



October 2013

Peace Church a year later

Our first Peace Church gathering was over a year ago now.... September 3, 2012. We are extremely thankful for how this community has evolved this past year and for the incredible people who make up Peace Church.



After a year of having no template and no programs, but simply gathering weekly to read the Bible and eat together, we sensed, as a community, that it was time to discuss who we are and where we're going. It was timely and we're glad we gave ourselves space to become Peace Church before doing this. We gathered, as a core team, for an entire day of visioning. Kuya Boyet, who is very experienced in

organizational development, led the meeting. We had previously asked our entire community to write on a poster board what they loved about Peace Church and what they envisioned for Peace Church. So we took this information and some more thoughts and compiled it into categories. After much discussion and discernment, we came up with 5 core values. As a community, we value Biblical Peace, Celebrating the Community, Integrated Learning, Serving the Body of Christ, and Relevantly Engaging Society. With these values in mind, we began to discuss what kind of projects and activities we want to commit to. This is an exciting time for our growing community, as we feel like our impact in other circles is bearing fruit and the deepening of our sense of identity better enables us to live out our values and grow as a serving community.

We continue to meet every Wednesday to fellowship over a home-cooked meal and read the Bible together. We are nearing the end of the Gospel of Matthew. Not long ago these Wednesday evening gatherings were often very small- sometimes only a couple people came. But now it seems like we regularly have 12-15! We also meet one Saturday a month for a more family-friendly gathering and we always have a full house and toys everywhere! We are very thankful for this growing, serving and



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



worshiping community and for the amazing leaders who have been with us since day one. We could not have imagined a more vibrant community after only one year.

Cody's turns 3!

Our “big” boy celebrated a birthday last month. In one afternoon/evening, we had almost 50 people come through our rather small apartment! What a special day it was!!! We celebrated with Cody's little friends and their parents, and then we had a Peace Church gathering with another cake and much excitement. Cody enjoyed every minute of it and still talks about his birthday party all the time. While we did miss having our family there (Cody kept asking if his cousins could come!), we couldn't feel more loved here and are so thankful for how special our boys are to so many people. And boy do our kids ever love the attention 😊



Language update

We are still plucking away at Tagalog! After a little break and being home for a month, we're back to our studies. We decided to do just 3 days a week now and we have a new teacher. Our beloved teacher and friend, Bryan, got a new job that wasn't so flexible so Fread, another Peace Church friend, has taken on the role. Fread stays at our house for part of the week to teach us and also helps out with the kids. He is working towards getting into college and is studying for entrance exams right now. He is from Tondo, the poorest part of Metro Manila, and is part of Theo Sa Kanto (Church at the Street Corner), a church plant in Tondo that we've shared about before. We are very thankful for Fread in our lives and are having fun learning with him.

Thank you all for your love and prayers for our growing community and also for us as a family. We are sincerely grateful for the support you- our family, friends and partners- bless us with!

With love,
Christina, Darnell, Cody and Makai