



Dear Family and Friends,

With this view from my kitchen window I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Again the Christmas tree has been raised and again we will remember the Prince of Peace who came to proclaim God's infinite love to the world. - With all the turmoil of the year 2011 we sorely need to be reminded of this gift. And continue to work and pray for peace on earth.

Looking back there are so many things to be grateful for. In June my sister Margie and her grandchild Christopher, 11, visited Sweden. Part of this time Ellen, grandchild of my California based brother, was here too. She is doing post graduate work in Norway this year and we hope to see her at Ultuna

University here in Uppsala next year. She is studying veterinary medicine.

My son Ralph is celebrating his 50th this fall. In September he and my daughter Annli took me for a long week end to Paris! On the photo below we're on a boat tour on the Seine. We saw the obligatory sights, but also went to the East Asian Museum - they claim they have the largest collection in Europe. A great privilege to spend time with the two kids for almost four days!

I thought I should escape from my 80th birthday - but friends and family traced me and we, of course, ate Chinese in several sittings! In a small celebration at my son's house Kina Östman, friend and opera singer, turned up and sang music from the 1940ies and 1959ies! What a treat!

The grandchildren are growing. Olivia is a teenager and both she and Pascal, 10, go to music classes. So they are busy doing Lucia pagets these weeks before Christmas. Noel will be 10 on Christmas day. He sings in a boy's choir that gave seven performances during the Advent season. Clara is now 7 years old, and so active!

I did not visit China this year. But cousin Doris went back for the first time in 65 years together with two of her children, Carey and Meilynn. They have shared many photos and it is great to see familiar faces and places! Thank you!

I have been somewhat active in Uppsala Senior University. In the spring semester we offered a series

of lectures on China with some of our foremost Swedish experts. I have, of course, been active in our local church and in a group that is writing about the history of nursing research in Sweden. Two days each month I am part of a group of retired persons who work in the Mission archives in Stockholm. The archive is being computerized and we tend to make many interesting discoveries as we go through the old documents. This is about enough to keep me busy and happy.

Being part of those who are called the "old old" it is inevitable that there are losses in stamina, but also in the social network. This is a reminder that we never should take each other for granted! So, thank you all for being there.

Please keep in touch and if you come to Sweden, do visit! May God bless your New Year!

Lovingly,
Alice/Lally

Alice Rinell Hermansson
Tiundagatan 53
752 30 Uppsala, Sweden
Phone +46 (0)18 525806
rinell@algonet.se



A Qin-musician from the Han dynasty in the East Asian Museum in Paris

