



## *Dear Friends and Relatives ,*

Fall on the west coast of Canada is an extraordinary time of year, with gorgeous autumn colours of red, amber and yellow. Then one day, our rainy season arrives. My mailbox begins filling with X'mas flyers. The light posts on main streets are all dressed with X'mas decorations. May I take this opportune time to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a great 2016, and provide you my annual update.

Last April, I took the opportunity to travel with my daughter's family and visit my son-in-law's home country in South Africa. This was my first visit to this southern part of the world. Everything was a unique experience - from meeting warm family friends to immersing in the local environment, but also enjoying the beautiful landscape, the cheerful flowers and plants, the mammal herds, and of course not to forget to mention the dangerous species of snakes and pythons. The deadly black mamba I saw on a video on the airplane was enough to send cold shivers down my back. Honestly, that was the only living thing there that I prayed would not cross our paths. On the return leg, after bidding farewell to the children at Frankfurt Airport, I took a train to visit the city center. It has been almost 20 years since my last visit to Frankfurt during one of my business trips en route to the Geneva United Nations Telecom Meetings. River Main remains very beautiful. Skyscrapers and historical buildings within the city core are remarkably very different. I then went solo to Budapest, Hungary for a few days as I wanted to complete my visit to the Vltava and Danube River historical cities. It certainly is a beautiful city. You likely have seen some of the photos I shared on my web page.

In August, it was great to see my son's family, who came to Vancouver for a short visit. It's amazing to see the little baby turn to become a busy toddler. In November, my daughter called and convinced me that I should join the little fellows for Halloween. So I was in Regina for a few days, having good times with the three lovely grand-daughters. There was no snow yet and warm weather was an additional treat for the costume clad Harry Potter, Witch and Eeyore. Kay Kay has grown much taller and lost some weight. She is articulate. Wei Wei behaves well and asks good questions. Little Yiu Yiu is a fast moving toddler and she is so adorable. Both families are doing well.

At the beginning of the year, I made a resolution that I would turn all family photos to digital form for easier sharing with my children and for storage. I thought an achievable and meaningful goal would be to get all those before 1996 done, which was the year when both A and C left home for university. Up to that point, they pre-occupied my camera's focal interest. That was the plan, but regrettably, I fell short of that target. To date, I converted all my mother's albums and those family albums from 1969 to 1992. Meeting deadlines now are not as good as my project deliveries when I was at work. Nevertheless, this process has been one with many fond memories and love when I reviewed these faded media. And I am glad that at least I made an honest effort to follow through my resolution. Hopefully I have better progress to share next Christmas about this memory inheritance exercise.

I did not go to any of this year's Vancouver International Films. However, I did see a very good drama adapted from a global bestseller. Mitch Albom wrote this autobiographical story, *Tuesdays with Morrie*. Interesting enough, the play was in Cantonese, starring two very good Hong Kong actors King Fai Chung and Kwok Pong Chan. The story was a very good one with universal themes of forgiveness, family, death, life and love. Speaking about dramas, a little known fact to my friends, aside from some living in Alberta, is that I very much enjoy drama, to the extent that in my University days, I organized a drama group as my extra-curricular activity and had a few stage performance. Ahhh, but back to the present times - in the summer, I also went to a FIFA Women's World Cup match between Canada and England. I very much enjoyed both the film and the soccer match!

This past year, there were 5 friends and relatives visiting Vancouver. These were happy occasions from which I had the opportunity to learn how well they have been doing and see that they enjoyed the visit. Hopefully, you will visit me in Vancouver some time in the future as well.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year! Looking forward to hearing from you!

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