



*Seasons
Greetings*

THE CALIFORNIA CALL
Health and Happiness Edition
430 Ellsworth Court – San Mateo, California

December, 1956

After he had read our last Christmas letter, written two years ago, a friend said to me, "Why don't you write the next letter, and let Mr. Robinson do the postscript?" I am accepting the challenge!

THE YEAR OF THE CUCKOO: The Chinese designate years as the year of the Tiger or Dragon, or some other symbolic animal. I'll call this the Year of the Cuckoo. The reason is this: Many years ago, in Mills School in Honolulu, we had a Japanese student, Iwao Ayusawa, who after graduation attended colleges in the U.S. until he received a Ph.D. from Columbia University. Then he went to Geneva as Japan's representative on the International Labor Bureau of the League of Nations. When a delegation of the Labor Bureau came to China, he brought us a wonderful Cuckoo Clock which delighted our children and our Chinese friends who stood at attention to hear the friendly, "Cuckoo, Cuckoo." Unfortunately during the war years it was lost, and when we returned to China in 1947, there was no friendly Cuckoo to welcome us. In September, 1955, Dr. Ayusawa and his wife, enroute from Japan to Columbia University, where he was to teach for a year, spent a short time in our home, and a few weeks ago we received a Cuckoo Clock from Geneva, where the Ayusawas had visited their son before returning to Japan. Now, from his perch on our wall Cuckoo calls "Friendship, Friendship." Come, and listen to his call.

FRIENDS, FAMILY, HOME, HEALTH, WORK, — What more can we ask for Happiness? It has been a joy to welcome friends from near and far to our little home, a picture of which greeted you last Christmas. Rob's cousin and his wife came from Massachusetts, and showed us *all* the sights of Yosemite in one day (7 a.m. to 2 a.m.); a cousin of mine and his wife whom we had not seen since we were on our way to China in 1916; China friends with whom we had shared so many joys and adventures; my brother and sister-in-law from the Southland, with their daughter and two children from Mexico (our Mexican cousins); college friends from Dartmouth and Whitman, what a pleasure to see them all. Then the host of new friends we have found in Sunny California, who have crossed our threshold, to enrich our lives.

Family? Seven grandchildren, with their parents have helped us to celebrate holidays and birthdays, keeping us young and happy. From New Jersey we receive letters written by the two young granddaughters, and are thrilled by Long Distance Calls from their parents. But I must not get started on Grandchildren, for I am an enthusiastic member of the S.O.G. Club and dangle a Grandmother bracelet as sign of qualified membership.

Work? Enough to keep us busy and not make us too weary. We are not teaching in the Church School this year, but we treasure the friendship of the high school boys and girls whom we have known for two years. Committee meetings, talks to church groups, making calls, the Council for Civic Unity, and (for me) the League of Women Voters, and an occasional game of bridge, all these activities give variety and interest to our lives, and make up our Happiness.

Health? Our friends tell us that we are growing younger! One friend remarked that my hair cut took off thirty years for me. What can I chop off next?

For all of you who read these lines, I wish a full measure of Health and Happiness, and close with my usual Christmas greeting -

"God Bless Us, Every One."

--- Mary.

POSTSCRIPT.

Among the China friends who have visited us in our little home this past year I want to mention three: Elmer Galt, on his way home from three years of service in Hong Kong; Dr. Adaline Satterthwaite, after four years under the Board of Home Missions in Puerto Rico; and Margaret Hathaway, on furlough from South Africa where she works with the YWCA. They illustrate how widely our China Family is scattered. We hope that more of you will look us up as you journey from the ends of the world to the USA. We live only ten miles from the San Francisco Airport so let us know when you are arriving and we will try to meet you, and if you can come, take you to 430 Ellsworth Court.

We didn't take a long trip during our vacation last August but did have six busy and delightful days in Asilomar attending the Missionary Education Conference, where we met three more China friends: Lucia Lyons and the Roderick Scotts. One of the speakers, Dr. James Robinson, (not from Summit, N.J. but N.Y.C. where he is pastor of a large Negro Church) was about the most dynamic and inspiring person we have met in 1956. If you want to know more about him read his autobiography, *"Road Without Turning."*

My own special new interest this past year has been Senior Citizens. As Chairman of the Commission on the Ministry to Aging Persons of the N. California-Nevada Council of Churches I have enjoyed attending the monthly meetings in San Francisco of the Executive Committee of the Council, and monthly meetings in the same city of the Commission of which I am head. I have also attended several Conferences and other meetings connected with this work and have tried to get churches to do more for Golden Ageds. I preached a sermon in our church last July on *"More*

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Than Methuselah" and helped to arrange for and conduct a Panel Discussion on "Making the Most of Added Years." I have visited such centers as Little House in Menlo Park which has about 1200 members, Senior Center in San Francisco and the newly organized Senior Center in Burlingame, a few blocks from our home. I am pleased to find that Federal and State Governments, as well as local communities, are doing so much to serve this worthy group of citizens. While there are some notable exceptions, it seems to me that the churches in general are lagging behind governments and communities in this important work. I am encouraged by what is being accomplished sufficiently to have agreed to serve again in 1957 as chairman of the Commission on which I have worked this past year and if any of you have any successful projects to report I shall be glad to learn of them.

I see that this P.S. is beginning to "wag the dog" so let's cut it right here. Down with the axe!

May the year 1957 bring as much Abundant Life to you as 1956 has brought to us.

--- Harold Robinson