

*The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.*  
- Psalm 126:3

### GIVING THANKS

At bedtime, we've been asking Josiah what he's thankful for. So we'd like to share some of what we as a family and as individuals thank God for:

- \* daily food, water, shelter and coverings;
- \* a roomy 3-bedroom, 2 bath apartment with a carport space, unlimited water and garbage allowance, washer & dryer inside, and tiled (not carpeted!) dining room floor;
- \* Winnie's brother Ed driving a gift car (Gilbert's parents' 2<sup>nd</sup> car, a Toyota Camry) along with her Mom to visit us just after Christmas last year so we were able to enjoy an extended holiday together;
- \* Winnie's Mom helping out before and for over a month after...
- \* ... the birth of ANDREW NEHEMIAH CHAN on January 6, 2000! (see our website for details of the 5-minute hospital delivery, etc.);
- \* Gilbert's parents' one-week visit in May;
- \* reasonably good health;
- \* protection all around, especially when driving (once, Winnie found herself about to share a lane with a big rig!);
- \* family picnics;
- \* crafts, rock 'n roll, and construction houses (sometimes from large packing boxes);
- \* doors and drawers that open and close, and doorstops that go "doi-nnngg" when depressed;
- \* well-kept softball fields (with thick grass that slows the ball down);



- \* a loving spouse and two beautiful children;
- \* the beauty each season brings;
- \* Bethel ("house of God") Church where we receive sound Bible teaching, find support and friendship, and are challenged as well as encouraged in our walk with the Lord;
- \* story time, books and videos;
- \* mama, milk and pacifiers;
- \* family vacations (to the San Francisco Bay Area, California; to Seattle, Leavenworth, Winthrop, Yakima and Spokane, Washington; and to Victoria and Vancouver, British Columbia);
- \* naps;
- \* extended family, church families, friends and neighbors, both far and near;
- \* great tenants at our El Cerrito house;

- \* the ability to keep in touch with family and friends via e-mail as well as snail mail (Winnie practically has a moms' support group on e-mail!);
- \* surprise packages and personal mail;
- \* the ability to share God's gracious abundance and goodness to us with others; and
- \* the greatest gift of all: God's Son, Jesus, whose first coming we remember at Christmas, and whose return is certain.

### FAMILY NEWS

Josiah was a big baby, but Andrew is even bigger at 25 pounds and 11 months of age. How did we get such big kids? We can't help but think of the Old Testament prophet Elisha getting double portion of his predecessor's power (read 2 Kings 2:9-14ff). You see, Winnie had miscarried before each live birth. God certainly seems to have blessed both boys with doubly good beginnings. We praise God for His wonderful works!



Andrew likes assisted bouncing, jumping like a bunny, leaping like a lemur, and walking. He longs to be offered "paper or plastic," for he loves to handle both. He spends a lot of time exploring and clearing tables and shelves.

Josiah didn't take well to Big-Brotherdom. After all, he was the main attraction for 3-1/2 years. Now he must share most everything: affections of loved ones, time with parents, all that he's outgrown, and space. Josiah is good at keeping--or taking--things away from "dai-dai" (Cantonese for "little brother"). Josiah often talks about his many "co-workers" when he's not constructing a skyscraper or house, operating a truck, train, plane or ship, or serenading captive audiences. He enjoys building with Daddy using Duplo®, Lego®, or Lincoln logs, and story time or creating train layouts with Mommy.

Winnie thought the toughest thing she did this summer was help supervise a Sunday School class of 2- and 3-year-olds, but training up our 4-year-old is proving to be even more challenging. Parenting is definitely the most demanding and purposeful life assignment she's received so far; there's so much to learn! She desires a deeper walk with Jesus and renewal of joy in life. Towards this end, she joined the "Bible Bus" with J. Vernon McGee of Thru the Bible Radio teaching the five-year program studying the entire Word of God (check your local Christian radio station for broadcasts in your area).

Gilbert is still working on the same project, except now his company letterhead reads CH2M Hill Hanford rather than Bechtel, as they are temporarily managing the project. After the contract is awarded for the detailed design and construction phase of the project in early 2001, Gilbert will probably transition to working for that company.

On Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> of October, Gilbert and Winnie celebrated their anniversary early by using the gift certificate for a one-night hotel stay that they won last Christmas. That evening, they enjoyed dinner in a converted railroad sleeper car, saw fireworks from the parking lot, danced, and enjoyed the view and sunrise from their hotel room overlooking the Columbia River. Couldn't have done it without the family who graciously hosted our sons overnight. ☺

Neither Winnie nor Gilbert considers this area "home" yet, although they may transfer church

membership soon. By living in an apartment, they've managed to avoid acquiring too much more stuff, and greatly reduce time spent on property maintenance or improvements. In one way, this is a reminder that this world is also not our home, and that committing our efforts for things in this lifetime only is being shortsighted.

### NOTABLE QUOTABLES OF THE YEAR

"Too bad I won't get to use the jacuzzi..." (Winnie upon entering the hospital room minutes before giving birth)

"I have no projects..." "Bringing up children is enough of a project." (Winnie and another mom)

"Remember the greatest work you will ever do will be within the walls of your own home. 'No success can compensate for failure in your home'." (nurse midwife who delivered Andrew)

"I wish when Josiah was an infant I knew what I know now—I would have worried less and been more relaxed." (Winnie)



"Mommy, what do you want to be when you're old enough?" "Old enough." (Josiah and Winnie)

"You are going to be a bus driver and I am going to be a truck driver" (Josiah prophesying to Mommy)

"I like the summer Preschool Activity Time better. I don't get bossed." (Josiah saying why he didn't like regular preschool as much)

"Just like the astronauts would float around in space if they weren't connected to the space station, people are kind of floating around aimlessly when they're not connected with the Source of Life, that is, God. God is always reaching out to us, but we must take His hand to get connected—He won't force us to take hold of Him." (Winnie to Josiah)

We wish you and your loved ones a Spirit-touched holy season filled with giving thanks and love.

*Gilbert, Winnie, Josiah and Andrew*

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