

Some more Fathers Day pictures

In the July RFNL we reported that we either failed to



take any pictures of two celebrations or else the ones taken were accidentally lost. Neither statement is correct. We found pictures of both events in the camera, not yet copied into the computer. In the first celebration, a few days before the official Sunday date, we enjoyed a dinner at Applebees Hazard



Center restaurant with Richard, Liz, and JJ. The food was great, and it was an enjoyable evening;

As we mentioned in the July RFNL, the other celebration was at the Hartmans. Although Birdy did accidentally erase her pictures, ours were successfully recovered.



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Curtis pictures from South Korea



1. Hiking in South Cholla Province



4. Koreans think that if they carve their name in a rock it will make them live longer.



2. This used to be a big fire pit which was a part of a chain of fire pits along the mountains to warn Seoul if the Japanese were coming.



5. After we finished the hike we went swimming in this small pool fed by a natural spring.



3. OK, this was a tea plantation up in the mountains, which was cool.



6. The tea plants grow best in the acidic mountain soil, so they terrace the mountainside to grow all the row

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At last!! Curtis comes home

On the previous page you saw a series of pictures provided by Curtis; he also provided the captions. However, these will be the last pictures of his time in South Korea. He has completed four of service, and is returning home. Recently he was awarded two new coins, one is shown on the left. His new assignment takes him to somewhere in Texas, but his time there will be fairly brief, a few months. He has one more year in his enlistment, and it will be spent overseas, probably in Iraq. According to Birdy he is undecided about the future, but may decide to retire from military life and take up residence in the San Diego area.



Whatever the future holds we congratulate Sgt. Curtis on the successful completion of his tour of duty in South Korea, and wish him all the best in whatever the future brings.

Birdy visits Las Vegas

We just got the news about Birdy's visit to LV to attend a kindergarten teachers conference (*in Las Vegas* ????).

Hi Dad I just got back from Las Vegas, where I was attending an International Conference with 1600 of my closest Kindergarten Teachers. I wish I had a great story about how I pulled "The Big One," and walked away a winner with lots of cash in my hands...but this would not be true. However, I did have an unusual meeting. My teaching partners and I were in the Paris Hotel, looking for the perfect dinner when we noticed the wonderful crepes being eaten outside this one sidewalk cafe!



They looked truly delicious, so the next problem was figuring out which ones to try. As we were pondering this in line, I noticed a particularly handsome young guy picking up three enormous crepes...and when I looked into his eyes...I was delightfully shocked to discover that it was our own, Michael Riel-Mehan! He was also here for a

conference (NO, not a Kindergarten Teacher Conference) to give his own presentation on genetics! He was traveling with his girlfriend, Ashley, who sweetly joined us for a bit of visiting! It was such a treat to run into them and we wished them both the best of luck as they went out into the night life of Vegas for hopes of winning! I just hope that their luck was better than ours! That's my report from Vegas! Love, Birdy

Francie tours Australia

Well, the journey "down under" was more like the trip "way over"; 14 1/2 hours out of Los Angeles, I landed in Brisbane, Queensland. I had the first day off to tourist around the harbor a bit and try to get used to the time change. Eight hours before but one day ahead, you do the math.

The next two days I worked the trade show on Main Stage for an hour and a half each day. The remaining time I spent in the booth talking with clients of the distributor, many of whom had seen my videos. It was pretty fun and they treat me very nicely there.

The first night I got to go to an Aussie Rules Football Game and watch my first "footy" game. (Everyone in Aussieland shortens every word they can - Chardy for Chardonnay, Brecky for breakfast and Bicky for biscuit.) It was very cool. The ball is like a combination of a soccer ball and a football. It is in the shape of a football but stitched like a soccer ball. There are four goal posts in the end zone, two very far apart and two very close together. The footy ball is kicked from player to player until someone gets it between the posts. (They score) 2 points for the wide ones 6 points thru the narrow ones, that makes for a pretty high scoring game.

At the end of the game the players all run over to the stands and shake hands and sign autographs for the fans. Obviously they are not aware over there that they are demigods and need to act aloof and need "their privacy" from their fans. After they leave the field, the gates are opened up and everyone gets to go down on the field and throws their footys around. Obviously the owners don't

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realize that the fans should be booted immediately after they have gotten their money out of them. Funny people those Aussies.

Celebrated my 56th birthday in a foreign country yet again, which I am sure you all know means that I did not get older here. Since that is the second time that has occurred (the first time was my 50th in France). I now am the same age as Carol. I just wanted the Twins to get my age right in the official family calendar.

On the trip home I had to stop in Fiji for 4 hours before going thru Los Angeles, thus making my commuting time from the moment I stepped into Brisbane airport till I arrived here at 24 hours. (gotta love that fuel crunch and all the extra stops we get to make.)



Here is my group of distributors that I love to hang out with. They are an extraordinary group of friends, especially Jo above, who took me to the footy game and Troy, seated in front of me, who always makes sure my trips to Australia are the best.

NEWS FLASH!!!! PARTY GIRL ANNIE GILLINGHAM TURNS 21!!!!

RIEL TWINS TURN, UM, ANOTHER YEAR OLDER!!!!!!



As you can see in the photo above it was all smiles and fun at the shout house on Wed night the 13th of August with Annie at center stage. She was serenaded by many of the crowd attending her birthday bash.



Scott, pictured here, led the crowd in a birthday song that will not soon be forgotten.

FRANCIE

CONGRATATIONS, ANNIE, on reaching this important milestone. We all wish you the very best in whatever you do and wherever you go in the future.