

December 2003

**¡Hola!**

Last Christmas, our family got a nice tent from Winnie's sister's family. We set up the tent twice in our living room (took up most of the room) and "camped out" once in the backyard with some friends.

Josiah got his first prescription pair of glasses last December. Then Andrew turned three, and will be four on January 6, 2004! Here's a picture of Gilbert and Winnie on Valentine's Day:



**Trips.** We were blessed with two trips to California this year. In June, we surprised Gilbert's dad on Father's Day before going down the coast to the Santa Cruz/Monterey area. In late November, we spent two days in South Lake Tahoe and four in the Bay Area. The best part of both trips was time with family and friends. Gilbert and Winnie's wedding anniversary was on Thanksgiving Day this year. To celebrate 10 years of happy marriage, they took a swing dance lesson while Grandpa Chan watched...

**... The Boys.** **ANDREW** tested allergic to peanuts (like his brother did), tomatoes and tree nuts--good thing he eats most everything else (unlike his brother).

Josiah quite appropriately calls Andrew a "copycat," for he likes to rub up against Mom and Dad, lay across furniture or our laps, do things in his own time, and cause mischief. Oh yes, he can "meow" quite convincingly, too!

Andrew often "copies" or recites phrases or songs from children's books, videos and computer games, as well as what people say. One statement he

parrots is our advice to "let your yes be yes and your no be no" (James 5:12) because he tends to say one thing, then immediately say or do the opposite.



Alas, as cute as Andrew is, he often intentionally aggravates family members, and is more motivated by loss of privilege or punishment than by reward. He needs to learn to do the right thing even if he doesn't "want to" or "feel like it."

Having lost interest in music class (though now ready to take it up again next year), Andrew and his brother were enrolled in Spanish for Kids. They enjoy their classes and are able to say colors, numbers and a few words in Spanish.

Though **JOSIAH** continues to show an attention to detail that Andrew has not acquired, we still felt he wasn't ready for the regimen of Chinese School. Fortunately, he hasn't minded the homework for Spanish class. He's doing well in second grade, too.

Josiah still enjoys building with Lego® and K'nex®, often creating his own vehicles and monstrous mutants. But gone is his interest in big rigs. Gone is his fascination with big work machines. In its place is a strong drive to read.

Josiah devours Lego® magazines, Calvin and Hobbes comics, mail order

catalogs, Magic Tree House mysteries, and other books. He's also been read to from books about Father Damien (missionary to lepers of Molokai), the Biblical characters of Lydia and Deborah (namesakes of his twin cousins), and Gladys Aylward (missionary to China).

After a week of basketball camp, a week of Honto Ryu karate, and two visits to the indoor ice rink this summer, Josiah hasn't excelled in any sport yet.

Josiah lost his first tooth shortly before his 7th birthday,



which was celebrated with a Hawaii-themed party at the local children's museum with several friends.

### **Media & Their Messages.**

Rick Warren's book, The Purpose Driven Life, reminded Winnie of her need to rely on the Savior and Lord Jesus for help in living life His way. Indeed, life is all about Him (God), not us.

In her third year on the "Bible Bus," Winnie continues to gain new insights on the person of Jesus Christ throughout the Bible. Dr. McGee is teaching on Proverbs now (check <http://www.tt6.org/> for airing times in your area or to listen online to archived broadcasts for the past two weeks). Other worthwhile radio programs (and websites): Chip Ingram's "Living on the Edge" ([www.lote.org](http://www.lote.org)) and Chuck Missler's "66/40" Bible study ([www.khouse.org](http://www.khouse.org)).

We were all introduced to PC game CDs this year (watch out for free samples in “specially marked packages”!). Our family has found “Pajama Sam” and “Spy Fox” “dangerously” addictive. Although Gilbert joins in, he still is partial to online chess and a 1980’s-vintage “Trek” game.

Winnie admits responsibility for introducing the boys intentionally to “I Love Lucy” videos and innocently to Dav Pilkey’s “Captain Underpants” books that contain pure “boy humor” which our boys talk and joke about ... too often.

Their song of the year is Veggie Tales’ “**The Pirates Who Don’t Do Anything.**” Speaking of, here’s “Pirate Joe” with “Firefighter Drew” at our church’s Halloween alternative event:



**A Quiz!** Guess who—

- (a) Josiah; (b) Andrew;  
(c) both; (d) neither

—said or did the following this year (answers at the end):

- 1) “The way of agape is choosing moment by moment to love God so that He then, can love others through you.” (quote from Nancy Missler)
- 2) “Smell my armpits!”

- 3) Locked Mom out of the house.
- 4) “phototonic”
- 5) “I won’t do it!”
- 6) “Yes, Mom!”
- 7) “Daddy will be SOOO impressed!”
- 8) Matches socks for a penny a pair
- 9) “You should disobey Mama.”
- 10) “I want to be foolish.”

Answers: 1) b 2) c 3) b 4) a  
5) b 6) d 7) b 8) c 9) b 10) b

**What’s New.** In first grade, Josiah entered the school’s spring science fair, with an exhibit on solar energy. As a second grader, he had his first speaking line (“Don’t you remember anything?”) in the school holiday program this month.

Two different small birds came down our chimney two separate times. Only one survived. Since then, we’ve lit the fireplace for the first time since moving in two years ago. The house smelled smoky for days.

At Tahoe, we each took our very first ski lesson! Also went “saucer-ing” on old snow—ouch!

**GILBERT** led a men’s accountability group this year. He also captained one of our church’s softball teams. Officially, his team tied for first place with the team they lost to, but because there was no playoff or tie breaker, he still cannot claim having been on a first-place team in any sport except fifth-grade flag football (where he sat on the bench).

Gilbert is in a guitar class, and occasionally joins Winnie for the messianic Jewish dance class, both offered at church. Winnie finally gets to sing in a choir again, too—for Christmas Sunday. These have all been enriching and fun activities.

**WINNIE** enjoyed playing “Professor Wonder” for a month and being joined by Gilbert in presenting K-1st grade Sunday class lessons this fall.

In November, Winnie had surgery for the first time in decades since having four wisdom teeth and another tooth extracted at one time. The laparoscopic surgery was to remove a 4cm. paraovarian cyst (thankfully only the cyst had to be removed). The cyst tested benign and her recovery went well, thanks to many friends who prayed and helped in practical ways, and to God’s Leaf-Blowing Service that made raking leaves virtually unnecessary so that she could rest—God is so merciful and good! Praise Him!!

With the death of several friends from the Bay Area this past year, we have a greater appreciation for the precious gift of family and friends like you. Let’s keep in touch, and may God bless you with His peace, joy and love until we meet again.



**Feliz Navidad y Prospero Año Nuevo—**

Winnie, Andrew, Gilbert y Josiah