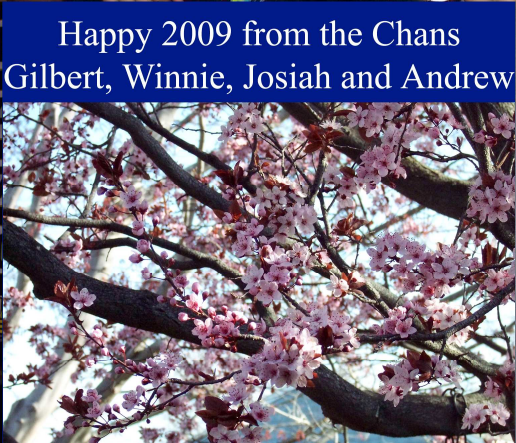




Mr. & Mrs. Chan, Mrs. Chu, Winnie, Gilbert



Happy 2009 from the Chans
Gilbert, Winnie, Josiah and Andrew



Cub News. This year, **Josiah** brought home a trophy from the I Love Chess 2 competition at the State Chess Champion-ship. Just before turning 12 in August, he took up Tae Kwon Do and now sports a gold belt. In pre-adolescent style, Josiah insists “homework is bad for your health.” In response to his brother’s inquiry, he said, “middle school is like the (Dairy Queen) Blizzard Fan Club—fun at first but then....” The best part of middle school for him is “playing computer games in computer class.” Josiah still loves reading and playing Lego stuff, especially clone troopers.

Andrew’s favorite acquisition just before his 8th birthday was Happy Bear. Daddy helped him make a Catmobile (with a sound box that would meow when bumped) for the Pinewood Derby. Now a Bear Cub, Andrew participated in his first summer Cub Scout Day Camp; he scored extremely well in BB guns. He took off his own baby front teeth and started wearing glasses full-time.

Andrew took first place in the grades K-2 section at consecutive chess tournaments during the winter, so Dad prodded him to play in the grades 3-4 section, where he did well enough to help Amistad Elementary get its first team trophy (2nd overall in that section at the Eastern Washington Chess Championship). Early this December, Andrew had his best tournament ever, taking 1st in the grades 3-4 section.

Andrew has a growing collection of pressed pennies from different places we’ve visited. Both Josiah and Andrew collect and play Star Wars pocket models. They took up knitting with hand-held looms and completed some small projects.

Josiah and Andrew have been part of the Jr. Rock Club in town for the second year now, and we finally went on our first rock dig on the 4th of July and brought home thundereggs, geodes and jasper from Richardson’s Ranch.

Parents’ News. **Winnie** and some fun ladies did improv(-isation) on the last evening of a women’s winter retreat. Many women said it was a highlight and found the laughter very therapeutic. Winnie realized then how much women *need* such hearty releases.

In May, Winnie and a good friend spent enormous time and energy coordinating a carnival for Andrew’s school. She’s glad for the experience but doesn’t have the time for a repeat performance. These days, Winnie finds it hard to easily read 8-pt. type without bifocals.

She hosted her first summer 5-Day Club to which children came to hear teens trained by Child Evangelism Fellowship¹ teach and sing about Jesus (and missionary Hudson Taylor) each afternoon for five days. We later asked CEF to do an after-school “Everybody’s Birthday Party” to which three children came--one child invited Jesus into his ♥. ☺

Listening to *Waking the Dead* on CD, being challenged to be a “Romans 12 Christian”² and attending the church’s Transformation Conference made Winnie ripe for fresh spiritual growth.

She resumed Bible Study Fellowship³ in September and was soon asked to be a small group discussion leader. Wanting to help make it possible for women new to Bible study or new to BSF to join, she agreed.

Winnie’s study of the life of Moses has paralleled her training in BSF. She is now experiencing anew, blessings that obeying God by faith brings. Her spiritual life is deepening as prayer, Bible study, and obedience to the Holy Spirit take higher priority. She’s also committed to the Moms in Touch⁴ prayer group for Josiah’s school and a church group for families with middle school children.

Gilbert trains new employees at Bechtel, and still plays men’s softball and coaches kids’ soccer. He and his wife of 15 years enjoy dancing at senior citizen balls (no, they are *not* that old yet!). They hosted a California & Gold Party in June and had an unexpected visitor: a 15-minute rain storm.

Special Events in 2008. On January 21, Gilbert led the family on a long walk that very cold morning, re-enacting what it might have been like in Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s day, to have to walk somewhere instead of ride a bus during the boycott following Rosa Park’s arrest. We ended our trek with breakfast at the International House of Pancakes.

We went to Hawaii with all three grandparents to celebrate Winnie’s Mom’s 80th birthday. We immensely enjoyed Mr. & Mrs. Nakakura’s warm aloha hospitality and friendship. Some of us hiked up Diamond Head and toured the pineapple plantation. All of us had good experiences at the Pearl Harbor Memorial and the beach. A major highlight was the full day at the Polynesian Cultural Center that ended with a luau and a fabulous evening show.

Our family flew to Los Angeles to help celebrate Winnie's Uncle Henry and Aunt Mary's 50th wedding anniversary—what a beautiful testament of marital faithfulness, commitment and love!

Soul Food. We went to the drama “Judgment House” for the first time—what an intense, thought-provoking “traveling” play that moved the audience from room to room for the next scene. The main characters were a mother and her teenage daughter. Both died. Both appeared at the entrance to heaven. Both were pronounced guilty of severe and multiple sins. One person was covered by the blood of Christ because she repented and believed Jesus died for her sins. She was welcomed into Jesus' presence in heaven where she will dwell securely and happily forever. The second person staunchly defended herself as being basically a good person and she blamed others for her problems. She was condemned to Satan's domain where she will be tortured forever. Wow, sobering thoughts!

Through church sermons and small group discussions, we gained a deeper appreciation for the blood of Christ and now we're studying the last book of the Bible. In light of recent developments in the world, we sense that the things of this book are coming to fruition. Judgment of the church and the world are imminent, and Jesus will soon rapture His true followers. Then the chain of events recorded in Revelation 4-22 will take place.

Perhaps you will choose to make the book of Revelation your choice of reading over the holidays. It promises a blessing “to the one who reads the words of this prophecy,” and to “those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near” (Revelation 1:3).

We live in challenging and unsettling times. We thank God for His peace as we hope and trust in His Son, Jesus. O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Blessings to you and your loved ones this holy time of year—

Gilbert, Winnie, Josiah and Andrew Chan

¹www.CEFonline.com

²www.LivingOnTheEdge.org

³www.BSFinternational.org

⁴www.MomsInTouch.org

P.S. You may want to check out:

The Truth Project DVD series

Step into Africa traveling AIDS exhibit (visit www.WorldVisionExperience.org)

Josiah and Andrew's computer game picks:

www.popcap.com for *Bookworm Adventures*
and *Platypus*

www.candystand.com for *Fancy Pants*

www.armorgames.com for *Bubble Tanks*

www.lego.com

Occasional Chan Family updates at: www.geocities.com/gwjachan/blog

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