



April 2013

Peace Bible Study for all churches in the Philippines!

Darnell and our dear friend/mentor Bryan have been asked to put together a popular level bible study (perhaps 10 units) about the biblical call to build peace. And it will be made available to almost every church in the Philippines! The request came from leaders in the Catholic, Evangelical, mainline, and fringe churches who are all part of a peacebuilding network (Philippine Ecumenical Peace Platform) but lack the biblical foundation for their political hope. This is a pretty daunting task but, as Peace Church, it's right up our alley. We are thankful for the reputation that we already have and the exciting opportunity God has given us to steward the message of peace from Jesus, which has been the most largely ignored New Testament teaching throughout history. Please pray for Darnell, Bryan and our whole community as we begin work on this.

Fractured Arm and a Birthday

Makai turned one on April 3rd! It's hard to believe that he was such a wee one (2 months) when we arrived here. We had a



very fun birthday party for him with 32 adults and 26 kids! Makai, unfortunately,



was not a very happy birthday boy as he had a misdiagnosed fractured arm during the party. But the next day we went back to the hospital and his arm was casted so that it could properly heal. And after a week it was fully healed! Its amazing how fast little bones mend.

Integrated Mennonite Church: Anabaptist resourcer and youth mentor

In March we spent three days visiting some of the Integrated Mennonite Churches (IMC) north of Manila. As our relationships with these communities deepen, we are hearing about their desire to have Anabaptist teaching material available in



For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ. - 1 Cor. 3:11

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Tagalog. So we are going to work on finding/writing adult Sunday school material that some of the young adults will then translate. We're excited to help the church in this way!



Darnell also spent three days at the IMC North District Conference where we were asked (by the youth and the board) to become a mentor for the youth. This mentorship relationship with the youth and young adults has already evolved naturally and it is exciting that what we had hoped for, but hadn't yet shared, is what others desire too!

Thailand Trip

We had a great time connecting with other missionaries at the South East Asia Anabaptist Retreat. Darnell and I were asked to lead one of the three morning "input" sessions on the theme of our spirituality and what renews us in our cross-cultural work. Darnell encouraged me to be the "speaker" and I shared about some of the more unconventional spiritual disciplines that I practice, mostly



done in community, and my freedom from the guilt of not doing regular personal devotions. It ended up being a very freeing experience for a lot of people and I was very encouraged that what I had to say was so appreciated (I've posted my sharing on our blog).

We are so thankful for the love and support from all our friends and family at home. We look forward to spending time with you in August, when we'll be returning to BC for a visit! We also feel incredibly blessed by the community we have here- Peace Church, the Integrated Mennonite Church, Peacebuilders Community, our neighbours, and all the people we meet!



Much love,
The Barkmans