

# Merry Christmas From the Strands

December 2010



We would like to look back on 2010 with this picture collage commemorating special times with family. In June we visited relatives in Norway (to the right is Europe's largest inland glacier). This was followed by family reunions for both the Knudsons (left) and Strands (right). Bjorn and Marit were baptized.



and Anders both enjoyed playing American football for the first time



as well as learning a little farming with their Uncle Jeff.



We returned to the US in June for our year-long home assignment. We are thankful for a number of new partner churches.



In November I returned to China to attend the Evergreen annual meeting. Our people are doing very well. Board chairman **Mike Pocock** was there. Here he is with Yuci Regional Director **Guo Jinzhi**, at her Rongyi Infant's Store, Evergreen's newly incubated business.

We have seen growth in each of our three regions as we seek to accomplish our ministry goals. After a busy summer hosting over 100 young people at youth camps, organizer **Greg Cole** was able to speak to the first young adults fellowship in that region. **Carol Lee** has had a lot of responsibilities in TY this year. One of the SS teachers she is working with recently joined our "Life Education" training, this allowed her to improve her teaching skills, and better integrate her work in the church with ministering to dozens of young people in the community who don't yet know the Lord. This straddling the church and the world is a unique calling we feel in Evergreen. **Paul Douglas** launched a Bible literacy class for believers in YC, which has become a fascinating experiment in "teaching theology and literacy simultaneously."



**Jonathan Lee** (below) has taken on many of my responsibilities. I am thankful for the portion of my load that he has carried

so effectively, but I am even more excited about the way his current role has allowed for his many gifts to shine.

At **Salem EFC** in Fargo, where we are now attending, Rene is serving as AWANA group



leader and Mark co-leading the Wed night program for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade boys. We are also enjoying involvement in the Chinese Sunday School class and joining the core leaders of the Chinese church at Salem as they explore how to take the next steps in growing this thriving Chinese fellowship. Many people have faithfully served this ministry for many years. It is fun to link it up with the church in China as we bring our experience to it.

### 2011

Our theme verse is Gal 6:2, which calls us to "bear one another's burdens." It also reminds us to restore those who are weak, gently, humbly, and with an attitude of self-examination, for we are all in the healing process (v. 1, 3). In this spirit we look to the next year with hope, knowing of the many who help us bear our load, and to likewise bear their burdens as well.

### 2011 Travel Schedule

- Jan 2-16 – speaking at CMS summer schools in Australia
- Jan 29-30 – East Toronto Chinese Baptist Church, Toronto, Canada
- Feb 15-24 – CMDE medical conference, Thailand
- March 11-13 – LaCrosse, Madison, WI
- April 8-10 – Evergreen Board Meeting
- April 14-16 – CMDE Mtg in Chicago
- April 16-17 -- Iowa

### **Mark and Rene, Bjorn, Marit, and Anders**

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