

Staying on this occasion - we (the Canadian Mackay Committee) are working on Canada Post to do the same. There will be many activities in Taiwan and Canada in 2022.

Wishing you a blessed 2020!

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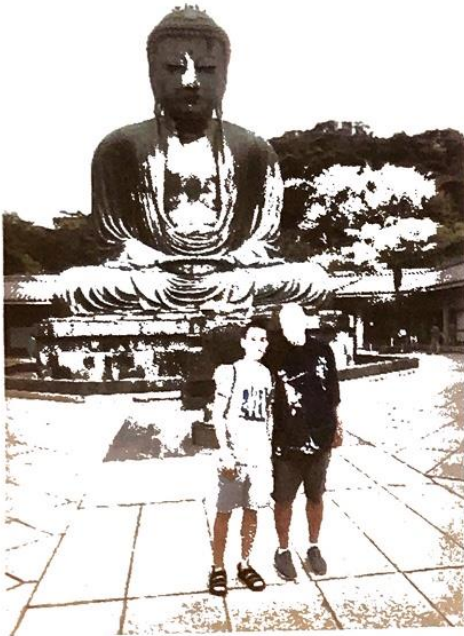


Toronto January 3, 2020

Dear Rev Lim,

My thanks to the TCCNA for your kind Christmas remembrance. I enclose my own 'Annual Epistle'. I also enclose a piece I did as a talk this past Fall, in preparation for the celebration of the 150th anniversary of G.L. Mackay's arrival in Tamsui (1872, March 9). I shall be in touch with the TCCNA later to invite its member churches to take part in these activities. I am pleased to announce that the Post office in Taiwan will issue a

Michael Stainton's Annual Epistle 2019



I had the happiest six weeks of my life in Japan and Taiwan this fall. I took my oldest aboriginal grandson, Na Jiang, to Japan. We visited the Great Buddha in Kamakura, hiked Mitakesan, and did all you should do in Tokyo. But the best memory for us is riding an insane extreme roller coaster at Mt Fuji. My limited Japanese actually worked, but Jiang with his phone worked even better.

In Taiwan, I travelled the island visiting all six godsons and 12 grandchildren. Soaked in 5 hot springs and saw Yushan. Lots of happy meals (+2kg), one with my old friend Chen Ju, now the Secretary General of the President's office. After lunch she introduced us to President Tsai. 10 seconds.

2019 was a wonderful year, for which I am thankful, despite the usual decrepitude of being officially old. I go to bed earlier, have morning stiffness, and sleep long afternoon naps. But I do my exercises, walk, swim, and even skate. I enjoyed my Japanese course, which kept my brain working. Best of all, the sunshine and happiness in Taiwan completely cleared up my Job's curse leg rash. Being 71 means I get to play with my money in new ways and give more donations.

I have more time for myself as I have left Taiwanese United Church, resigning along with the rest of the board on November 3 after 8 months of nasty civil war (over money, what else). I am free from a lot of church work, and am starting to attend the Anglican church around the corner.

The Canadian Mackay Committee is where I now focus my creativity. I do a lot of writing, and am working on plans for the 150th anniversary on Saint George's arrival in Tamsui, Taiwan. My dream is to have a joint Taiwan-Canada stamp issue on March 9, 2022. Stay tuned.

I celebrated my birthday with sister Karen and Bruce, seeing "The Crucible" at Stratford; and "The Ladykillers" and "Sex" at Niagara with them and my friend Louise Gamble. Many concerts. Two still echo – St. Matthew Passion with Tafelmusik conducted by the great Masaaki Suzuki; and Marriage of Figaro at the UofT Opera, with six friends who all agreed "that was great".



Despite her health challenges, Karen organized a week at the cottage in August. In April she was blessed with a second grandchild – a son to her youngest daughter Alexa. At the other end of life, I had a fun day in June with 2 cousins and my last uncle, Don, now 94, visiting our maternal home Ridgetown. I hope to be as lively as he is if I even make 84! I am happy to plan no further than doing a hot spring tour in the mountains of Japan next fall. Merry Christmas to you all! M

Michael

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