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January 11, 2022

Rev. Lim Sek-iong
Chair, TCCCNA Retired Taiwan Missionary Committee

Dear Rev. Lim:

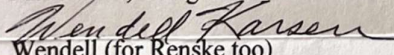
We trust that you and your family, despite the pandemic, had an inspiring and uplifting Advent/Christmas/Epiphany season. We did and are once again most grateful to God for sending his Son to be our Lord and Savior.

We just returned home from visiting family during the holidays and found your letter and most generous Christmas gift in the mail last night. Thank you so much from the bottom of our hearts. The TCCCNA is most kind. We will use some of it to help with my book project fund and put the rest in our travel fund. Enclosed is a copy of our recent annual letter.

I have recently finished the 2nd edition of my book on *The Church Under the Cross: Taiwan- The Cross of Fascism*. My original work was published ten years ago in two volumes. Now I have corrected errors and added ten more years to the story. In doing so, since there is quite a bit more text and many more photos, I am publishing Taiwan, Hong Kong, China and Indonesia as separate volumes. I am hoping to finish Volume II on Hong Kong by the end of the month, and eventually China and Indonesia as I have time.

I will send you the Taiwan volume tomorrow as a gift. If you find that people you know, or other TCCCNA friends, might be interested in a copy, I can mail one directly to them for the discounted price of \$10.00 each. All I would need would be their address and phone number.

Meanwhile, Siong-te chhoik-hok li!


Wendell (for Renske too)
Ka Ui-tek Bok-su

"O Come, All Ye Faithful, Joyful and Triumphant"

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Dear Family, Friends, Neighbors & Colleagues around the World:

December 2021

The first thing we're all tempted to focus on right now are the small 'c's' in life – concerns about the pandemic, concerns about the economy, concerns about polarization, concerns about disturbances in the streets, concerns about international tensions, concerns about immigrants, concerns about social disintegration, and the like. However, in the



Dinner with cousin Richard & new bride Inger

midst of all the turmoil comes the call to focus on the BIG 'C' – Christmas and its message of joy and hope: "For unto you is born this day a Savior, Christ the Lord!" And when that child grew up, his message to us was, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world... Don't let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me... Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I don't give to you as the world gives. Don't let your hearts be troubled, and don't let them be afraid." This is a message that we do well to put on our fridges and keep there during the year to come.

We trust that you have been doing well. We had quite a few physical challenges in the spring – breast cancer and a mastectomy for Renske, kidney cancer, jaw problems, and medical procedures and a pace maker for Wendell. We gratefully report that we had all the medical attention and help we could have hoped for and the healing hand of the Lord to the point that we both were pronounced cancer free and are doing well.

Just before Covid reared up and our medical problems hit, we enjoyed a two-week trip to the Orlando area in March where we had an opportunity to drive to St. Petersburg as well for a delightful visit with cousin Ruth & Larry Custer and their son Tim.

Because of our medical problems, we had to somewhat delay our usual summer trek, but were still able to reshuffle things in order to travel from Florida to Illinois to Michigan to California to Kentucky to Michigan to Connecticut to South Carolina and back home from early June through early September. It was a joy to visit many of you along the way, and a special joy to again volunteer at the Reformed Church's mission in Kentucky, to spend time with family and friends and to enjoy five weeks in Michigan - first in Petosky at our friends, the Krupa's, cottage and then in an RCA mission house in our beloved Holland where Wendell organized two reunions for groups that we had led on mission education tours to China. We were grateful for safe travel, good health, beautiful weather and the times spent with friends, colleagues and cousins, some of whom we



Dinner with Cynthia & Bob Bullock



30 years and still going strong

hadn't seen in quite a while. We kept Covid at bay by being fully vaccinated early in the year, keeping to strict protocols while travelling and avoiding restaurants, stores and gatherings. We also celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary on June 15th.

Of course, Covid has impacted our lives and the life of our community here at Penney Farms. Volunteer activities, educational programs, musical groups, church gatherings, nursing home and assisted living protocols and much more were affected. Fortunately, technology and a super dedicated staff helped to virtually keep us in touch with each other, worship together and encourage each other throughout the year. The staff also has done grocery shopping for us, served a hot meal a day to be picked up at curbside and carried out protocols that kept Covid cases to a bare minimum. Thankfully, some restrictions have now been lifted, and we hope it can stay that way.

Renske has continued her part-time work at our nursing home throughout the pandemic while Wendell spent a lot of the year going through files, scanning slides, making memorabilia scrap books, re-organizing his library, leading Bible studies and writing. (After 43 years as a nurse, Renske will be retiring at the end of this year). We have both also enjoyed taking care of our little flower garden, going on long walks around our beautiful campus, having picnics in nearby parks and continuing to be chaplains for 22 of our residents. We had the privilege of leading the first in

person worship service since the church was shut down on Easter Sunday when a very limited vaccinated and masked group was allowed back into the sanctuary. We will again be leading worship on December 12, now with a goodly number of vaccinated and masked people present.



With Jack on his 100th birthday

Wendell celebrated his 85th birthday on November 16, the same day on which long-time friend and missionary colleague, Jack Hill, was born in a log cabin in Michigan's upper peninsula 15 years earlier. Since his wife, Joann, had died last year, Jack went to live with his daughter in Atlanta. We celebrated both birthdays by making a weekend trip there to participate in Jack's 100th birthday celebration where he was still able to give an inspiring talk about lessons he had learned during each decade of his life.

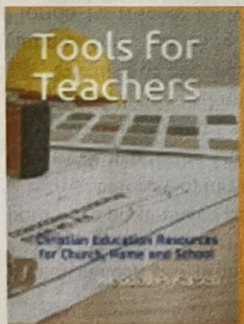
As for our children and grandchildren, there were a number of significant developments during the year. Steve, Pelesia

and youngest daughter, Courtney, moved to Suriname in July where they are serving a Christian international school in teaching and administrative positions. Granddaughter, Katrina and husband Nicholas, announced that she is due to deliver our first great grandchild, Malachi, in late December. Phil started his own road construction company in August. He already has several big contracts and successfully put crews and equipment together under difficult pandemic conditions. Andrew is now working for Phil's company as well. Paige's father died rather unexpectedly in the spring and will be sorely missed. Despite Covid hitting Germany hard this winter, Rachel, Nik and children continue to do well. Rachel set up a new office in Berlin recently and has more counseling clients than she can handle.

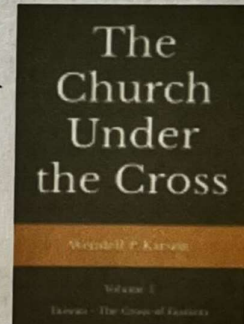


Dinner with Paige, Andrew, Phil & Seth

During the year, Wendell published his mammoth *Tools for Teachers: Christian Education Resources for Church, Home and School* and a second edition of *From Advent to Ascension: A Journey with Jesus*. Part II of his



Church Under the Cross on Hong Kong was translated and published in Chinese in Hong Kong. He is now engaged in two major projects. First, a 2nd edition of his memoirs (*The Church Under the Cross: Mission in Asia in Times of Turmoil*). This four-volume set will replace his original two volumes recounting his experiences in Taiwan, Hong Kong, China and Indonesia, with each country covered in a separate volume that adds ten more years to the story, along with more photos. The first volume on *Taiwan: The Cross of Fascism* will be published by the end of the year. His second project is a book featuring extracts from Joyce's thousand pages of letters written from Taiwan and Hong Kong entitled *Joyce's*



Journey. Let him know if you are interested in any of these books which are, or will be, available on Amazon, but which he, as the author, can get for you for 40% less.

Since, Steve, Pelesia and Courtney expect to be home for the holidays for the birth of their first grandchild and would like us to connect with them at that time as well, we decided to forgo our usual Thanksgiving trip to Illinois to visit them and Wendell's sister Nancy and family. We instead plan to make one long triangular trip after Christmas to South Carolina for our annual visit to Joyce's family, then to Greenville, Illinois to help Wendell's sister and family celebrate her 89th birthday and have our usual family gathering, and finally to Anna, IL to visit with family there and meet Malachi, before heading back to Florida. Hopefully the weather will cooperate.

Meanwhile, may this Christmas be an especially uplifting one for you and yours.

Wendell & Renske

"O Come, Let Us Adore Him, Christ the Lord."