

*Happy Holidays to you all !*



*This was a very busy year for us with work and family activities. We have accelerated our rate of doing new and exciting things. We really cherished our time with distant families and friends. Even though we got severely hit by the economic tsunami, we are thankful for our good health and the health of our family and friends.*

*We are thinking of you this holiday season and wishing all of you the happiest holiday season, enjoying your time off. Thank you for your sharing and caring.*

*God Bless!*





### **2008 was a big reunion year**

The family, including all of the extended from both sides are doing quite well. We visited lots of Larry's relatives in upstate New York, some that he hasn't seen in decades. 1,000 driving miles later, we can report that all aunts and uncles, siblings, multitudes of cousins, are mostly looking very good and healthy. The few that are not so well are in our prayers. Yanmin had great interactions with all of them.

Yanmin's sister's family moved back to CA close to us and their parents, who are also doing well. Yanmin's high school classmates in America met mid-year in California. A complete class reunion will be in Beijing in the summer of 2009. We have a world class management team working on planning.



Half Dome in Yosemite

### **Yosemite Camping**

Tommy is a big first grader, full of creative experimental ideas: egg float, static cling balloons, origami, paper fighting jets, and many more. During our Yosemite trip, he was a better trooper than his mom and was a big help around the camp.

We spent 3 nice days there with Yanmin's BUPT university classmates. River rafting was the most fun part. The kids found new hide-out in the woods, somehow managing to not get in the poison oak. It was hot and the air quality was bad and visibility poor due to a forest fire nearby. Those are the two big differences compared to the last visit 8 years ago.





Blue Mtn Lake - New York

### **In our New York and Canada travels**

We visited the Adirondacks, Larry's #1 favorite part of the country, a most beautiful natural area that brought back many wonderful childhood memories. Yanmin also learned a lot of early American history during this trip.

We revisited Niagara Falls, Canada again. Tommy enjoyed the magnificent scenery. We also visited Butterfly Museum and had first close-up experience with 60+ South America butterfly species. They are so beautiful.

### **Major transformations:**

Yanmin's father accepted Christ after 12 years of seeking God. He will be baptized on 12/21/08. This is a major leap in faith for our family. Yanmin's whole family now transformed from atheist to Christian. Yanmin and Yanli came to the United States in 1992, while their parents came in 1995.

Thomas made a major breakthrough in learning Chinese. Faith, Love, Hope Chinese afterschool provided a loving environment and good biblical teaching. Thomas became a positive, confident, cheery kid. He can understand some basic Chinese and sing Christian songs in Chinese.

Yanmin changed to a new job in HP expanding horizons and skill sets. It is all part of following God's direction and guidance to face challenges in all aspects of life. Yanmin prayed a lot for direction, wisdom, courage. It works!

Taoran is a college junior now. He went through a lot of struggles in managing college life/study. He learned the real world expectation through job interviews. We prayed a lot for Taoran, for God to give him wisdom, humbleness, and strength. The struggles helped him mature and grow.

Larry took the big leap and created a software consulting business called Mean Green Software. Most of the year's work was spent "mobilizing" a large piece of software used by physicians to see their patient's records on their smart phones. The next time you see your doctor pecking away at his iPhone, you'll know who to blame. Come see what I'm doing at <http://www.meangreensoftware.com>



## Eat healthy, stay healthy

We changed from buying supermarket fruits and vegetables to farmer's market and our home garden. We harvested a lot of sugar peas, beans, tomatoes, peppers, chards, apples, pears, plums, peaches. They tasted so good. We are experimenting winter crop for the first time. Peas are flowering right now.

We hope that you are blessed with good health and prosperity in 2009. Holiday cheers to everybody!



Visiting Buffalo nieces



Mother's Day



Yosemite Rafting



Uncle Jack taking the big dive



Doing the business pitch



Three generations