



December 5, 2012

Seasons Greetings!

Welcoming the Christmas season wearing shorts and tank tops is a little strange, but despite that it isn't exactly "beginning to feel a lot like Christmas" here (pretty much 32C *all* year), we've pulled out the Boney M Christmas CD and set up a rather tiny tree (no chance of getting a real one!) and Cody is enjoying his advent calendar. We really miss winter weather- hot and hotter gets old very quickly- but on the positive side, we can enjoy the pool in our apartment complex, it doesn't take forever to bundle up the boys to go for a walk and we get to play outside in the sun (actually only in the shade... we don't dare play outside mid-day). We look forward to celebrating Christmas here



and and opening the many gifts we received in a lovely (and huge!) care package from our family, church, and friends. On Boxing Day we'll be heading north to speak at a 3-day Integrated Mennonite Church Youth Camp. Please pray for us as we prepare for our teaching time and also for the approximately 200 youth who will be attending.

Peace Church Gathers Weekly

We have recently started meeting with our Peace Church community on Wednesday evenings for Bible Study at our house. We share a meal together (I'm very thankful for my slow cooker!) and we've started studying the Gospel of Matthew. We also meet every other weekend for some fun family time and a meal. We are so thankful for our community and are praying for its growth.



Barkman's Printing Press

A significant part of our role here is to develop a meaningful relationship with the Integrated Mennonite Church (IMC). In brainstorming different ways we could stay connected, we thought of sending each church congregation a bi-monthly newsletter. A majority of the IMC does not have Internet access so snail-mail it is! Our first newsletter is hot of the press today and we'll be



licking envelopes this afternoon. In it we share a personal update, prayer concerns, and a Biblical reflection. The IMC is very eager to learn more about how we, as Anabaptists, understand the Bible and Jesus' teachings, so we feel like this is a great way to communicate with them. We hope to make the newsletter more interactive with letters to the Editors and guest writers.

The Pantojas with Peace Church

As Mennonite Church Canada workers, Dann and Joji Pantoja were heading back to their work in Davao (Mindanao, Philippines) concluding their North American Ministry Assignment, we, as Peace Church, were able to spend a meaningful evening with them. This inspiring couple founded Peacebuilders Community and Coffee for Peace and we were privileged to be mentored by them during our internship in 2008/09. What a



blessing it was to visit with Dann and Joji, who first had the vision for Peace Church, and be inspired by their story and encouraged by their affirmation in our work.



Family Time

We have been making Saturday our family fun day and are enjoying finding kid-friendly things to do. We have gone to a number of different museums, zoos and parks. We also frequent a wonderful diner for breakfast, where we get a taste of home and we also love a local farmers market here with an array of international tastes. The boys are both doing great and making lots of friends. Cody is as chatty as can be and Makai is busy crawling around the house and walking along the furniture. As a family, we are very happy here and thankful that God has called us to the Philippines. We will, however, certainly miss all the Christmas banquets, family gatherings and baking this season!

Wishing you all a Christmas season filled with love for others and hope in the transforming power of Jesus Christ!

Much love, Christina, Darnell, Cody and Makai.