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A Joyous Christmas to you all!!

We have just sent off our celebratory congratulations to the PCTaiwan on this Human Rights Day. Our Lord's Incarnation is a stupendous reminder of God's will about the condition of all mankind. We all have our Christmas challenges in this regard, and we must encourage each other to *never grow tired of doing what is right*. Our risen Lord impels us all in this endeavor and it is a **joy** to be reminded of it.

We have been feeling increasingly cooped up while keeping up with those marvelous vaccines, and we feel like some of our retirement has been stolen from us. On the other hand, we are still on our feet and taking nourishment, and there is nothing wrong with our appetites. We are grateful for our health-plans, and our friendships lend deep meaning to our lives. We are finally meeting for worship, even if it is outdoors, masked, and socially distanced.

The fact that we are gaining facility in participating in "online activities and meetings", has opened some beautiful opportunities. People can worship with us, report to Samaritan Search-Meetings with us, and do counseling with us, from anywhere in the world.

They have done so very effectively, and we have been able to recently participate in Taiwan Ecumenical Forum, in which we pondered our Christian call to responsibility in the present Geo-political Realities in South and East Asia. What a blessing that all has been!

We trust that you also find the positive things in your lives far outweighing the negative realities in this Covid-19 era. We are keenly trusting that a way may be realized in which we may overcome all the negative effects of pandemic diseases. More lives have been taken from the USA by this one than all the wars our nation has fought put together. Wow! Our sister, Marti, was taken with the virus exactly one year ago. We miss her sharply. Others of our greater families have experienced cases and are still unvaccinated.

The angel at Bethlehem told the startled hearers not to fear, but to get going. Our greetings of **joy** are meant to confirm the fact that **joy** is readily experienced and abundantly provided in the Christ-child and His discipleship.

With **Joy** we share our family news---

Rowland and Jane are serving with the RCA, teaching at St. Paul's University and Seminary in Limuru Kenya. They are on home assignment now; pray for them as they return to Kenya in January. Their daughters - Jenna and Michelle - live in Holland, MI, Jenna working with Hayworth Center and Hope College and Michelle working as a nanny.

Amy and Jim Hawley are both pastoring in Presbyterian churches in Kansas, Amy in Ellsworth (where we join online) and Jim in Manhattan. Jim also is doing some teaching of English. Their daughter Jamie is studying for her MA in English Literature & Theory at KU. Aaron, their son, is studying for a BA in Business and Certification in PGManagement at NMSU.

Scot is living in Salina, KS and is a member at 1st Presbyterian there. He also faithfully worships online with Silliman University Church in the Philippines and keeps us all in touch with Filipino news and acquaintances.

We (the "older folks") are happy at home in Green Valley, being involved with Good Shepherd UCC. We work with GV Samaritans in our dessert where remains of more than 3,900 migrants have been found since 1990. We know that only a portion are found. It is more than we and other hard working humanitarian groups can bear.

We love you all, **joyously**. *Rowland & Judy*

