sup>nd</sup>. Jordan will go to deliver them to the various places that afternoon. Her aim this year is for 15000 pairs. As of last year she had collected over 25,000 pairs since she started 5 years ago. She was recognized by many organizations this year for her great job. \*\*Mississauga city, Peel Police, Mental Health – she was youngest person to get this award, to mention a few.

John keeps busy and enjoys his home in Port Hope but over here in Cobourg often too. (11 km away) He like many of us has medical appointments often. He enjoys his walks in the summer. We have a lot of good times sharing in our lives. Not sure what I would do without him.

Jonathan moved to Cambridge to work at the Drayton Entertainment as Director of Development. He is enjoying his change in work as it is not as stressful. He is glad to be out of the city of Toronto. He still has some connections there as his previous boss and he went to London, England for 3 days to check out new shows for a few places. Natasha works in Human Resources at the same place and when her boss met Jonathan asked him to come there. They are excited as they bought their first house, a starter, a little small but on a large corner lot. Thus they have been getting it in order. He still visits his Dad often and still my greatest help at the computer, etc.

JOY – You can see how much my family means to me... so less of ME to tell. I still continue to have problems with my legs. I was under homecare for several months because of small wounds on my lower legs/circulation problems. Still see a dermatologist finally got that skin problem under control. Visit internist/ cardiologist every six months or a year with high blood pressure and a few other concerns. I am not able to do as much as previously or what I would like to do, trying cut back and learn to say NO to other requests. I lead Pastoral Care, on St. Andrew's Mission and Outreach, Choir and rep for Presbyterial WMS Presbytery, and WMS as Presbyterial Adult Secretary, Past President of CNOB Synodical, just completed Convener of Synod RCC...think that is all.

Our previous Taiwan missionaries got together in July at Crieff and had a wonderful two days together, shared lots of memories, update on our present life and praying. We were together again at Paul McLean's Mothers Memorial Service.

I keep in touch with Changhua Hospital staff and friends. They just celebrated their 123 year and Linda Elliott, one of our former missionaries joined it. It was great too see friends again as they took her around. The hospital's area wide medical care is one of the best. Many close friends there have retired so thankful for other new staff to continue the Christian Medical Ministry in Taiwan.

My great challenge still is to downsize more. Our house is on the market now, not the best season for this, but hope it will sell before too long. BUT I was waiting for the final stage to open up for the condo where I have had my name at for nearly two years. GREAT NEWS! I went and paid the first required amount. The pads are in for the condo and move in date it June 11<sup>th</sup> on Condition of sale of my house. Praying the timing will be good but if I sell it sooner then will have to store the things and live with John till it is ready.

MAY THE BEAUTIFUL MOMENTS AND HAPPY MEMORIES  
SUROUND YOU WITH THE PEACE, LOVE AND JOY OF OUR SAVIOUR AT  
THIS CHRISTMAS TIME AND IN THE NEW YEAR.

& PRAY FOR PEACE IN THE WORLD. Joy

Augusta Court Garden Homes--new address not yet completely known.