



Seasons Greetings

1998

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Dear Robert, Barbara, Robin, Mirsha + Jan:

As we look back over this past year we note that there were good times and bad times. For Irene, it has been mostly good times, but for Wesley some times have not been so good.

To begin with on January 5th Irene had cataract surgery on her right eye and it was so successful that she is able to drive the car again. In the spring Wesley had his eyes tested only to find that his problem is a degenerating retina, for which nothing could be done, so he is not allowed to drive. Further examination showed he has cataracts as well, so in October when Irene went back to Dr. Bains for a check, Wesley also saw him and cataract surgery on his left eye is scheduled for February 1999. We hope that it may improve his vision to 20/40 at which time he could have his driver's licence returned. At present he requires magnification and good light in order to read, or use the computer.

The next highlight for Irene was her trip to Seoul, Korea and Tokyo, Japan in May. This was possible since she was registered as a delegate to the World WCTU Convention in Seoul and for a little extra cost could stop over in Tokyo on her return. It was a great experience to see these two oriental cities - the first time I'd been to Asia. The Korean people were very generous and hospitable, and the convention of 250 delegates from 25 countries was very inspiring as well as enjoyable. The growth in Christianity in South Korea in the last 20 years is phenomenal. Seoul is a modern city of 10 million people with a lot of construction of roads, bridges and buildings and reconstruction of old palaces.

Tokyo is also a modern city with 12 million in city boundaries and 18 million people in greater Tokyo. But it is more crowded than Seoul, the streets were narrower and less construction presently taking place, though during the last 20 years many beautiful towering buildings have been built on reclaimed land from Tokyo Bay and in Shinjuku business district. Jonathon Craig was my host and guide here and he took me to Ueno Park and the Japanese and Asian museums, to Kamakura with its Bhuddist temples. On the day he was teaching, I took a tour of the city which included the Meiji Shrine, the entrance to Edo Palace where the Emperor and his family live, the Ginza shopping district and a cruise on Tokyo Bay. He also introduced me to several of his students and co-workers and had dinner with them on three occasions. On my last day there my nephew Shawn and his wife Yasuko came from Kamakura and we had lunch together and visited Craig's School. It was a memorable holiday which I shall always cherish.

We travelled to South Baymouth on Manitoulin Island to be present at the celebration of Shawn and Yasuko's wedding on August 1st. They had been married in Japan the previous fall, but this was their first trip to Canada since then. It was an opportunity to visit with family both the Moote's and the Fobert's. Shawn's 86-year-old Grandmother Fobert was able to attend. John and Rosalie and their family were very gracious hosts, so everyone had a great time and were delighted to meet Yasuko and be charmed by her.

This trip also gave us an opportunity to visit Joan and Wally Crowe in Owen Sound. It was our first visit to their new home there - a lovely large (by our standards) house at the end of the road and across from their 94-acre swamp nature reserve. So they have more birds and animals around than we have now. We visited the Tom Thompson Art Gallery in Owen Sound and also Port Elgin and Southampton while there, as Joan & Wally wanted us to see some of the attractions of the area.

Unfortunately a week after our return Wesley awoke with a painful back which developed into a pinched nerve after a chiropractic treatment. It has gradually improved, so that he can be active as long as he doesn't make a wrong

move. But the doctor wants him to have a CAT scan to determine if there is cause for concern of permanent damage.

Now that we have our new computer in operation and are connected to the internet, we use E-mail a lot to keep in touch with Jonathon and other family members. Jonathon has had two new areas of interest this year. In May he became a co-host of a monthly movie commentary program on Cable TV. The information about the Hollywood productions is in English, so he has a couple of weeks to rewrite it in form of a dialogue in Japanese to go along with the scenes from the movie itself. Then he and the Japanese co-host go to the studio for the filming. It takes most of his spare time during two weeks each month, but he seems to enjoy it. His other interest is a girl friend, Chika, presently living in Guatemala. He visited her in September and is planning another holiday there in January. In between time they correspond by E-mail daily.

Fred keeps in touch weekly but he doesn't travel much. Margaret, Rob and his son Jaryd were at the family gathering in South Baymouth and Jaryd had a great time with some of his Mootie cousins. Rob and Ann both have written technical books which have just been published. Rob's is on computer programming and Ann's is entitled "The Politics of Ecosystem Management". Janet and Nancy have bought houses this year. Janet's required extensive repairs which took a couple months of labour with some help from her Dad. Nancy and Pat's house is newer along the BC coast north of Vancouver, and a month later their daughter Ann Michelle Dickie was born. They have invited the family to their new home for Christmas. Fred and Margaret are not going as Margaret was there in October and November to see her grand-daughter's arrival.

Ruth had a busy year in several organizations she belongs to until she had to have her right knee replacement partially replaced in October. She is slowly improving and is looking forward to Christmas at Donna's when her family will be together. Most of them are in Dunnville area and working, but keep tabs on her as well.

Peter and Bev are occupied with family and Meals on Wheels. Kathi is completing her BA so she can enter theology classes next September. At the same time she is preaching at a small congregation near her home and enjoying it. Bonnie and Bob have moved to a new home, but still in Niagara Falls as are Peter John and Lori and their families.

Muriel's health has been somewhat better this year and she is pleased with her new doctor. Deek keeps busy ferrying cars for a friend's firm, often to USA. Kevin and Zara are both working hard and Muriel sometimes looks after Morgan, who started school this fall. Sharon had a big 50th Birthday Party last April in their new home and invited all the family. Freda and her husband Graham spent several months in Eastern Ontario filing insurance claims for victims of the big ice storm in that area. Muriel is having their family Christmas gathering this year, but decided to have the dinner catered, as it is too much for her to do it all now.

John and Rosalie have had a joyful year. In February Jane, her friend Kathleen and Rosalie went to Japan to visit Shawn & Yasuko. Jane & Kathleen also went to the Olympics to see a couple of events. David and Brenda have a new daughter, Laura Jane who was a real joy at the wedding celebration. That event was a happy occasion for all the family was together, as well as all the guests. They will have Chris and Cindy and their families for Christmas.

Wesley's sisters Evelyn and Alice phoned him on his birthday and we've talked to Evelyn a couple times since. But she and Eric were unable to visit us this year, as it is too long a drive for her comfort. Alice doesn't travel much at all though she is able to drive. Adelene is managing on her own but comes to Toronto at times to see Bruce & Barbara. We hope to talk to all of them at Christmas.

W.W.A

Wesley has completed work on the Leonard Family Tree, but has not yet printed it out for mailing. He wants to send it as an E-mail attachment sometime when he figures out how to transfer it from one computer to the other. We are always glad to hear from you and hope all your family have had a great year in 1998. We've had a marvelous year here - hot and dry (almost too dry) but have avoided all the storms and disasters that others have suffered.

We wish you all a very joyful Christmas season with all your family and a Happy, Healthy 1999.

Irene + Wesley

So much for "the last of life for which the first was made" - Resnerd
I even bought a scanner, but some years 've gone & there's been no time to learn to use it.
I now we're "on" internet. There may be reason for instant communication some "excellent" stuff.
A quote from someone who is too much thank to recall