

February, 2007

Dear friends and family,

Greetings for the lunar new year! 2006 went by in a quick breeze, a setting for many weddings of friends. This past year was a peaceful and relaxing year for Alicia and Min. After the summer season of conferences for Min, we sallied off to Seoul, Korea for Min's best man's wedding. Kai married Jessy in a sweet secluded setting outside of Seoul and we had a blast getting to know Kai, Andrew, James and their friends from the swing dancing scene. Aside from a bit of shopping, we wandered around Seoul and had fun trying to pick up the Korean "alphabet". Alicia discovered the Dongdaemun mall filled floor to floor with arts and crafts stores. A few weeks later, Alicia played bridesmaid in her friend's wedding. Serene married Allen, here in Singapore, complete with a huge entourage of friends.



A Dongdaemun store with a few thousand different sorts of ribbons



Up in the Genting Highlands with family

2006 also saw some adventures as good ole family time. Earlier in June, we took an extended weekend trip out to the Genting Highlands in Malaysia (next to Kuala Lumpur). Genting is famous for its casino resort up in the mountains. We enjoyed a relaxing time with our extended family, with nephews Ellwyn and Eugene and nieces Janice and Callista.



An ice cream stealing monkey at the Penang city park

Min's parents came to visit in November, and we were off to Penang, Malaysia for a relaxing vacation. We enjoyed cheap eats and touring a butterfly farm and the city's park, which was probably less memorable for its flora than its ice-cream and peanut stealing fauna.

As 2006 came to close, we took the time to do some major shopping. During New Year's eve we went car shopping and on 1 Jan 2007 we were the proud owners of a new off-peak car, a Toyota Vios. Cars in Singapore are subject to heavy tax to keep traffic jams to a minimum, but "off peak cars" have substantially lower tax but are normally only allowed to be used late evenings and weekends. We have been enjoying late night outings for snacks and family shopping trips since.



With Min's grandpa in Penang after a sumptuous seafood dinner

In very recent news, our apartment (rented from the National University of Singapore) has been sold as part of an en bloc sale of our entire condominium estate. We will probably have to move to another apartment within the next two years, as our estate will be torn down for a new more modern complex.

This year we are planning a trip to Hong Kong with both our families and a few diving trips in the SE Asian Archipelago. We may journey elsewhere to America and Europe, and hope to give you the chance to see great pictures of our journeys in our next update.

Love and hugs from Singapore and wishing you a fabulous and prosperous year of the Golden Pig,

Alicia and Min

P.S. sorry for the late update. We had planned to send our update at the end of 2006, but at least we were able to send it during a different new year ^_^