

January 1, 2018

Dear Rev. Lim and Members of the Committee of Retired Missionaries,

Peng-an! Greetings in the name of our blessed Lord and Savior on this first day of 2018. May our great and faithful Heavenly Father shower his richest blessings in great abundance on you throughout the New Year! What an exciting time it is as we stand on the threshold of this New Year, waiting with great anticipation and excitement to see all that the Lord has planned for us as individuals, as a family, as a church family and as a committee.

What a wonderful surprise to receive your Christmas greetings, along with the love gift which is greatly appreciated, but certainly not necessary. Thank you so very much for thinking of us at this special season of the year! Also, it is very good of you to make mention of those who have gone on to their eternal Home. We do pray tribute to them for their years of service on the island.

It was, indeed, our great honor and privilege when the Lord called us to serve in Taiwan, working mostly with the indigenous people as we taught at Yu-Shan Theological College and Seminary in Hualien. However, because Bill had learned Taiwanese when he first arrived on the island in the fall of 1958, he also had opportunities to preach in some Taiwanese Presbyterian Churches, and because of my ministry in the Hualien Prison and the English Bible classes I had at the Hualien YWCA and in my home, I also have many Taiwanese friends. Truly, it was a very blessed and rewarding time that we had in Taiwan. Thank you for your faithful support and prayers.

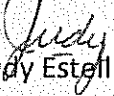
You mentioned meeting Rev. Paul Shen who offered to host the 2017 TCCNA assembly at the church he is serving in Baltimore. This is special news for me as just recently I had asked whether someone knew where he was. He graduated from Western Theological Seminary as did my late husband, and in May, my middle daughter, Ruth who spent all her pre-college years in Taiwan, will, too. I'm sure you had a wonderful time together. You and the various ministries will be remembered in prayer, along with Taiwan and all its people. Not only is it a time of change for our friends in Taiwan, but for people around the world. Thankfully, we know that our Father is in control, and He never changes.

Family-wise we have had a good year. The seven children all have jobs and are active in their respective churches. Only Ruth is now in Michigan, the others are in Illinois, Maryland, Indiana, Nebraska, and Minnesota. Because we live so far apart, it is not so easy to get everyone together very often. My nine grandchildren range in age from eight to 24. I am so thankful for them all.

Many ask what I do to keep busy. I have no problem as I do lots of listening, either on the phone or over cups of coffee or tea. I have a number of elderly friends whom I drive to doctors' appointments, to the grocery store, and even to the ER. At the church I attend, I lead a women's Bible study. Every week I volunteer at a local nursing home, first spending three hours or so at the reception desk and then spending some time visiting residents who very seldom have visitors. Once a month I also lead a hymn sing at the same home. I am so blessed and so thankful to the Lord for opening these days of outreach.

Again, thank you so very much for the kind words and the love gift. May our faithful, loving Lord bless your areas of ministry as well.

Because of his great love,


Judy Estell