

163 Bishop Drive,
Barrie, ON, L4N 6X5
January 17th, 2022

Rev. Lîm Sèk-ióng
Chair of Committee for Retired Missionaries in Taiwan
254 S. Bonnie Ave.,
Pasadena, CA 91106

Dear Lîm bòk-su

Last week I received the generous cheque from your committee of the TCCNA. I am so grateful for your kindness and thoughts on my behalf.

I am including my Christmas letter for your website, but this is an opportunity to add a few more notes. As I write today, we are buried in snow, and the weather has been quite cold. I still drive, but on days like this, I use the excuse to stay home and get caught up on correspondence.

I am well, coming up to my 85th birthday this coming Sunday. The time passes unusually quickly during the Covid 19 pandemic, but this is a socially isolating time. Even though Murray and David left us some years ago, it is at times like these that we especially miss them. They both loved Taiwan so deeply, as did Ruth who found it very difficult to leave. I continue to follow Taiwan news, and pray for its freedom and safety. We are particularly concerned about the present increased political difficulty with China

Those of you who knew Ruth might be interested to know that she is working in the Salvation Army shelters in downtown Vancouver. It is difficult and sometimes heartbreaking work, and she would be grateful for your prayers. Covid has been very hard on the homeless folk in our big cities with many deaths due to illness and drug abuse.

Anne and Michael are both grandparents now and Peter is proud father of two University graduates. Peter's daughter who is profoundly disabled by Spinal Muscular Atrophy, graduated with her B.A. in English this past year, and son Travis from University of Toronto with an Hon. B.SC.

I am active in the Life Long Learning Team at my church, and run Bereavement groups on Zoom. I am grateful for the opportunity to continue to use my psychotherapy and leadership skills. When I have time, I paint in watercolours. I follow a number of my Taiwanese friends on Facebook.

Please know that Taiwan has a huge place in my heart and I am sad that I will likely not have an opportunity to visit again. I also thank God for the TCCNA and all your work in North America.

With warm good wishes and prayers.



Mary Helen Garvin (Go Ka-bun bok-su-niu) Missionary in Taiwan from 1961 to 1976

Merry Christmas!



Mary Helen Garvin '21

December 2, 2021

Dear Family and Friends

After another year of what has seemed unbelievable, **Christmas comes again**. Covid continues to keep us all wondering what it will develop into next, and how we will be affected by it. Our forests burn, our communities flood, our hospitals and medical people are overwhelmed, many have lost loved ones, and we even had an election! But still, **Christmas comes again**. Just when I think I might lose hope, God in God's graciousness comes in some unexpected feeling of peace, or maybe, joy, in the hug of a great grandchild, a cardinal at the birdfeeder, a peaceful, snowy day, a friend's acceptance of me just as I am, or a blessing from a friend in a far-off land on What's App, and **Christmas comes again** in my heart. So, I send you this greeting with a prayer that **Christmas comes again** for you in every day of the year ahead.

Not much news to share. I am well. My family are well. We have all escaped the virus so far. I keep busy with facilitating bereavement groups, handling WMS projects in Malawi, going to physio or exercise programs to keep my aging body from falling apart totally. I paint a bit and continue to research our family genealogy. Of course, I read or watch British mysteries on TV. No out-of-country, or even province, travel this year.

A new great grandbaby arrived in July this year bringing the number of great granddaughters to four, three of whom live upstairs and remind me daily of the joy of having wee kids about.

Ruth continues to live in Vancouver and work in the Salvation Army shelters in the downtown East side. Pray for her. Anne lives in Mono Mills so I do not see her as often as I'd like, but she calls me 3 or 4 times a week and we laugh a lot. Mike and Carole are getting set for another winter at Bird Lake. They drop in here to see the grandkids about once a week. Peter and Jenny are here in Barrie and have been my "bubble" through Covid. Lots of Hot Pot dinners together or drives around Ontario to entertain us all. My nine grandchildren are all young adults finding ways to live their lives.

I wish you a wonderful Christmas with family and friends nearby and a strong assurance that the Babe born in Bethlehem still works in the life of God's creation, and walks beside us to fill our hearts with joy, generosity and kindness, and above all, love and hope for our world.

With love,

Mary Helen Garvin

Mary Helen. (705 431 9474. 163 Bishop Dr., Barrie, ON L4N 6X5)