

A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
A HAPPY NEW YEAR



(1975)

이일선 · 오길화

Timothy & Fivola Rhee

ULLUNG-DO

LETTER

1975, December

Dear Friend,

For the 15th Christmas here in the island, sending our best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you who extended friendship, love and cooperation for our work, we feel our heart is touched deeply more than before.

For the past one year, we treated a daily average of 80 patients, with 10 and more staff. Though the leprosy patients decreased to 4, TB patients and those who are suffering from parasites, liver, and digestive diseases are still the same in number, and the problems of marine accidents and malnutrition remain the same.

We have been taking care of 12 poor students, 8 orphans and 10 old folks, and could supply 4 calves from our "Animal Bank." Our financial situation, however, did not allow us to do any more than that.

The project of our hospital construction that started a long time ago has made some progress, only the basement and the exterior up to 4th floor were finished within this year. The interior of it, however, will be hardly finished even next year. The main reason is that the catch of squid that occupy 80% of the islanders' economy, was the worst this year in 15 years, as a result, the islanders' living for next year looks dark. We have judged therefore that it would be more important to help them keep their living than to proceed with our hospital construction.

As we are still unable to walk freely after the operations, we could not proceed actively the evangelical works in the island, but Timothy could attend the 2nd Convention of Rural Medicine held in Teheran in April, the International Symposium on Dr. Schweitzer delivering a paper on "The way to the world peace" in Japan, and the 5th International Conference of Christian Physicians, which was held in Singapore, and further he delivered sermons at churches and hospitals in abroad. These may be called very meaningful fruits of the year.

Timothy spoke at many colleges and churches at home commemorating the 100th anniversary of Dr. Schweitzer's birth and the 10th anniversary of his death this year, and wrote special articles for occasion for many newspapers and magazines. Now he is pleased to have published a booklet entitled, "Reverence for Life and the World Peace." We believe it was an endeavor to cast a little light and hope to this world which is now covered by a cloud of human life negligence and war. The ideal of "Reverence for Life" has again risen in many countries of the world and this country as well.

It was sorrow for us that our loving mother, 85, passed off on Aug. 31. We are grateful to those who consoled us. Now a sophomore, Suusan (애영) is nearly a young lady; Daniel (대익) will be in the graduating class of his medical school; and Emmanuel (만익) will graduate from Morningside College in Sioux City next year to be engaged in foreign trade in the U. S. or in Korea.

If Gilwha receives her 5th operation after Christmas, she, we expect, will be able to walk freely with an artificial hip bone. Even after 2 years since Timothy received his disk operation, he feels serious inconvenience and can't walk freely so much that he is going to determine next spring whether or not he will be operated again. Thank to His grace that these diseases could not touch our heart.

We are pleased that spiritual progress and activities increased, though it was a year when many difficulties and joy blended. We are simply grateful to have been awarded the Wehern Prize for Social Service in June, thinking that it was a proof that our efforts have been recognized by the society and God as well.

We feel that an orchestra has formed to accompany our song, which was previously sung by us alone, with so many musical instruments played by unexpected friends we never thought about in far away places, and we have experienced so many wonderful things as mentioned above. So, now the sound of this music rising encourages us, to Continue our works on this island.

Today in the first snow in the island, we are sending out this letter with a smile, feeling in the garden that the roses fading but giving us a promise of next spring and the brilliant chrysanthemums in red and white, still freshly blooming, are symbolizing the warm fellowship of our friends who are near or far away from us.

Sincerely yours,

李一善 · 吳吉嬋

Timothy & Gilwha Rhee