

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Chan family! It is wonderful to receive some of your cards and letters this year! Again, we had a busy 2006 (and when has it not been busy?!) Our vacation was a long-awaited family reunion to Disney World and Holy Land Experience in Florida in August (very hot!). My (Linda's) parents finally have all 6 grandchildren in one place to hug and enjoy! We also went to Brooklyn Tabernacle in New York with almost 50 people from our church to attend their Tuesday night prayer meeting. What a glorious experience! I highly recommend it. Linda's parents also visited us in the fall, as well as Sukmay, our dear sister in Christ. As a family, we take time to pray for the missionaries we are supporting and tell silly stories at the dinner table (Sweetie Rooper-the kids even made up their own theme song for this series; Larry, Harry, and Barry; Red Riding Hood; Purple Alien).



Figure 1—The Girls



Figure 2--Disney World



Figure 3—The Head



Figure 4—The Shoulders

Tim traveled to England, Spain, Germany, Holland, and Russia for missions trips and conferences. We have tons of foreign currency in our home, not to mention souvenirs! One souvenir he bought from Russia was a reprint of Rembrandt's painting of "The Prodigal Son," which we now have framed in our living room. Tim conducted a marriage enrichment conference and counseling sessions in Holland, and his teaching and counsel were well-received by the Chinese families there. He organized a trip for several leaders in our church to attend John Maxwell leadership conference, and it was wonderful and helpful. He has been especially busy this year with helping families in various crises. He receives many encouraging comments from church members about how helpful and practical his sermons have been to them. At home, he spends time upgrading and fixing all 5 of our computers and continues to cut the grass by himself. He helps the children with their homework and helps me around the house. He's a good husband and father, and I still love being married to him!



Figure 5--Russian Team



Figure 6--St. Petersburg CMA



Figure 7--Amsterdam Family Conference



Figure 8--Berlin

Linda continues to lead Awana in its 5th year. Not only were there many new teachers who need training, but 4 teachers of those teachers were recently baptized! So this year, discipleship and training of teachers were a huge part of my role. By God's conviction, I gave a message during Awana about why Halloween was wrong. Some of the parents testified that their children decided not to

participate in their school's Halloween parade after hearing that message. I'd finished memorizing the book of Ephesians, and now I'm working on 1 John. I continued to write English and Chinese praise songs and shared my music with several fellowship groups this year. I dropped out of Chinese choir and English worship leading late this year with regret, but it's because the opportunity finally came to record my Chinese praise songs! Tim asked me to record a Chinese Christian music CD to be given as a love gift to Chinese immigrants as part of Israel short-term missions trip early next year. I marveled at how God had pulled people and resources together in such a short time! If you know from my previous letters, I have waited 3 years for such an opportunity and almost 20 years since I first had my dream to record a music CD. Almost 20 qualified musicians from our church and other congregations will be recording right after Christmas. Even though the waiting was hard, God's timing is perfect! God also moved me to start a new music ministry called Olive Branch (Romans 11:17-21) with the release of this CD, to bring together musicians in our community to spread the gospel through music and to teach new music to the churches. (More on this at a later date.)



Figure 9—Mother's Day Special Music



Figure 10--Christmas Party



Figure 11--Laughters

Christine's brief life is still used to help other families 13 years after her homegoing to heaven. If you do not know, Christine was our eldest daughter born with a heart condition, and she had passed away after 11 days. This year, Tim helped 2 families almost at the same time whose babies had passed away due to health issues. Once again, he drew from our experience with Christine. How were we to know that our experience, which had brought us much grief, would be used so much to help others? Our grief had turned into joy!

Wesley continues to change his interests and hobbies. I hope that by the time he grows up, he would have figured out what he likes to do! He started the year in 6th grade by reading many books on WWII and Civil War, watching all 6 Star Wars videos, planning battle scenes with toy soldiers, swearing that he'll only like math and science classes in middle school, plays chess in school. By the end of this year in 7th grade, he had put aside Star Wars (except for the video game), is doing better in his English class more than his math or science classes (because he really liked his teacher Mr. Ballman), had to study Chinese in school for the first time, was introduced to Suduko, and hardly plays chess anymore. He still likes war stuff. At least he still kept the same friends (Kevin, Steve, etc.)! He completed 3 1000-piece puzzles with his dad (the 3rd one really gave him a lesson in perseverance and ingenuity!). He reads and rereads 'Left Behind' The Kids' book series until I threaten to pull them from his room, and he continues to be crazy about 'Adventure in Odyssey' CD series. He had a water balloon and squirt gun fight with his

friends for his 12th birthday. Wesley went to career camp with his friend Ezra to learn about jobs in the military and computer fields. He also went to a Christian summer camp with Ezra and enjoyed many outdoor sports and his camp counselor. This year, he's on the servant's team in the youth group headed by his youth pastor. We enjoyed playing various kids games together.



Figure 12--Last piece for Holland Puzzle



Figure 13--It's about Rock Climb 101

Stephanie is in her 5th year of ballet (no pointe shoes yet!) and is turning out to be quite a dancer! She had a great ballet and tap dance concert last year. This year in 5th grade, she's a traffic patrol for her school and is always very prompt! Lately she's been playing piano almost every day because she loves the song 'Für Elise' so much! She does this largely on her own initiative. We had impromptu duets on the piano and sing together at home with various songs. She practices on her recorder diligently for music class in school. Stephanie has a quiet and sensitive personality. She continues to love playing make-believe with her sister and showed great imagination in her recent writing at school. She made more new friends in 5th grade. She enjoyed returning to Bible camp this past summer with her friend Emily and also had a couple of sleepovers with Emily and Claudia.



Figure 14--Home Picture



Figure 15--She did it--high up there

The big news for Stephanie this year was how God healed her! In August, she was diagnosed with mild scoliosis. This came as a big shock to all of us. When I cried and prayed before God for Stephanie, God moved me to write a song based on Psalm 23 to comfort me. Stephanie knew a song came out of praying for her. I brought the matter to our church, and many prayed for her healing. When she was examined and x-rayed by another doctor a month later, the results showed a straight back! I saw with my own eyes the before and after prayer results! We praise God for this miracle and gave public testimony in our church. Stephanie also went through surgery on her neck to remove a cyst. For a few days afterwards, the kids at school gave her plenty of attention when seeing a big bandage on her neck! This was the first operation she ever had, and it was a success. We praise and thank the Lord for caring for our daughter.

Esther continues to have loads of charm and personality. She knows how to irritate her big brother and sister to almost no end! She loves to joke around and continues to have lots of friends. We had 20+ children in our house for her 6th birthday (this WILL be the last time!). In turn, she gets invited to lots of birthday parties and playdates. (Mom can't keep up with her social calendar!). She screams the loudest in our family, especially when

being tickled! She resumes dance class this year after a 3-year break and is doing rather well. She likes to play computer games and shows interest in cooking and sewing, often times making her "famous dishes" for us at dinner. She hasn't lost her first baby tooth yet, but she already has an adult molar come in. She also enjoys playing make-believe and dolls with her friends and loves to sing and dance around. She finished kindergarten with a flourish and is now doing quite well in 1st grade, taking home a Dolphin award for excellent learning skills. Esther took art camp this summer, and our house is filled with her drawings. She draws pictures for us as an expression of her love. Esther and I have also written 3 short praise songs together this year-not bad for a girl who only had ½ year of piano lessons!



Figure 16--Just brushed her teeth



Figure 17--I believe in her

I'd like to close with the theme verses for Olive Branch Music Ministry: "But they (Jews) were broken off because of unbelief, and you (Gentiles) stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but be afraid. For if God did not spare the natural branches, He will not spare you either." Romans 11:20-21. It's not by good works or by family lineage that we are saved from our sins, but it is through faith in God.

With love and gratitude,
Tim, Linda, Wesley, Stephanie, Esther
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