

December 2004

Dear

O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures for ever!
(Psalm 107:1)

Gardening Parables. Last year, Winnie transplanted two green plant experiments from the kids' schools; both died. This year, she divided a healthy, overcrowded, green houseplant into two pots. At first, it looked like they would die, but then they adjusted and both plants are doing well, with new sprouts growing. **God is gracious!**

After an unusually white and cold winter, it was painful to prune the rose bushes in the spring—parts had to cut back to the base. But the roses bounced back nicely. **God is faithful!**

The boys also planted their own strawberry patch and enjoyed the fruits of their labor. **God is good!**

Milestones. Andrew became potty-trained at age 4. Josiah lost two top front teeth in time for his class picture—one before his 8th birthday, and one in September, which he removed himself!

This marks Gilbert's fifth year on the vitrification project—his longest ever on a single work assignment.

Winnie turned 45 and still learning new things like operating the audiovisual equipment at church for large group meetings.

2004 News. Both Andrew and Josiah dabbled in gymnastics, swimming, drama, and ice skating. Andrew tried soccer but had other ideas how it's played. Josiah enjoyed coach-pitch softball the most.

Josiah began 3rd grade at another school, Amistad. He is blessed with a teacher who understands and appreciates his uniquenesses. The program is stimulating and he is doing well.

Andrew is in preschool three times a week and doesn't mind doing homework. He and Josiah can recite (though not obey) the Ten Commandments. We've been challenged and inspired reading short biographies to Josiah of godly people like Billy Graham, Luis Palau, David Livingstone and Samuel Morris.



Gilbert started coaching the newly-formed chess club at Amistad. He now leads the church's Asia-Pacific Global Outreach Support Team and put together Bethel's missions prayer calendar for 2005.

Over a year after Gilbert's Dad remarried, his wife was finally granted a visa to immigrate from China to the U.S. Mu Lan arrived on December 3--hurray!

Presenting Gato Cub and Lego Brick:



Another highlight was spending two days with Winnie's Mom and brother Edmund (and seeing nephew Damien, too,) in Portland.

Winnie had fun hosting a Pampered Chef® party at home. She and friend Paula began meeting weekly to pray for their sons and others attending or working at Amistad. They are part of Moms in Touch International® (for more info, see www.momsintouch.org). Messages from church and radio drove home the necessity of filling both the **God-shaped void** as well as the **purpose-shaped void** in our lives. This involves

knowing God through His Word and fulfilling the purpose for which God created us. Towards these ends, Winnie continues on the Bible Bus, and joined the church's singing group that goes out in two's or more to sing hymns and carols on a regular basis at assisted living facilities and wherever welcomed. She also started helping school children learn to read through Team Read.

They Said It: Josiah—Your anger would glow in the dark, and “Thingamagoggle.” **Andrew**—I have a cold. That's why I have hiccups.” “Do the monkey dance!” “I am giving you a mean kiss.” “I forgot I fell in love with you.” “Diagony” (diagonal).

We plan to spend the Christmas holidays with family and friends. May the light of Christ bless you with peace, hope and joy this holy season and throughout the new year. With love--



Gilbert, Winnie, Josiah & Andrew