



Jeff and Barbi David's 2011 Summer Update

Serving with Latin America Mission
P.O. Box 52-7900, Miami, FL 33152 Phone: 1-800-275-8410



Carol and Jed's Big Day

Dear Friends,

It has been a fast and furious summer with lots of activities and travel. At the end of May our daughter, Carol, married Jed Tan, whose parents are missionaries in Singapore, working to prepare mission teams that are setting up shop in China. The wedding was a two-part celebration. The first part took place in Tacoma, WA. Family and friends gathered from all over the globe. Jed's family came from Singapore; Barbi, Carissa and I made our way up from Costa Rica. Carol and Jed had friends come from as far away as England and Jakarta, Indonesia, as well as from many parts of the U.S. The days just prior to the wedding were filled with trips to the airport to pick up arriving guests, parties with family and friends, outings, and an endless supply of food (no official report will be made on the amount of weight gained as a result of these Epicurean binges; suffice it to say more

than enough). Barbi's mother and sisters played the part of super-hostesses—housing, feeding, and transporting all who came. We all gathered with a singular focus: to rejoice in the joining of a wonder-



Our Family: Jesse, Naomi, Carissa, Barbi, Carol, Jed, and Jeff

ful young couple in marriage. Certainly, the wedding was one of the most memorable moments for Carol and Jed, but it was also a high water mark of the Lord's goodness and faithfulness to Barbi and me... something to treasure.

Jed's father, Dr. David Tan, and I officiated, while Rev. Brian Hope preached a superb sermon. If as the Scriptures say a cord of three strands is not easily broken, then the knot that the three of us tied is truly awesome.

Part two of the marriage celebration took place in Singapore in early July. In the Chinese culture the marriage ritual con-

sists of the traditional Tea Ceremony. In it the bride and groom serve a small cup of tea to the members of their families beginning with the oldest living relatives, which are usually

the grandparents. The Chinese family is decidedly hierarchical; the oldest living relative has (at least traditionally) the power to bless or veto the marriage union of the hopeful couple. By receiving and drinking the tea offered by the couple, the family members demonstrate their agreement and support of the marriage. To refuse the tea signals the family member's disagreement with the marriage and, although it may not keep the wedding from going forward, it is an indicator that trouble may soon be brewing. After each

serving of tea, the family member that has been served gives a monetary gift in a red envelope (the color red indicates prosperity) to the bride and groom.

The oldest member of the family is Jed's paternal grandmother; she was served first and accepted the tea, followed by Jed's paternal uncles and aunts, who also accepted the tea. Then Jed's parents were served. Later, before the dinner banquet, the family members of Jed's mother were served tea and lastly Carol and Jed served tea to Barbi and me. After the Tea Ceremony was completed, we sat down to a sumptuous ten course meal at an upscale restaurant in downtown Singapore, and the party was on.



Friends from the Costa Rican International Youth Group



Singapore
One of the world's most modern cities

"For most of the students the results were shocking, for as it turns out those who were interviewed could not describe with any clarity or depth what it means to be a disciple of Jesus."



The End of the Trimester

During all the comings and goings for the wedding and reception in Singapore, I was responsible to teach three courses, two online through ProMETA and one traditional course at Seminario ESEPA. A missing professor usually eliminates any enthusiasm the students have for a course, and it definitely destroys a course's momentum. I try not to schedule any activities that take me away from the classroom. But this was a special family event that trumped normality. With creative scheduling and a large dose of patience and goodwill of my students, we were able to finish the trimester in good repair. The outcome of one course is particularly encouraging. I taught, for the first time, a course entitled, *Paradigms of Discipleship*, a New Testament

theology course. I had fifteen students, a large class for an online course. The students were from Spain, Venezuela, Mexico, Peru, Colombia, and Costa Rica. The course goal was the application of what the students learned in the course to their ministry context. Early on in the semester they conducted a qualitative study of discipleship asking those under their care what they understood discipleship to mean. For most of the students the results were shocking, for as it turns out those who were interviewed could not describe with any clarity or depth what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. This motivated the students to dig deeply into the text and come up with a more contextualized plan of discipleship for their ministry. I spent

much of last week reading through the final projects and I am thrilled by the impact of the course has had on the lives of my students. Cristina, for example, a pastor's wife in Colombia, wrote me the following: "With regard to this course I want to say that it has been an answer to my prayers. I have had for some time a strong desire to teach discipleship from the Scriptures themselves, but I did not know how to do so. Now I not only have a method, the themes, a model of analysis of the Scriptures and my ministry context, the support of the pastoral team to do it, but also am deeply stirred to do so since I now see the urgency of teaching this theme to the members of my congregation." One cannot ask for more than that from a student.

Prayer and Praise

- Praise for Carol and Jed's wedding
- Praise for the successful completion of another semester with ProMETA and Seminario ESEPA
- Praise for the personal growth reported by the students in my course, *Paradigms of Discipleship*
- Pray for my up and coming class to Cuba at the end of September
- Pray for the students taking courses with ProMETA and Seminario ESEPA that they would grow in every dimension of their life and ministry

Cuba and beyond

As the trimester winds down, I now turn my attention to my next major project. Lord willing I will be going to Cuba at the end of September to teach the second half of my course on hermeneutics at *Seminario las Palmas*. This is a part two of the same course that I taught there last year in September. After I return from Cuba, I plan to be in the U.S. in October to visit friends and supporting churches. I hope that I will have the opportunity to see many of you during my visit.



Carol and Jed dressed in traditional Chinese wedding garments for the Tea Ceremony.

Jeff and Barbi David

Costa Rica Address:
Apdo.161-1350,
San Sebastian, Costa Rica

U.S. Address:
SJO #184,
7979 NW 21st Street
Doral, FL 33122

Email: j.eldon.david@gmail.com
Costa Rica Phone #: (506) 22-27-1571
US Internet Phone #: (253) 883-3603