



# The State of Sunshine

December, 2006

Hi All! I hope all is well with all of you – things are chugging along great here in Monrovia. It's been a busy year for all of us, but we've been very blessed that everything is going well.



Mom and Dad went everywhere this year. In February they took a cruise to South America, in April they took a trip to Huangshan Mountain in China and Hong Kong, in July they took a cruise to the British Isles and Ireland, and in October a trip to the northeastern part of China. Between all those trips, Dad had some blood tests and a biopsy, was diagnosed with early stage prostate cancer and, on August 16, underwent a radical prostatectomy. The surgery went smoothly, dad did really well, and he recovered in time for the October trip. Both of them continue to enjoy their retirements and serving at church in the Bookstore, and as a Deacon and Head Usher.

Kevin and Susie remain as busy as ever and both have enjoyed good health. Kevin still works at Broadcom in Irvine, and recently began a 2-year Executive MBA program at UCLA. Their travels included their annual anniversary trip to Hawaii in January, and then a tour of Japan and Hong Kong in April. At church, they continue to work with the College Sunday School and Children's Ministry departments.

The Chan Clan had a bit of a population explosion. Cousin Cayley and his wife Linda had a baby girl, Kelsey, in March; cousin Yvonne and her hubby Chris had twin boys, Nathan and Daniel, in July; and cousin Gayley and her hubby Andy had a baby boy, Riley, on Thanksgiving Day. Cousin Heather and her hubby Fred announced that they were expecting and due in mid-Feb. 2007, but little Jasmine was in a hurry and made her appearance on November 28. So far, it looks like Jasmine will be fine.

Life has been pretty happy in the world of Sunshine -- playing softball with the Bruisers, cheering on the LA Dodgers (yaay, playoffs!), doing Jazzercise, taking classes at San Gabriel Bead Company, weekends in Las Vegas, and running my Mary Kay business. This year's special MK activities included teaching Skin Care, Makeup, and Manicure/Pedicure classes to the Women's Ministry group at church, and organizing a Pampering Party for ladies at the Grace Center, a local domestic violence advocacy facility. At church, I still serve in the Nursery Department working with one-year-olds, and I also taught a beading class for the Women's Ministry. At JPL, I continue to enjoy working on the Cassini Program. Our spacecraft continues to bring in tons of scientific data about Saturn and its moons, and many beautiful pictures. We even made the cover of the December 2006 issue of National Geographic! You can read more about us at <http://saturn.jpl.nasa.gov>. Presently, we are hoping for an extended mission, which could keep me employed until 2010.

Scott and I are still together and going on trips when we can. Scott has a new job "Deputy Project Manager for SQI" (Software Quality Improvement, whatever that is), which is keeping him very busy. In late March, we cruised the Caribbean on Holland America's Westerdam, and while we were on the left coast, also paid visits to his dad in Stuart, FL, and my beloved Dodgers in games at both Vero Beach and Jupiter. A couple of weeks after returning from the Caribbean trip, I flew off to Hong Kong to meet my parents, brother and Susie for a few days. We stayed in the famous Peninsula Hotel, celebrated my birthday, did some sightseeing, and had some really nice family time. In June, I went on a Cassini trip to Nantes, France (three-hour train ride west of Paris) for nine days, then flew from Paris to New York City where Scott and I met up to go visit his mom & sister in Brewster, NY and his brother in Stow, MA before coming home. After getting home from the France/Boston trip and a short Independence Day weekend in Vegas, I actually stayed home for three whole months! In November, we had a quick weekend in Vegas, then I was off to the Bead and Art Glass Fest in Orlando, FL where I took some classes, did a lot of shopping, and visited with friends there. I had a blast! My final trip of the year will be flying out Christmas night with Mom and Dad to Macau for mom's 50<sup>th</sup> high school reunion. Next year, I'm hoping to be approved for a Cassini trip to Athens, Greece in June, and Scott and I are planning a northern California baseball tour to watch some minor league teams play in Fresno, Bakersfield, Sacramento and Stockton in July. Check out the Family Gallery section of my web page for pictures from some of these trips!

As always, I welcome hearing from folks whether electronically or on paper or phone. I know I haven't been very diligent at maintaining contact with folks, but I'll try harder! Merry Christmas, Everyone, and I hope you have a fun, happy, healthy, and blessed 2007!

Karen ☺

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*2006, the picture version!*



Visiting Mont St. Michel, France  
(yes, that's really me!)



Mom & Dad's 46<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



Taking a dip with my horse in Montego Bay, Jamaica



Kevin and Dad being silly in Hong Kong



Watching the Dodgers in Vero Beach!



Swimming with stingrays in Georgetown, Grand Cayman



Relaxing in Nantes, France



Hangin' at the Cats Meow in Costa Maya, Mexico