

2019年3月1日

Dear Rev. Sekiong Lim

This thank you is certainly late but no less sincere. I want to say thank you so much to the Taiwan Christian Church Council of North America for their very generous cheque received in December. I believe I sent you my Christmas update but in case I didn't please find it attached. Your gift is financially helping me to attend the Western Women's Gathering in March. With a church pension these special events often cannot happen. Again, thank you for helping make this possible.

I am so sad and grieve the loss of our good friend Rev. Dr. C. M. Kao. I had the privilege of working with him for six years and was there when they issued their first statement on their National Fate. In fact I typed the English version and delivered it to Hong Kong to mail to partner churches as well as joining the Rev. Murray Garvin in delivering it to the US Embassy in Taipei. I watch with interest the political situation in Taiwan and do what I can to promote Taiwan. My Canadian Taiwan friends call me the "smuggler for the PCT".

When Moderator of the 132nd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada I had the privilege of visiting the President in Taipei. I note both he and Dr. Lee attended the memorial service for C.M. Being Moderator was a wonderful experience and even after 12 years I am still the only lay person that has held this important office. I follow in the footsteps of Rev. Dr. G. Leslie Mackay who was Moderator in 1895, and Rev. Dr. Hugh MacMillan in 1964. What a thrill to follow these exceptional men.

I have rambled on enough so I will close with special regards to my Taiwan family.

Blessings,
Wilma Welsh



CHRISTMAS 2018

Dear Friends and Family,

Christmas 2018 is almost here so I had better get busy and get a letter done.

I stayed pretty close to home this year although it was planned that I would go east to NB but my cousin's deteriorating health kept me home. I had to be where I was needed and that was Guelph at that time.

I spent a week in hospital in late April/early May with pneumonia. I went in through the ER. At that time it was discovered that I have my father's genetic blood disease – in the early stages it is called polycythemia. Dad's developed into myelofibrosis – there are great advancements since he was alive. What my disease means is that I make too much blood. I see a haematologist in Kitchener and occasionally have to be bled (no leaches) when the blood tests indicate it is needed (four times in 2018 – it is just like giving a blood transfusion but they destroy the blood). I am on blood thinners for the blood clots in both lungs. I am indebted to my cousins Carole Ann Hattle and her sister Sue Roszel, and to my friend Gladys Abboud who try to keep in touch. I don't move out too much anymore.

My back has been acting up these past few weeks but it is improving.

Family Passings,

- My cousin Marion Mahoney, my first cousin, died in the early Fall. She was one of my twin cousins. I officiated at her funeral.
- Sam DeHaan, my first cousin by marriage died on May 27th. I assisted at his service and did his wife Jean's burial at the time of his burial. I officiated at Jean's funeral in 2017.
- I officiated at the service of Helen Collins, my sister-cousin's Brenda's mother-in-law's graveside service.
- My sister-cousin's son in law's father died suddenly this past summer. He was the father of Dr. Li Chang and father-in-law of Lisa Roszel (Sue's daughter).

They are missed.

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I continue to serve on the Presbyterian Church's Assembly Council. It meets twice a year. I still serve on the Session of St. Andrew's Kitchener. Mark Lewis, our minister, retired in early November. We are blessed to have the Rev. Dr. Herb Gale as our interim moderator.

I am on the Special Moderators' Committee that was appointed at General Assembly in June of this year. We are charged with making recommendations on a way forward for the church in light of all the overtures relating to the LGBTQ issue and the church's struggle. 12 past Moderators serve on this committee.

Pauline Brown came to visit just prior to her departure in July. It is our plan to meet in Vancouver at the end of March to attend the Western Women's Gathering. Elza Furzer and I will fly out and after the Gathering, will go to Seattle for a couple of days prior to returning home. We will only be away a week. Hopefully I will get to NB later next year.

Sterling's two lynx-point Siamese cats (Sam and Princess) have just had their check-ups. They are both on medication. They are 17+ now. Sterling's free spirited cockatiel Joey is doing well – likes to get in on any conversation with his five or six phrases that he has perfected. He has perfected the phone ring as well so can keep me running to answer a non-call. Snoopy, my ragdoll is now 8 and had a good check-up at the vets this year. Sam had dental work done in January and it went well. Princess has a thyroid problem. Snoopy is helping me write this letter – totally blocking the computer screen.

I am downsizing, throwing out and giving things away so that the family will not wonder what to do with everything when I am no longer here to offer suggestions. It is amazing how much one can gather in a few+ years!

I spend a lot of time knitting these days, mainly children's cardigans.

I don't have any Christmas plans. So much depends on the weather. I will visit Tim's family (Dianne's son) immediately after Christmas and also have plans to see my Goddaughter Amanda and meet her husband Chris. On the 23rd Donald's family will get together at Linda's.

Merry Christmas to you and your family. May you know the peace of the season. I look forward to hearing all your news.

With love to all,

Wilma

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