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Dear friends at TCCCNA (through Rev. Sek-Iong Lim)

I am writing this letter of thank-you at this time because I have lost the record of my correspondence for the last several months, due to a technical problem with my computer. I am not sure that I sent a letter to you responding to the generous

Christmas gift you sent again this past year. I have decided that twice thanked is better than not thanked at all. Please accept my apology for not getting word to you sooner, if indeed my thank-you has not yet reached you.

We are glad you had a lively meeting in Baltimore and that Rev. Paul Shen hosted. I also graduated from Western Theological Seminary (Holland, MI), but that was a few years earlier (1964). We feel that we have so very many things in common with the PCT and it's personnel. What a wonderful privilege to be a part of you all.

Thank you for the information about the deaths of Peter Kehler and Jack Geddes. We knew them both, despite the fact that their work was concentrated in the north while we were mainly in the south.

WE do indeed continue to be concerned about Taiwan's future and especially about the position vis-à-vis China. We see so many forms of bullying on all levels within and among nations. All of us need to keep poised to assert God's will for justice, peace and equanimity in the human community. Divisions of all kinds must be broken down and all walls of separation destroyed, especially those that are hurtfully divisive.

We are delighted that you can be a healing presence in this nation. May God continue to work God's marvelous will in and through you.

Thank you so much for your generous gift and for letting us be a part of your community.

In the love of Christ, Rowland and Judy Van Es (Ban Ek-su, Ban Jiu-li)

Wishing You Christmas Hope --2017

Dear Family and Friends,

As we write at Thanksgiving Tide, we are especially grateful for family times! God's special gift: We got to share our home with sister Erma/Tom in March. (The Champion Cubs train in Phoenix!) We got to see most of sister Marti/Duke's family in April. What fun! Teri and Jody helped with entertainment so that we could relax and visit. June gave us opportunity to meet MI family (and friends), as Amy invited us to travel with her to RCA General Synod, to which she was a delegate from Classis Pleasant Prairie. We got to celebrate sister Barb's 90th birthday at her gathering of family (including cousins) and friends - stayed the week with sister Erma/Tom. Our family celebrated (in July) Scot's 50th birthday in SFO Amy/Jim's family and Rowland Jr. spent a week of reminiscing and bonding there. We gathered for another blast with sister Mary Lou/Gord's family in Sacramento, which Kim graciously hosted. Scot will spend his 50th Christmas with us, capping a big family year!

Birding news. We took several trips to chase our feathered friends. Northern Ariz. & adjoining Nevada, Eastern Arizona (Chiricahua Mountains), Hunt, TX area and Big Bend NWR. Washington, including Orcas Is., and the Nisqually NWR. On trips to Amy/Jim's family and Scot, we hit spots in NM and CO. We also birded in CA when going to and from SFO. In Sept. Hurricane Harvey forced us to substitute San Diego for Corpus Christi, TX. This year we got some new life-birds and some neater pictures of old friends as well. (540+ over the years)

Amidst all this positive family news, for which we give thanks and which buoys us up in a zest for life as God has created it, we are kept aware of current realities in part by our church book club. We have been apprised of many situations in our culture by Ta Nehisi Coates (Between me and the World & articles in Atlantic), Michelle Alexander (The New Jim Crow), and Nancy Isenberg (White Trash: The 400-Year Untold History of Class in America). As we continue our searches for lost and injured migrants crossing our desert, we are aware of other great injustices and unfairnesses that so many people suffer in our otherwise felicitous situation.

Since keeping HOPE alive is imperative, we nurture it with regular worship and fellowship in Good Shepherd (UCC). Standing strong in a particular community gives us strength of commitment and sharpened focus as we seek to be actively preparing in the wilderness "the way of the LORD." News coming this morning about 5 new Private Prisons shows us that vigilance is required against the suppressive power of the few. We need to add this concern to those of constructive immigration policies and improved justice system standing against all manner of unfairness throughout our society.

We are encouraged this Christmastide by the thought of all of you out there who are also "preparing the way" doing your thing for the LORD, whom we all serve and glorify in this beautiful season of celebration and rejoicing. It gives us courage to be and do what is right. We are convinced that knowing you all are part of our "rootage" (we refer to our delightful program "Finding Your Roots"), is a big part of our Joy in God's wonderful world. We are awed by the evidences of God at work in all of our lives.

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST!!
AND SHALOM ON EARTH!!

[please see the attached pictures of our family]



Amy, Jim, Jamie and Aaron live in Salina, KS. Amy pastors in Ellsworth; Jim teaches in Salina. Jamie is a Soph. at KU; Aaron is a Junior at Central High.

Scot is living independently in Salina, KS.



Rowland and Jane continue their teaching in Kenya at St. Paul's U.
Jenna and Michelle are living and working in Holland, MI.

With love, *Judy and Rowland*

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