



二〇〇九年七月

Dear family and friends:

Can you believe July is already history? Wow – what a fast and crazy month! Even where you are there have been camps, vacations, special meetings, and getting the kids ready to head back into another school year. Come on! **Take a break** and find out what's been keeping me busy.

I have a cute story about Leo to share with you. The other day, as I stood at the front of his class, I announced, **"Uh-Oh! There's no more class time! See you tomorrow, everyone!"** Then from my left side Leo shouted my name. When I turned to give him my full attention, he just grinned and tucked his head. So I said, "See you tomorrow, Leo." To which he replied, **"See you tomato, Angie!"** (*tomato* in a British accent can sound very much like *tomorrow*) How clever! Leo is just a little over three years old...kids his age are capable of much more than we realize! I still catch my breath when I see things in the natural world that remind me of the "real world."

August is shaping up to be **a month of change after two years on location**. My residence permit is currently in process for a 3rd year, so apparently it's time to mix things up a little. Let's see...

- Moving to a new location – my raise this year is an accommodation upgrade. Currently engaged in apartment hunting/viewing.
- Getting new transport (4 wheels instead of 2) This includes a rumored difficult-to-obtain driver's license.
- New curriculum at school. *Hello Percy* becomes *Hello Daisy* – and a complete new teaching format.
- Teaching a combined group (1st-5th grade) at my weekly CIC Fellowship.
- Friends coming...and going...get the idea?rumored

Now, I don't want to make all this change sounds like it's a piece of cake for me. It's not, but I am learning a few things along the way. I find that I am learning stuff about myself and my environment; recognizing tactics and patterns, cycles and processes. It's not boring in the least, but it is work! Reminds me of a sign I saw on a friend's desk years ago. It said, **"Change is good. You go first."** Thanks, *Dilbert!*

To end on an extremely happy note, my new car will be here by the end of the month. I can't wait to show you an actual picture of me *IN* my new ride instead of *ON* it. Thanks in advance for keeping me covered! I'm hoping it's another **"Taco Bell" car!** (Inside joke, sorry!) –A





Are these not the most adorable visors ever? Left one is a sun mask. Right one is a visor WITH solar powered "ceiling" fan.



Us at a festive teacher's appreciation Saturday. They love eating ROUNDS of good food then toasting...then toasting some more...then toasting...some more. The food was pretty good – at least I had lots of choices! For those interested, I toasted with Pepsi. Lots and lots of Pepsi!



Hungry? Usually the heads of the shrimp are removed before cooking, but not this time. (Did your stomach just growl?) And on the right is a pickled/boiled duck egg – I was fascinated that the "white" is translucent!



"Posing" for photos after all the toasting. Little Diana is ridiculously good at posing!



Our city was so overcast we couldn't directly observe the eclipse, but we did see it on TV in class. As you can see it got completely dark outside and it lasted nearly six minutes – just about the right span for preschoolers. They were like, "Okay, so it's dark now. Can we play yet?"



Fascinated by this brand of chips: "Lonely God" chips – taste pretty good. Eric, a friend's son, showing off his kraZi driving skills...and drawing a crowd. His blonde hair really is a people magnet! Strangers would walk by and rub his head or touch his face or arms out of the blue. He's getting used to it now though. He's still puzzled when they try to talk to him.



My first Chinese "bar-b-q" meal cooked on a griddle in the middle of a table. Gotta love it! And it was a free lunch. A student's mom saw us lunching and secretly paid for our meal with hers. Sweeeeeet!



Doesn't that look yummy? Ruth's Chris customers, eat your heart out. Our plastic 'body bags' protected our clothes from all the splattering oil. I've been told I have to try Korean or Japanese bar-b-q styles next time.



Stuffing my face...again. This time with home made Auntie Anne's style pretzels – WOW and YUM!
Those big bags of golden fried pig's skin at right...one word - eeewwww!
(Not going anywhere near my mouth!)



The girls are growing up! This one turns three next month...and this one is *SUCH* a TEACHER!



A friend and I took in a college English production of the Pirates of Penzance – truly hilarious!!
Is that a huge school, or what?! Saying goodbye to these eight classes after August. It's been fun! Tiring, but fun!



Change is everywhere...roads are disappearing right under my nose; even in front of the main entrance to my housing district. This street was blocked off further just yesterday, so now even the makeshift fruit markets pictured here are gone. Sewers are being replaced (finally) in the entire housing area...all at once...efficient planning. So people, cars, and bikes are using small strips of sidewalk – it's INTERESTING!