



二〇〇九年三月

Dear friends and family:

Today is a beautiful day! I have returned home from a morning party to a cozy house...perfect temps inside and out. The birds are practically SHOUTING this afternoon. I hear rounds of little chirps squeaking across the way as the newly hatched birdlets make their presence known. On my way out this morning I had a good chuckle. I saw the equivalent of the proverbial lion and the lamb laying down together in harmony right on the sidewalk in front of my house...an annoyingly verbose dog and loud wailing cat sat curled up together in the sun.

I have enjoyed teaching kids pr to a group of 8-12 first and second graders this month. I signed up for a two month segment, so I've got three weeks to go after today. It's a topic the kids chose our first meeting together and they've done great! I found it ironic that I'm teaching the same age group as when I first stumbled onto kids pr. I guess no matter where we go, we should just do what we know to do...just be who we are.

This month has been filled with friends sending me notes of encouragement – Thank all of you! Never hesitate to send a note...you never know how important it will be when it arrives. I got one from a friend that I thought I'd share with you. Perhaps you need to be reminded too? "The L directs our steps, so why try to understand everything along the way?" (Prov20.24, NLT). Until recently, I've been careful to try to understand things and people...now, I've traded that concept in for this truth. I still try to understand some things...but not *everything!* Speaking of steps, my contract expires at the end of August and I feel to re-up for another year. Not sure what comes after that... In the meantime, I'll be enjoying my classes, learning the language bit by bit, and continuing to lift up this city in my thoughts.

In parting, I'll leave you with a funny little story. Kim, a student in a 3-year-old class, got into a bit of an argument with me during one of my recent English lessons. I had a picture representing the word "man," and one representing the word "daddy." The basic idea is to get them to recognize that not every man is a daddy. This is when Kim's brain nearly exploded. At first I didn't get it. We had made it through the mommy/woman part, and I thought the daddy/man part would be a breeze, but Kim thought otherwise. Finally, after getting so frustrated, he got up from his chair, (risking my raised eyebrow), ran to the picture of the "man," pointed to the man's stomach and said, "The baby (jab-pointing) is here!!!" Well, of course, I had to laugh!! And laugh...then share it with you!



Okay, enough yammering on by me. Enjoy the pics this month! I promise more of kids in my next update...

Signing off from Sunny Chengdu,

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Ahhhh!



Kids close your eyes...a breakfast of chocolate cake and a sizzling good kekoukele (coke) to start my month. I dropped by a large sign printing company to print out a few files to hang on my empty walls at home. They printed them for me...for free. When I tried to pay, the owner said, "don't worry, they're too small." I'm going back there soon. ;) (One of the pictures printed is included in this month's header design.)

DISH STREET – sorry Facebookers...you've already seen these.



As my grandmother might say, "more dishes than you could shake a stick at." The stock pots went from tiny to HUGE! A friend who was along with me could fit in the big pot (above).



I bought four of these green and brown narrow platters (for serving dumplings and cookies) for about \$3.50. They look nice loaded up too.

(I bought them from the shop at left.)



I have never seen this kind of fancy place setting in use in a home...yet. But it sure is pretty! For shopping here, like items are grouped together in shopping areas. So there is a computer shopping area, a leather shopping area, a cell phone shopping area, a dish/restaurant shopping area, etc. It's convenient...unless you need to purchase a variety of items.



Chengdu is known for its outrageous number of tea houses. And for tea houses (and personal homes) there is a great demand for tea cups (left photo). Check out this basket of natural whisks. They actually use these for cooking and mixing ingredients.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS



Due to the threat by Tibetan nationalists in our area, kindergartens were asked to screen students outside their main gates. For the time being, parents are no longer allowed inside during the morning drop-off time.

SCHOOL PICTS



Jack and me – his "LOWE'S" logo got my attention. Meet Teri...named after a friend from Arkansas.



Austin (blue jacket) is so proud of his English! He was going on and on, pointing out "circle" all over the place, then he finally got a brilliant idea. He puckered his lips into a tight "circle" and with lips still puckered managed to squeak out, "It's a circle." LOL! A teacher sewing puffy felt food items – yes, all by hand. Items are: lotus root, eggplant, chilies, carrots, and cabbage.



Some days
it feels like paparazzi
are stalking me!

PARTY PICTS FROM A FELLOWSHIP



Remembering the homeless.



Clowning around after making snack-paks for the less fortunate.



Parents have stopped in to see what we do in class. The kids have been very receptive and especially like Ps8.2.

Please keep the spread of this message in mind.

FAMILY IN HAWAII – just for fun!



These pictures were shared with me recently. Left taken nearly 40 years ago. Right taken almost 30 years ago.

ANYONE HAVE AN IDEA ABOUT WHAT KIND OF NUT THIS IS?
IT REMINDS ME OF A PECAN, BUT IT'S

GIGANTIC.

