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In reflection...

Last month, we went to Taiwan to celebrate Susan's grandma's 80th birthday and Wu family reunion. It was the first time since her family immigrated to the U.S. in 1987 that they were all back together in Taiwan at the same time, but this time with three additions to the family - the three son-in-laws!

We stayed at the same house where Susan was born and grew up in. It was a wonderful time of family gathering and reminiscing, which included mostly eating and scouring the city for old favorite eating places. Some things never change even after 20 years!



Eating "xiao long bao" at famous "Ding Tai Feng" in Taipei

Aside from all the family gatherings and dinners, we also celebrated our one year wedding anniversary! Thanks to a family friend's gift, we got to celebrate our anniversary at a beautiful spa resort in Taiwan and reflect on our first year of marriage. It sure has been a year filled with plentiful blessings, friends, travels, lots of "new"s and "first"s in our journey and life together.



Grandma with all her grandchildren

His perfect provision...

April 2006 - After one semester of language studies at Fudan University, Jason decided to begin his job search while doing self-paced language study at home. Thanks to the great network of friends and connections, he got a job at Roche Pharmaceutical R & D as a senior



The three additions to the Wu family!

research scientist. Jason leads a small research team working on the latest in cancer-fighting drugs along with several local projects. He enjoys his research as well as working with some of the most brilliant scientists in China. He is thankful to be part of the forefront of scientific research here.

Healed by faith...

In July, we flew back to the U.S. to visit family in all different places - Virginia, Boston, New York, and San Francisco! All the traveling was quite tiring and by the end of our two weeks visit, Jason got really sick and had a serious eczema outbreak caused by the herpes virus. His face was completely covered with sores and looked as scary as Freddy Krueger



Boston reception in July

from Nightmare on Elm Street. According to our doctor friend, it was the worst he's ever seen and could be considered a "textbook case"! Our return to Shanghai was postponed "indefinitely" as we visited numerous doctors, dermatologists, specialists, and waited for recovery. It was a trying time as the outbreak happened so suddenly and we didn't know how long it would be until Jason was fully recovered. We trusted in the One who could heal and miraculously, Jason recovered in less than 2 weeks, significantly faster than what the doctors had anticipated! We are thankful for all the support and prayers of family/friends.



That's what Jason looked like!

The sixth year...

In September, Susan started her 6th year at SMIC Private School, one of the only three teachers left from the school's first inaugural year (2001). This year, she took up the elementary computer teaching

position, teaching all of grades 1 to 5 -- 378 students in all! On the side, she also works with high school students in the school's community service club, bridging together the



Community Service Club students volunteering at a clothing drive event.

local and expatriate youth and working together to make positive contributions to the community. Some of the events included flea market, food stands, clothing drive, art charity, peer tutoring, etc... of

which most proceeds (if any) were given to various charities.



Shipping over 800 boxes of clothing to rural areas in China

A new home...

In October, after our travels (honeymoon part 2) to Malaysia, we plopped down a big portion of our assets on our very first home here in Shanghai. The apartment is located near where we currently live, convenient both to our work places and spacious enough to house a big family! It was a big decision but we felt that this is where we belong for the next "while." Despite all the "ma fan" (inconveniences) of banking and purchasing a home in China, we are excited to be first time homeowners! It will be another half a year until we can move to our new place due to all the [re]modeling, which could hardly be called such



Our new home! Come and visit us!

since apartments in China come with nothing but concrete walls. We look forward to moving in to our own place and being able to hold big gatherings, start a family, and host family/friends that come and visit! Do let us know when you come and visit Shanghai!

O holy night, the star is bright and shining...

In October, we also started a weekly English corner at Jason's company. It was an opportunity to do something together while getting to know his colleagues better outside of professional work. Every week we worked together to come up with engaging and interactive lessons, everything from playing games to watching/discussing bits of current news videos to singing Christmas carols. We've had a few conversations related to the faith especially with the coming of the holiday season. We hope to continue building relationships with Jason's colleagues.

Busiest month of the year...

After celebrating our one year anniversary in Taiwan, things got really busy all of a sudden in December! Jason was invited by East China Normal University to give a guest lecture to chemistry majors. He was also recruited by MIT as an educational counselor, giving interviews to several prospective [international] students, of which are all "cream of the crop" in China. Susan finally successfully completed the initial home purchasing transactions after countless trips to the bank. Much more will come when we start the interior decorating process. We also attended two friends weddings and this week, we hosted two Christmas gatherings at our place - one for our youth group and one for various local friends we've networked with (Jason's work, university students, friends of friends, etc..) And in between, both Jason and Susan battled against the flu that's been going around as well as another

eczema outbreak for Jason. Thankfully with previous knowledge of the condition and treatment necessary, it wasn't as bad as summer.



Taking a ferry to Redang Island in Malaysia

All in all, we look back on this year -- this new season of life together - with grateful hearts

for every experience and lesson learned. Wishing you and your family the very best in 2007!

Love,

Jason and Susan

Ps - You can always read updates and view photos on our website at <http://www.blindmansfaith.com>