



BLESSINGS 2005

"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." 2 Corinthians 13:14

*Timothy, Dad
Linda, Mom
Wesley, the Strong
Stephanie, the Joyful
Esther, the Wise*

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Merry Christmas to you from the Chan family! We had a very full year. Last Christmas break, we've enjoyed going to children's museum and science museum in VA and NC. We moved in March from Germantown to



Gaithersburg/North Potomac to benefit from a better school district and to be closer to the church. Our children were entertained at home by Tim

with his Adventures of Sweetie Rooper the Mouse stories and by Linda with her Larry, Harry, and Barry stories. We've enjoyed having Wanetta Groeneweg (Mrs. G), an Alliance missionary in Ecuador, stay with us in the spring. Sukmay, our sister and fellow prayer warrior from New York, visited us in the fall. My (Linda's) parents visited us twice this year. We had wonderful fellowship and sharing on their last visit and had the chance to celebrate my father's birthday in person! This summer, we drove from MD to Florida and back with the Fu family and visited Disney World (Epcot Center, Typhoon Lagoon), Everglades (with the meanest mosquitoes on earth!) and other national parks, as well as many stops along the way. That trip was a testimony to true Christian fellowship—we're still friends after 9 days of driving with 9 people in one van and deciding every day what to eat! There are many testimonies, thoughts, and events that we could not share here.

Tim continues to be senior pastor of Gaithersburg Chinese

Alliance Church. He was deeply moved by the plight of the tsunami victims over the Christmas break. After the New Year, he helped to spearhead South East Asia Tsunami Relief fundraiser. This massive event involved 14 area Chinese churches, various Chinese performing arts groups, government officials, and secular organizations.

Several Asian and local newspapers wrote about the fundraiser. A brother from our church teased him by saying that he should write a book on how to organize a fundraiser in 7 days! Shortly afterwards, he was invited by the county government to take part in Martin Luther King, Jr. commemorative celebration. Another big community project he did this year was Water Fun Festival, which was a summer evangelistic outreach requiring manpower from our entire church body.

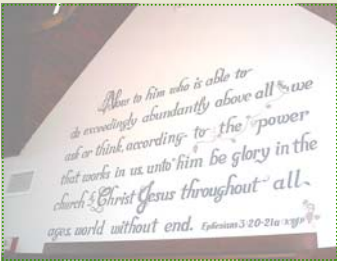


There were 600 people on the church grounds that day, including many new visitors! Tim also kept busy with a lot of home improvement projects, too. So far, he has installed hardwood flooring for the downstairs and part of upstairs levels, laid ceramic tiling for the kitchen, fixed the sprinkler system, put in new refrigerator, stove, and microwave, and cutting grass for the backyard which is about 3 times the size of our previous one! If all that was not enough, he had also racked up frequent flyer miles from 5 church-related business trips he took this year! On one of those trips, he was able to see his family in Hong Kong and his eldest brother in China. On another, he visited with my family in Chicago. Tim agrees with me that he was far too busy this year J

I (Linda) continue to lead Awana in our church in the 4th year. It was God's supernatural strength and peace that helped me, especially since most of my more



experienced teachers had moved on to other ministries this year. There's still a lot of foundational work that has to be done, and God has made it clear to me that it's my job to do it. Please pray for me as I serve in Awana. God also convicted me to memorize the book of Ephesians. So far, I've memorized chapters 1 and 2. The big project for me this summer was to get my Chinese and Jewish praise songs recorded to share with others, a long-time dream



come true! I have copyrighted 30 praise songs on home recordings in the last 2 years. Many thanks to brothers and sisters in Frederick, MD who helped me with the home demo recording! Now I'm starting

to ask people in our church to help with producing a better quality Chinese worship CD next year. Steve Hsieh and Musicstone (Christian music ministry in Taiwan) have encouraged me in my songwriting and even told me the steps to produce a music CD! Our women's fellowship and I had sung one of the Chinese songs during Father's Day at the church, and many were deeply moved. By God's conviction, I joined Chinese choir in the fall. I continued to be involved with Chinese praise band, children's church, and English service. Women's fellowship meetings continue to be a blessing for me. This year, I (finally) got to serve as pianist for the Chinese service. Something different for me was facilitating a workshop in Chinese on women in church ministry during our church retreat. I took a 1-day personal retreat to evaluate my life's journey so far, and honestly, I'm mostly happy with what I have done by God's mercy.

Christine's life continues to bear spiritual fruit 12 years after she had gone to be with the Lord. On two separate occasions, we went able to minister to families who experienced either death or health crisis of their babies.

Wesley, Stephanie, and Esther experienced an amazing answered prayer this summer. I took the children to the community pool to go swimming but found out it was closed. The kids were disappointed, but I didn't know where else to take them. Then Wesley suggested that we go to the health club pool. I was reluctant since I was sure it'll mean paying an expensive fee. Previously, we had membership there, but it already expired. I asked the children to pray. When we arrived, we needed to see the

club manager first. All the children started talking to him at once. The manager thought my children were very cute, and he gave us a complimentary 3-day pass. We were able to use the pool for free! God hears the prayers of children!



Wesley graduated from elementary school and is now a 6th-grader at Robert Frost Middle School. He loves his new schedule and has several good friends but "hates the homework" (his words). He had a chance to share the gospel with Timmy, his good friend in 5th grade, before he moved to another country. His favorite toy is now only Star Wars Legos. He celebrated his 11th birthday at our new home, complete with a big water gun/bucket fight outside and pin-the-lightsaber-on-Darth Vader game, our version of pin-the-tail-on-the-donkey. He got a bigger bedroom since moving to the new house. In chess club, he fought his way to a 4th-place finish at the end of 5th grade and is continuing chess in middle school. His basketball game is improving quite a bit. One of our church families gave us a basketball hoop, and his friends drop by from time to time to play ball with him. One time, he threw the ball backwards over his shoulder, and the ball swooshed clean into the net! He has regular game times with Steve and Kevin, his best friends at school. He received an Excellence award in Awana and is now enjoying youth group at our church on Friday nights.



Stephanie transitioned from 3rd grade to 4th grade in a new elementary school fairly well. The homework's harder, but she's making it with God's help. She made

a couple of new friends but it's still a long way to go. We would appreciate your prayers for her here. She's a whiz at multiplication tables in 3rd grade. She celebrated her 9th birthday at Chuck E. Cheeses with friends from her old elementary school and church friends before our move. It was actually warm and sunny on her birthday, compared to blizzards from previous years. For her dance concert, she had 3 special guests in the audience-her grandparents from Chicago, and our hairdresser who loves dancing. She's continuing her 4th year of ballet and tap. This summer, she started taking piano and doing very well. She's changing from asking for dolls to asking for clothes (a sign of growing up?). Our new neighborhood has more girl friends for her to play with. She's continuing in Awana T&T in the second year.

Esther went from preK4 in a Christian preschool to kindergarten in elementary school with relative ease. She misses her old friends from preschool but she's made a lot of new friends at the new school. She's still a born leader and social butterfly. She is gradually outgrowing stuffed toys to favoring dolls. While learning initials in kindergarten, she asked Tim if his initials were "H.C." We were puzzled until she said that I called Tim "Honey" "all the time at home! We roared over that one! She was the first one to celebrate her birthday at our new house. We must have about 20 children and parents come over. We had a scavenger hunt for everyone, dress-up for the girls, and indoor ball game for the boys with Wesley in charge. She loves doing homework most of the time, and I could not find enough things to keep her busy now. Esther also started piano this summer and making excellent progress. Her best friend at school is Amy. In Awana, she received 2 book awards for Cubbies and is now in Sparks.

