

# Faith In Action

A series profiling members and friends of SMCC

## Chun-Yen Chen

Born in Taipei, Taiwan, Chun-Yen is the youngest of three sisters in her family.

From age 5, with her parents' support, Chun-Yen studied and trained in musical instruments and music theory. She played piano, viola, and trumpet, and participated in orchestras, choruses, and marching bands from elementary school through college. As a college freshman, she served with her church's missionary group as a tutor and mentor to children in the remote mountain areas of Taiwan.



After graduating from university in Taiwan in 1993, Chun-Yen came to the United States to pursue Master's and Ph.D. degrees in Public Administration, and was accepted at the State University of New York in Albany. While in New York, she joined an international student Bible-study group at Loudonville Community Church and, of course, became a valuable addition to that church's choir.

Having obtained her Master's Degree in Public Administration, Chun-Yen passed the New York State Civil Service exam, and, while continuing her Ph.D. studies, served as Senior Budget Examiner in the New York State's Division of Budget. Meanwhile, with her MPA and her professor's recommendation, she worked and taught as Adjunct Lecturer at Marist College in New York.

Chun-Yen would never have considered moving to Southern California, but meeting the man who would become her life-partner, Los Angeles attorney, Frank Chen, changed all that. They were married in 2000, moved to San Marino, and joined San Marino Community Church where Frank has served as an Elder and Chun-Yen as a Sunday school teacher. Also, Chun-Yen began a career as Executive Director of the Asian Pacific Women's Center, a nonprofit community-based-organization in Los Angeles, dedicated to providing affordable and much needed housing to victims of domestic violence.

Frank and Chun-Yen have two beautiful children, Nathaniel (8) and Natalina (6), who, like their mother, enjoy both music and church. They participate in the SMCC Children's Choir and love attending church school. To be more involved in her children's daily life and education, and to pass on to them her love of music, Chun-Yen has become a full time mom. Following in their mother's footsteps, Nathaniel and Natalina are not only learning piano and violin, but have joined a local children's orchestra. Their daily lives filled with love and music, the Chen family is a living example of God's Grace and purpose for his own.