

Crickets in the Sandbox

“Crickets in the Sandbox” Those are the words that Josiah said to me (Lora) several summers ago when he found those musical insects in our backyard. I wrote those words down and actually brought the piece of paper I wrote them on with me to Indonesia. I think it a whimsical title for a short story or book that I may write one day about family life. Our family life has changed a bit since those “cricket days” and Josiah again has given me another chapter or book title: “Cockroaches on the Toothbrushes.” Yes, it is much less whimsical than the first title, but just as memorable. We are still getting adjusted to life here and the small annoyances it sometimes provides. Anyway, we have moved the toothbrushes to what is hopefully a more cockroach-proof location.



We are up to 11 killed of these little critters. But they aren't so little – as big as 1 1/2 inches (or bigger)!

“Hey Ralph, let's have toothbrush for lunch today.”

Neighbor News: Our neighbor has been able to start selling food from her home. This is a big deal as her husband still is without work. Several families we know have had babies recently. Living in the kampung is about sharing with neighbors and friends as they are born, get married, find work, lose work, and die. All of life is lived here and we enjoy it, in spite of the critters we find. Lora was able to share to one (an Indonesian, not a critter) just today why we came to Indonesia – in obedience to God's call.

And though it is difficult to be away from the girls, we know God's grace is big for them as well. Please continue to pray for our neighbors. Though you don't know all their names, God does.

School news: We are now in the midst of unit 5 and officially half way through our language study. WooHoo!! Thank you for your prayers for us. On March 6-9 we plan to make our first exploratory trip to Makassar. We will meet the students and faculty at STT Jaffray and Andy will preach in chapel. We will also be able to see the city and possible home situations for us.

Andy's Language mistake of the month: While Lora and I were walking home from language school, we saw a lady carrying what I thought was a baby. It was actually a doll. I said to Lora with mixed languages, “Look at that Babi.” Well, that may look o.k. to the American eye, but “babi” in Indonesian is not even close to baby. It means “pig.” The correct word is “bayi.” Anyway, good thing only Lora heard. And there certainly would not be a “babi” in our kampung!

News about the kids

What a great time it was to have our girls with us. Hannie went back to the U.S. on January 6 and Abbie went back to Malaysia on January 18. Both were sad to leave but also glad to get back. We really treasured the days we had. This past week, Rick fell at school and almost broke his leg. He missed three days but will start back soon. Josiah is plugging away through 5th grade and doing well. Abbie, Rick, and Josiah were all happy to hear that Abbie's dorm parents at Dalat will be back next year.

"Brakeing" News January 20, 2010



Here we are (Lora took picture) with Mary (Canada), our good friend who is in language study and will be going to Papua. This scene is at Mary's house in our kampung. We had a yummy brunch.

Specifics:

1. Praise that we are now in Unit 5.
2. Praise that Rick did not break his leg and for all the support we received here in Indonesia and back home through prayers.
3. Praise for the gifts we received from family and friends for Hannie's trips to Indonesia. These are expenses we did not have a source for.
4. Pray for our neighbors and Indonesian friends.
5. Pray for God's covering over us for health and emotional and physical stamina.
6. Pray for our exploratory trip to Makassar March 6-9. Andy will speak at the school chapel.
7. Pray for our colleagues Ben and Kari Elliott who will be moving to Jakarta

to being teaching at STT Simpson in late February.

Support:

1. Thank you for your investment in us and our ministry. The primary investment vehicle to support our work is the **Great Commission Fund**. Contributions can be made through a local Alliance church, on line at <http://www.cmalliance.org/give/> or by sending a check to the C&MA, PO Box 35000, Colorado Springs, CO 80935-3500. You may designate your gift to support us by writing "for the support of Andy and Lora Brake" on the memo line. This personalizes your gift and helps us be here and carry out our ministry.
2. You may also give to our vehicle fund. This is also through the GCF except that you would designate your giving "Brake's Vehicle fund." You may also do this at www.cmalliance.org. We need about \$14,000 more for our car by next June.
3. Or to our work or our outfit expenses. This would be designated "For the work of Andy and Lora Brake."
4. Personal gift. This would be designated "A gift for Andy and Lora Brake." This is a not tax-deductible.



We Love and miss you all. Love the Brake family!