

# May 2009 Newsletter from Sun Koo and Johnny

Volume 3, Issue 1

May 2009

*God lives in you, and His love is perfected in you (I John 4:12).*

short time that we were together we felt spiritually connected with Angela. We thoroughly appreciated her wonderful sense of humor, genuineness and humility. For this reason, we celebrate God's goodness in letting Angela and Mark experience His life transforming grace.

A year after Angela and Mark first met we were introduced to Angela's parents, Dr. Minchiang and Chaohsin Wang. As we shared over tea our salvation, discipleship and ministry it became obvious that the Lord has profoundly touched each of our lives with His love and presence. We were pleasantly surprised to learn that our families were called to plant churches, the Wangs in Pullman, WA and we in Renton, WA. Later, we learn that Dr. Wang gave Angela the Chinese name 慧明. The first Chinese character "Hui" is derived from "wisdom" and second character



*Angela & Mark's Wedding, March 16, 2009 in Hawaii*

returning to it so he quickly connected her to Mark. Angela's mother remembered that all they had was five minutes of personal interaction during the cruise. They both went to the University of Washington and graduated the same year yet they have never met. Later, we understood why this happened. Their mutual friends remembered seeing Angela often studying at the library while Mark frequents the gym pumping iron. For this reason, we celebrate God's goodness in preserving Angela and Mark for each other.

During the first meeting of the two families we easily came up with three similar family heritages. First, both Angela and Mark have great-grandfathers who are pastors. Second, both families have career educators. Angela's dad is a professor for 35 years and Mark's



*Mark, a new member of the Wang family! Minchiang, Chaohsin, Angela, Mark and Tim (right to left)*

"Ming" is "bright". He named her according to the two virtues that characterize a person who fears God (Proverbs 9:10). In light of this, we celebrate God's goodness on the Wang and the To families that love and serve God together.

Both parents recall how the Lord brought Angela and Mark together. At the strong urging of a good friend Angela went to the cruise for Christian career singles. Mark's friend did the same for him and busily scouted for a good match for Mark during the cruise. When he learn that Angela was from Seattle and have considered



*Angela preparing to look her best on her BIG day*



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*Angela and Mark got engaged in Seattle on August 6, 2008*

## God's Goodness Experienced

On the occasion of Angela and Mark's wedding on March 16, 2009 we invite you to celebrate with us God's goodness on our family.

Mark first introduced us to Angela Wang in December 2007 when we visited Hong Kong. After Sun Koo disclosed the challenge of raising Mark due to his attention deficit and hyperactivity as a child Angela first chuckled and then burst out laughing. After she got better control of herself she said, "Mark, you must be a high maintenance kid!" Mark could only blush in acknowledgement.

In sharing about her spiritual journey Angela recall how a lady mentor kept her walking faithfully with the Lord during her college years. Originally, her plan was to take a break from being around Christians. After all she has been raised a Christian all her life and wanted to explore what's out there. Johnny testified how God's grace transformed him from a school trouble maker. Sun Koo recounted how God used her miscarriage and cancer to shape her character. We explained how by God's grace our life changes have impacted Mark's life and faith. In the



*Angela, thanks for bringing so much joy to Mark and our family!*



maternal grandparents were educators and his paternal grandmother retired as a school teacher at age 84. Both of them have great-grandparents who were highly committed and contributed to making China a democratic nation. In their Thank You card to us the Wangs shared how they felt a kindred spirit between us even though it was only our first meeting. All we can say is that the feeling is mutual. In view of this, we celebrate God's goodness for giving Angela and Mark rich family heritage.

Through divine providence Angela and Mark developed their love relationship through emails, long distance calls and visits. Mark took so many trips to be with Angela that his colleagues thought that he had taken a partial retirement! Mark's intensity in pursuing Angela came at no surprise to us because he once promised "When I find the right one I will be decisive." After discerning God's choice of Angela to be his wife, he asked for parental consent and blessing he propose to Angela on August 6, 2008 and they exchanged marriage vows on March 16, 2009!

At their wedding ceremony Angela and Mark celebrated God's goodness by recalling how He brought them together. Let us pray that together they will experience God's goodness in bringing oneness into their marriage.

Pray that they will allow their marriage to point beyond itself as they both accept two central missions: becoming the people God created them to be, and doing the work God has given them to do. In actively embracing these two missions, they may experience Christ's transforming presence and love as I John 4:12 assures, *God lives in you, and His love is perfected in you.*

May the Lord use their marriage to put the finishing touches on each of their lives. "One afternoon, a little girl was brought by parents to see where they soon would be living, their very first house of their own. She couldn't believe it. The house had no windows or doors, and there was a strange odor. The basement was clearly visible through big gaps in the floor and they had to climb a ladder to get down there.

That night when the girl asked her mother why they wanted to live in a house like that, she explained that the builder wasn't finished with it yet. 'Just wait and see,' she said. 'I think you'll like it when it's done.'

"Soon they began to see changes. The house got windows, then doors. The 'funny smell' of new lumber faded. The holes in the floor were covered and a staircase was added. Walls were painted. Mom put up curtains at the windows and pictures on the walls. The incomplete house had been transformed. It had taken some time but finally it was finished.

"As Christians, our lives need 'finishing' too. Although the groundwork is laid at our conversion, the growing process continues throughout our life. As we obediently follow Jesus, 'the author and finisher of our faith' (Heb. 12:2), one day we too will be complete." — Cindy Hess Kasper

Celebrating His goodness,

Johnny and Sun Koo To

