



THE WINSLOWS



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Last night our family went down to Orchard road to see all the Christmas lights. Even though it rained a little, we enjoyed looking at the stores decorated for Christmas and the kids took great delight in pointing out their favorite decorations. Christmas is usually a fun time of year. I miss the snow and cold weather of Colorado, but even here in the tropics there is great joy in celebrating the birth of our Lord!

One thing, I especially enjoy is singing all the different Christmas carols. We sing them at home and every where you go Christmas songs are playing. Many of their words declare the joy of Jesus's birth and God's great gift for the world. A well known poem by Longfellow begins like this:

*I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

It fills my heart with wonder and thankfulness to remember the great gift that was given at Christmas. Because Jesus came, we can have peace with God and one another. Because He came, we have hope of spending eternity with God. Because he came we can know what love looks like and we can live lives that imitate him. What great joy!

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among people with whom he is pleased!" ~ Luke 2:14

So this year amidst the fun of Christmas carols, presents, decorations, cookies and school vacation we want to take time to intentionally reflect on Jesus. We want to remind our kids and others around us of the reason for all the celebrations. This time of year is usually an easy time to talk with others about Jesus and to discuss the significance of his birth. We are praying that God would give us many opportunities to proclaim his greatness during this season. May you rejoice as well in the great gift that God has given all of us and may he give you many opportunities to proclaim His name to others!



SOME OF THE EAST FACULTY AND STAFF



ALETHEA AND AMBER ENJOYING THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Tacos and Church History

Another semester has come and gone at EAST. As usual, I taught church history this semester and toward the end of the year, we invited the students from my class over for dinner and a movie. We enjoyed introducing several of them to tex-mex fajitas which were well received. It was amazing (slightly disturbing?!) to see a couple of them devour six fajitas each! It was also encouraging to hear about their stories.

Janice is from China and after she graduates next year, she plans to go back there and hopes to use her talents as an artist to spread the gospel. She seems to have grown a lot during her time at EAST and I pray that God would really use her to impact the artist and the wider culture back home.

Another lady from South Korea hopes to take the gospel to some area of the world where he is not known. Previously she was a missionary in China and briefly in Thailand. When I asked her if she planned to go back there, she said that she didn't know yet. She pointed out that she was single and did not have any attachments so she would just go wherever God was leading her - she mentioned that perhaps that would be to the Middle East or somewhere in Asia. I admire her faith. Later as we watched a movie about Martin Luther, I was reminded of something that he once wrote.

**"I KNOW NOT THE WAY GOD LEADS ME, BUT
WELL DO I KNOW MY GUIDE."**

That is a great reminder for all of us as we go through life. Sometimes we don't see exactly where God is leading us, but we can trust him and hopefully we will grow to know Him more and more each day.



**PLEASE
PRAY
FOR US**

We are in the midst of praying about some potential changes in the next year. EAST

has encouraged Matthew to pursue a PhD so that he can be further equipped to train pastors and leaders in Asia. With this in mind, we are exploring some different option for further studies. This might include moving to the US or Europe for a few years. Please pray that God would clearly lead us to the right place as we seek to follow Him and continue to be a blessing to the church here in Asia.

EAST will be having a school retreat the beginning of January. Please pray that it would be a meaningful time of fellowship and refreshment in the Lord.

Alethea will be starting preschool in January. Please pray that she would have a smooth transition and enjoy going to the same school with Amber.

BLESSINGS.

MATTHEW, SIJIE,

HUDSON, AMBER AND

ALETHEA