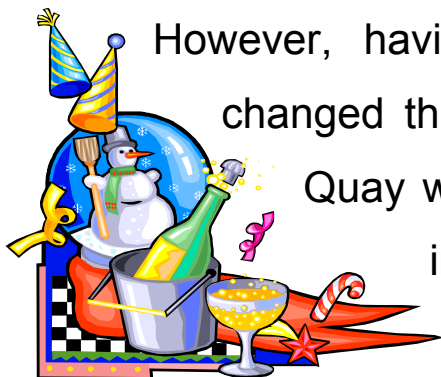


January

Those of you who know me, know how I feel about New Years' parties.



However, having my dad, and friends from Canada in Australia changed things. New Years was celebrated in Sydney's Circular Quay with about 1,000,000 other revelers. The fireworks were

impressive,

but

certainly not worth the hours and hours (more than 8 if I remember correctly) that we all waited in the hot hot sun. Oh well, at least now we can say that we've seen the Sydney New Years' fireworks.



We got back to Korea on January 12, 2005. We spent the rest of January just unpacking and readjusting to life in Korea. Mostly we played on-line card games until the wee hours of the morning. For those of you in the know, the game is called 'go-stop'. For those who want to know more, visit [THIS SITE](#) (link should open in a new window). We also did a little job hunting and visiting friends.

Of the many things that made us happy to be back in Korea were the Internet-enabled video phones with keyboards at the airport. Super efficient and super cheap! Much better than the crap in Australia (no offense to our Aussie friends!)



## February



February was much like January. Lots of go-stop and a little job hunting. I applied and interviewed for a civil servants position at the city hall of a small Korean city by the name of [Andong](#). The job was exactly the type of position I was looking for (Communications Director), but the location was terrible (no offense to anyone living in Andong). There was also little, if any, opportunity for Betty there. So after all was said and done, I turned the job down and went back to playing go-stop.

I later applied for and accepted a very interesting teaching position. The job is teaching in an intensive 6-month teacher's in-service sponsored by the Korean Ministry of Education and hosted at the Korean National University of Education. It's far and away the best job I've had (read more about it [HERE](#)). I teach in the listening department along with 3 other teachers. There are also 4 other teachers in the conversation department and 4 other teachers in the composition department. The in-service teachers (must have a minimum of 3 years teaching experience to join the program) live here at the training center for 5 months then travel overseas and study in an authentic English-speaking environment for one month. The class sizes are small (just 10 students per class), the hours are good (18 hours per week), and the vacation time is decent (4 weeks in summer, 4 weeks in winter).

An added benefit is that Betty was also able to find work at the same place, but in a different program. She is the national prog

for a Korean Ministry of Education sponsored program called EPIK (English Program In Korea). The program is also hosted at the Korea National University of Education, so we both work in the same building but in different programs. Betty's position involves recruiting, training, and, to some extent managing, native English speaking teachers from Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, the UK, and the USA to teach English in the Korean public school system.

The Korean National University of Education is the city of Cheong-ju which is about 2 hours north of Daegu (where we used to live).





March marked the start of work for both Betty and I, something that neither of us had done since back in mid-2003.

Towards the end of the month, one of Betty's brothers came to live with us for a few months while he studied to take the civil servant's exam. Betty's brothers are identical twins, but like

many twins, look less alike now that they are older. I've circled the brother that was staying with us. His name is Sung-min (성민). The younger brother is named Sang-min (상민). On this day we took a trip to a nearby tourist attraction called 'Herb Land'



April



April marked the third wedding anniversary for Betty and

me. We didn't do anything too special to celebrate, just started a small fire outside our apartment. Actually, we didn't



start the fire, but nevertheless, there was one. Don't know how it started, but it sure did spread quickly! For our anniversary we just had a nice dinner out with a delicious ice cream cake for desert.

Also that month we took a trip to a nearby temple with all the teachers and trainees in the intensive in-service program. It was a bright and sunny day, although a little windy at times.



## May



May was a busy month with many things going on.



Whereas North America has separate days to celebrate Mother's Day and Father's Day, Korea celebrates just one day called Parent's Day (May 8). We tried to visit the Korean presidential retreat that day, but it was a two hour wait just to get on the bus, so we took a cruise to a nearby dam and had a nice lunch.

May 15 is Teacher's Day and teaching in a program full of teachers makes Teacher's Day a pretty big deal. Here's a picture of me with one of my classes in May...



Betty & Walter's 2005 Review

Later that month, Betty, Sang-min, Sung-min, and I also went up to Seoul for the Seoul International Motor Show in May. I have a bunch of pictures from the motor show up on my website. [CHECK 'EM OUT HERE](#) Here's a taste...



May also had a little bad news. One of the other teachers on staff had a small accident with the scooter he was driving; he plowed it into our car while it was parked in front of apartment. About \$1,500 later, all was fixed...



It's hard to see all the damage here. The reason why it was all so expensive is because they had to replace the entire 'c' pillar (damage not visible in this shot). Most of the other dents could have been hammered

June



Strangely enough, the summer months of June and July were, in a way, quiet. My program was winding down and I was getting ready for my time off in July, while Betty's program was ramping up for her busy season.

It was a hot summer, with more rain than I can remember in a long time. Betty's brother Sung-min was still living with us and still studying hard.

On one weekend we took a nice trip to a nearby temple called Bo-tap-sa.



## July



July was my month off, so I just enjoyed not working and took a few online computer courses. Betty was ultra busy getting ready for the 130+ teachers who would be coming to her program for a 10-day orientation in August.

July was also Sung-min's and Sang-min's birthday.

Betty and I traveled down to Daegu for that weekend, but strangely we have no pictures of the event...

Other than purchasing a new air conditioner to beat the heat, that's all the news that's fit to print for July. In the meantime, here's an aerial shot of the Korea National University of Education where we work...



## August



I was still on holidays in August so my time was filled with go-stop and other online pursuits. August was Betty's busiest month at work as she was responsible for training 130+ new teachers before they headed out to their respective teaching positions.

**Saskatchewan**

I was invited to take part in said orientation as a kind of special guest lecturer. It was good money and good resume filler so I decided to do it. A copy of my lecture can be found [HERE](#).

While the orientation kept Betty busy pretty-much 18+ hours per day, she enjoyed it and everyone complimented her on how smoothly everything went. Next year her office is expecting at least 200 teachers. I'm no mathematologist but that is nearly 50% more than this year! Here're a few pics...

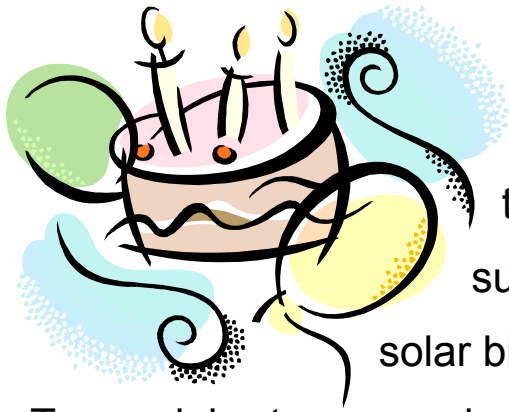


Betty & Walter's 2005 Review



September

September marked the beginning of Betty's birthdays.



No, that is not a typo, I said birthdays. The traditional calendar of Korea was based on the movement of the moon. Today, the solar calendar is also used. As such, Betty has two birthdays, her lunar birthday and her solar birthday. The September birthday is her lunar birthday.

To celebrate, we drove up to Seoul and had a nice rib dinner at Tony Romas. Seoul had recently opened a newly renovated stream that had been paved over for the past 50 years. All in all it made for a nice day!



October



Lots of things went on in October. Not the least of which was Betty's second birthday. For that one, we drove down to Daegu to spend some time with the family. There was another birthday to celebrate in October... Pookie, our teddy bear. A good



friend of ours got married in October too. That friend's



sister is a Korean supermodel and movie actress, so that was A LOT of fun! Somehow that night, we ended up singing and dancing with



a rather well-known Korean comedian/singer; nice guy who, believe it or not, was BIG into

Loverboy! Small world. There was also an international crafts fare in Cheong-



ju in October. Sadly, this was the second

Halloween in a row where we did not dress up... We'll have to make up for that in 2006!



November



No more birthdays to speak of in November, but still lots to report. Betty attended a debriefing and planning seminar for her orientation program. We took another field trip with all the other



teachers and trainees in the intensive teacher training program.



This time to a popular and scenic



mountain. One of the other teachers on staff hosted a thanksgiving dinner for 30! And finally, Betty and I took a small trip to a nearby local fortress.



December



Here we are in December. It's been colder than I can remember this year, and way way WAY more snow.

Had a nice chat with Big Wally on his birthday, went

skiing/snowboarding on my birthday.



Have a handful of Christmas and New Year's parties coming up, and of course, the annual Skin 'n' Gin. This year's Christmas beard is shaping up nicely too!



We hope that everyone else had a happy and healthy 2005 and that 2006 brings you all you desire!

With love and best wishes,

Betty & Walter

