

Winter 2008

Please remember I'm a plumber and be forgiving regarding my spelling and punctuation.

Our winter was pretty quiet. We arrived in California from Thailand on December 4th. We were ready to go to work fixing furnaces for the winter.

With the economy in poor condition and the temperatures being above normal for most of the winter we did not have a lot of work. That was okay with us as Daeng and I wanted to spent time together just hanging out. This was also the first Christmas for Daeng in the United States.



It was pretty warm.

We got the house in order and did some decorations around the house. We also helped my sister, Diane, decorate her tree.

Now, I have been a plumber crawling around on my knees without knee pads for over 41 years. On December 20th we were helping trim

my sister's Christmas tree. She asked me to put a few ornaments on



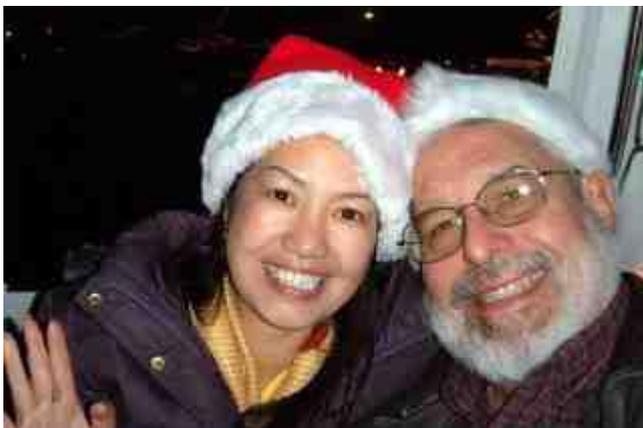
the back of the tree.

When I knelt on her couch to put an ornament on the back of the tree my knee slipped between the two cushions and I had a popping sensation to my right knee. I walked it off thinking it would go away.

We did have a great Christmas season. We did things like the big Whittier Christmas parade with Michael and Charlotte.



We went out on Paul and Cheryl's boat for the Christmas boat parade





and light show.

I also got lots of pictures from Pastor Lota, in Thailand. Thank You to everyone that donated to the kids Christmas.



Santa's come in all sizes, too



It was a great Christmas Party.



With lots of food!



presents

and most of all, lots of smiling faces.



A great time was had by ALL.

We, in the USA, attended the PEACEMAKER Christmas Party



and spent some time with my daughter

Amy.



It was nice to spend time with Mom along with daughter Tina and the rest of the family at the Christmas and New Year parties at our sister Diane's home.



Daeng had a nice first Christmas in the USA.

Now over the Christmas week my knee got sorer everyday until I could not even stand on it. I called Doctor Gibson, an orthopedic specialist that had treated me previously, and made an appointment. He told me that he could not see much from the x-rays, gave me a shot of cortisone and recommend I have an MRI.

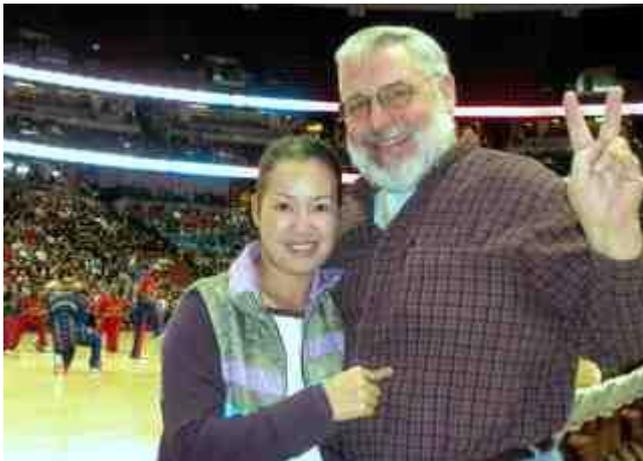
All the places that do MRI's were closed between Christmas and New Years so I had to wait until January 6th to have the MRI done. With the cortisone and taking it easy I could get around okay.

On January 8th Dr. Gibson told me I need to have my torn meniscus repaired arthroscopically. I said: "Let's get it done". On Monday, January 12th it was repaired.

It felt so good after the operation that I was walking around the house without even a cane. That lasted for about 24 hours and my leg started swelling up. To cut the story of my knee short, it has been almost two months and my knee is feeling pretty good. I still get a little pain but the doctor told me it will take 3 - 4 months to feel really good again.

I did go to a couple of physical therapy sessions and continue to stretch like the therapist showed me. With the knee injury, we did not do much work over the winter.

One of the highlights of the winter was court side tickets to see the



Harlem Globe Trotters.

We think the best news of all, during the Winter of 2008, is that Daeng received her United States Permanent Residence Status, aka: "Green Card" after working on the process for more than 16 months.

The night before leaving California we had a little party with "Holly" and some of the other folks from the Law Office of Holmes & Lolly. They worked diligently to get Daeng's visa to the USA, her adjustment of status with travel permit and now her "Green Card" so she can



travel with me ALL the time.
third from the left, next to Daeng.

Holly is

The party was at The Coach House in San Juan Capistrano, California. Wes Martins put on a funny comedy show, too. As you may have guessed from the beads, it was "Fat Tuesday" aka "Mardi Gras Day".

The next morning we started the trip to Mae Sai, Thailand.

It was a good Winter of 2008.