



October 3, 2012

Getting comfortable

We've been in our place for two months now and it's starting to feel more like home everyday. We've spent countless hours navigating our way through the neighbourhood, taking in the new sights and tasting the many flavours of this community. We live in a newly developed, highly urbanized part of Metro Manila that is quickly becoming the city's new business hub. We walk on wide, freshly paved



sidewalks along rows of high rises, fancy strip malls and neatly planned clean city parks- so different than the rest of this busy, over-populated city. We have been called here to spread the Gospel of Peace to the wealthy, top-level decision makers of this country and it's already happening! We've become friends with wealthy entrepreneurs, children of Senators and



international investors. I tend to meet moms at the playground with the kids and Darnell is meeting guys playing basketball twice a week in our complex. We also spend time in other communities; Darnell has connected with various peace networks and has attended forums and discussions around the city. We praise God for the friendships that are developing!

And it begins...

Peace Church Philippines has started gathering! We have been surprised and extremely thankful that a group is already meeting regularly in our home. We love spending time getting to know this amazing group of people who are so eager to be the church with us. What a blessing! Many of these new friends were introduced to us through our mentors and fellow Mennonite Church Canada workers in Davao, Dann and Joji Pantoja, while others are friends of friends, and so on. Opening our home to this new community has been a blessing and we look forward to our Sunday afternoon gatherings.



First Canadian Visitors!

We were so fortunate to have Jack and Irene Suderman with us for two weeks on a teaching tour. Jack is the former Executive Director of Mennonite Church Canada and is an Anabaptist theologian. Having spent several years in Bolivia and Columbia as missionaries, they have so much wisdom to impart on us and they shared a great amount of entertaining

and inspiring stories. Jack spent two evenings teaching at Asian Theological Seminary, which Darnell and our friend Bryan did a fantastic job of planning and coordinating, and we spent three very meaningful evenings in our home with the Sudermans and our newly formed Peace Church.

We were also able to be part of a three-day teaching seminar led by Jack on the Vocation of the Church in Society with 35 members of the Integrated Mennonite Church. He shared about the politics of Jesus- how He rejected the political options of His time and introduced a new “Kingdom” way. He also spent a day teaching Anabaptist history. Although being part of Mennonite churches, for most of the participants it was their first time to hear a comprehensive history of the Mennonites. They were deeply encouraged to learn about their inspiring witness as Radical Reformers, even in the face of martyrdom.

Cody turns 2!

We also celebrated Cody’s birthday in September. We had a little party for him during a Peace Church gathering when the Sudermans were here and then we threw another party the next week and invited Cody’s new friends from our neighbourhood. Cody LOVED all the special attention and we’re so thankful for new friends to share milestones with!



With much love to all our dear ones,
Christina, Darnell, Cody & Makai Barkman

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