



# The State of Sunshine

December, 2005

Well, hey there everyone! Merry Christmas! Things are well with the Chans, and I hope all is well with you and your families, too. It's been pretty busy in Monrovia these days. PTL we have all been good health this year, and able to do everything on our busy schedules.



This year Mom and Dad took a Tahitian cruise in February, saw the cherry blossoms in Japan in March, and rode camels in the China desert in August. Next year's trips include a South America cruise in February, a big tour to China and Hong Kong in April, a British Isles & Iceland cruise in July, yet another big tour in China in October, and then mom's school reunion in Hong Kong and Macau in December. When they are home, both still busily serve at church, with dad ministering to our elderlies in hospitals and convalescent homes and doing other "deacon stuff", and mom running the church bookstore.

Kevin and Susie earned their share of frequent flyer miles with their annual anniversary trip to Hawaii in January, a summer vacation to Italy in June with Susie's niece Christi, and another trip to Hawaii in August with Susie's brother Joe and wife Denise to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of Joe donating his kidney to Susie. Kevin still works at Broadcom, and continues to serve as the Superintendent of the college Sunday School department at church, and Susie continues to serve

with the elementary school-aged kids.

As for me, I passed my 19-year anniversary at JPL, still working as the Program Secretary on the Cassini Program [<http://saturn.jpl.nasa.gov>]. Cassini had successful deployment of the Huygens Probe last Christmas, and in mid-January had a spectacular touchdown on Saturn's moon Titan. I was featured in an online interview by the Planetary Society, which was very cool [[http://www.planetary.org/news/2005/0318\\_A\\_Conversation\\_with\\_Karen\\_Chan\\_Cassini.html](http://www.planetary.org/news/2005/0318_A_Conversation_with_Karen_Chan_Cassini.html)]. The budget situation turned bad for the new fiscal year, but I managed to survive a round of layoffs in October. For the "where'd she go this time?" list, I was sent to Florence, Italy in February and then to London, England in August to support science meetings. Vacation trips included the Tahitian Cruise in February (where I managed to avoid drowning while snorkeling, despite my complete lack of swimming skills!) with my parents and Scott, a couple of weekends in Las Vegas, 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend going to baseball games in Central California (4 nights, 4 games!), and attending the wedding of some friends in Ohio at the tail end of my London trip. Homier activities included taking care of toddlers in Sunday School, hanging out with Scott, beading and cross-stitching, playing softball with the Bruisers (only one major boo-boo



this year, but it wasn't doctor-worthy, thankfully!), rooting for the L.A. Dodgers (Go Blue!!!!), going to Jazzercise classes, and working my Mary Kay business (free facial, anyone?).

Next years travel plans include a Caribbean Cruise and spring training baseball games in March with Scott, meeting up with the rest of my family for a few days in Hong Kong in late April, a possible work trip to Nantes, France (budget pending), and a possible trip back East to visit Scott's family.

I guess that's it for now. Seems like I always run out of room in these letters! As usual, I always welcome hearing from folks, and also as usual I'll try to be better about returning correspondence. Merry Christmas, Everyone, and I hope you have a fun, happy, healthy, and fabulous 2006!

