



La Luz de Cristo para Perú

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The Breakfast Club

Estrella lives in a tiny rustic adobe house in Patarcocha, Peru. Her house almost hangs on the side of the mountain, built on a steep grade that I can't believe supports the home. It is the rainy season, so the path to the house is slick with mud. Even the dogs are sliding down the hill as they accompany Elva and me on this visit. Estrella and her daughter, Mabelle, begin to run and slip up the muddy hill to greet us.

We're visiting Estrella's home today to talk to the elderly people who live with her. Estrella is in her 40s and she cares for her daughter Mabelle (16), her mother Teodora (74), her father Alberto (84), her aunt Cicilia (82), and Miss Rosa (90). Miss Rosa is not family. She is one of the many abandoned elderly in Patarcocha. Estrella has taken her in to her home to care for her. Of the six people in Estrella's home, 4 are homebound; unable to walk or care for themselves.

Estrella's story is not uncommon here. Elva and I visited 22 homes like Estrella's on Sunday. In most homes, there was not someone like Estrella to help care for these sweet *mamachas y papachines* (Quechua Wanca for grandmother and grandfather). Most of the elderly here are abandoned and live alone. Many can barely walk, shuffling if they do manage to stand and get around. They rely on the kindness and care of their neighbors, who check on them periodically to make sure they are okay. In most cases, their health is marginal as they are quite malnourished. They cannot work their fields any longer, they cannot harvest, they no longer have income and therefore cannot go to the market... so they eat what they find or rely on someone to help out.

Julia (86) excitedly lets us in her door and invites us to sit in her yard. But she soon begins to cry and babble in Quechua (her heart language). "I'm such a bad hostess. I have nothing to give you for your visit. I had some berries the other day, but they are gone now. And it is too muddy for me to walk the mountain to try to find more. I'm such a bad hostess. Please forgive me", she sobs.

We are visiting to announce a new outreach that Elva has proposed. Elva, my Peruvian

best friend, has come up with a plan to supply breakfast for the elderly each day. Having lost her own mother, Mama Victoria (89) this year, her heart is heavy for the elderly. With the help of her cow (milk) and our goats (milk and cheese) and the chickens (eggs) and the greenhouse/garden projects (fruits), she would like to cook a healthy breakfast for each of the 30+ elderly. A north American supporter has offered to help by supplying oatmeal and fruit as a supplement for the first 6 months until the farm projects are in full production. Elva will supply the labor, the location (her house), and the milk from her cow.

As we announce the proposed project, smiles and hugs and tears flow at each house. "Thank you! Thank you! I've been begging God to help me find food. Thank you!" We heard the same words over and over.

The breakfast program began Monday. I sat in Elva's kitchen as she frantically fed wood into the adobe stove, boiling water for oatmeal and hard-boiled eggs, smoke curling around us as the sun came up. I prayed that this would be a success and the we were doing something that God would bless. I had confirmation within the hour...

Slowly, the sweet, smiling faces of our community's heritage began arriving in Elva's door. It felt like a home diner, with so many coming and sharing a meal and staying to talk about old times and become reacquainted as friends. The oatmeal was a blessing to them, but the tears began to flow when the bananas and hard-boiled eggs came to the table. For these precious friends, breakfast looked like Thanksgiving dinner. Many ate their oatmeal and saved the banana and egg "for later", accustomed to rationing what little food they have.

As you eat breakfast each day, please pray for the "Breakfast Club" ministry, for Elva and her family, and for the many *mamachas y papachines* of Patarcocha.



REAL Southern Living... Our life in rural Peru

December and January...

We left Peru on December 1st to attend a training event in Spain (see article page 4-Coaching). It was a very stressful time for us as we tried to prepare our house for our absence, find responsible people to take care of the house, the animals, and ministry needs while we would be away, etc. No matter how much you prepare, you always worry!

Upon our return in mid-January, we found that our home in Patarcocha fared well in our absence. The neighbor who was staying in the house and watching the animals did a great job and was very conscientious... I can't tell you how many times she apologized for the fact that the guppies died! What you need to realize is that **THERE WAS NO WATER IN PATARCOCHA FOR ONE MONTH!** So, of course the fish died! Once their water evaporated, there wasn't anything left to do! She did everything she could to make sure that the bigger animals (dog, cat, goats, chickens, and pig) had water... she hauled it up from the spring! I actually have a hunch that she tried to add water to the fish from the springs, but it was glacier/ice water and the tropical fish didn't do so well with that...



Our first week back, we immediately set to getting the new water line installed at our house. We still have issues... the water lines are installed, but the main valve in the community is closed A LOT for repairs. Last week, we had two days of water, then 3 days without, then 2 days with, then we went 4 days without. Then came the big wind storm that knocked down trees on the mountain and took out the electric lines to our entire area. So we spent time without electricity OR water. (I have become highly appreciative of basic running water and electricity as a result of living on the mountain!) As of today, we have had **both** water and electricity for several consecutive days! Woo Hoo! We are learning to bathe the second we see water coming from the faucets, no matter what time it is! And we are becoming obsessive about trying to keep water in extra bottles and buckets. We hope to install a tank in the next month or two so we will have a water reserve of about a week or so.

As to the animals and gardens and the community development projects – The animals all survived our absence (well, except for the fish) and we continue to move forward with these new projects:

We now have 17 hens and we get about 12 eggs a day from them. We use these eggs to help provide a source of protein to the abandoned elderly and the children in our education project.

We now have 10 goats (thank you, sweet supporter, who sent money for more goats!) and we are using them for milk and cheese for the same cause – abandoned elderly in the community and children in the education project. Just last week, we made our first goat cheese! Several of the goats are currently being bred and we look forward to babies and increased milk production. *Special note: BABIES! We had our first set of twins on January 30!*

The greenhouse suffered in December and early January due to the no water situation, but all is still alive and we are working on the production there. We currently have a few different fruits growing, as well as some squashes and tomatoes. These things usually don't grow here due to our cold nights. Our greenhouse is the size of a full-size basketball court, so we have room! In the gardens (outside) we just transplanted lettuce and onions last week. We have broccoli and cauliflower and corn growing. We had an initial failure in our gardens and had to start again in late November, so we aren't where we would like to be, but we're trying. We received a financial gift for several fruit trees that we will be planting in the next month.



Exciting news!!!! Join us in praising God for all of the above and in praying for successes in the community. We know that these efforts will open more doors for Christ and give us more opportunities to share His love with the people of Patarcocha and Peru.

Goats 101

While shopping in Texas at a local whole foods grocery store, Billy noticed that there were goat's milk products in the refrigerator. Since we are currently in the infancy of a goat project in Peru, he took note of the website address on the label to email them and ask questions. At the house, he looked up the website... incredibly, the farm that produces these products was just 15 minutes from Laurie's mother's house in Bryan! So Billy sent them an email to see if he could meet with them to find out more.

That evening, we received a phone call from the owner. Yes, he would love to "meet with us and teach us everything we need to know about dairy goats in 24 hours or less". So, off we went to meet him the next day.

Well, there are NO COINCIDENCES!!! The owners are missionaries! He was a missionary to China and she (are you ready?) grew up in HUANCAYO, PERU! Her family were missionaries here and taught school here. How amazing is that?! We had lots in common and lots to talk about.



We spent time with them on their farm, learning all about dairy goats... health, milking process, cheese making techniques, everything! It was really amazing. You never know who God will put in your path or how He will use your daily comings and goings... even your trip to the grocery store and a label on some cheese could change your life!

The Drums | HOW TO CONTACT US:

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NEWSLETTER: VISIT THE WEBSITE AT WWW.DRUMSFORCHRIST.ORG AND CLICK "NEWSLETTERS"

SUPPORT US: USE THE FORM BELOW, OR GO TO [HTTP://THEMISSIONSOCIETY.ORG/CONNECT/CONNECTMISSIONARIES/PEOPLE/DRUM](http://THEMISSIONSOCIETY.ORG/CONNECT/CONNECTMISSIONARIES/PEOPLE/DRUM)

DEAR BILLY AND LAURIE,

I will pray for you. Please send me your newsletter by e-mail: _____

As God provides, I plan to partner with you by giving \$ _____ Per month / quarter / year for _____ years.

I would like to donate a one-time gift of \$ _____

I would like to sponsor a child's education for \$30/mo. (\$360/ year). (Please write Special Project on your check)



Name (PLEASE PRINT) _____

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TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIFTS MAY BE SENT TO:

The Mission Society

PO Box 922637

Norcross, GA 30010-2637 USA

DESIGNATE GIFTS: "DRUM—0321SUP"



Pray for our friends, Elva and Alfonso and their family. Alfonso had an accident in the mine (where he worked) and was rushed to surgery. His left eye was removed as a result. He has been in Lima for over a month now, trying to deal with follow-up, trying to get the insurance company to pay their part, and trying to receive a prosthetic eye. In the process, he is without work and the family is incurring huge expenses. Four of their six children are now working to support the family.

Pray for our communications issues! Our move "up the mountain" has meant significant difficulties in internet communications, telephone contact, etc. This is a major stressor for us. The inability to stay in contact with our boys in the States, our mothers and families has been trying.

Pray for our health... colder temps, constant rains, and fierce winds are rough on our health. Laurie is currently in the hospital with pneumonia and Sarah is currently taking antibiotics for upper respiratory issues.

Pray for our Kuyay Talpuy team (Johana, Rosio, Tania, Milagros, and Susy) and for the communities of Iscos, Patarcocha and Tinyari.

Pray for our Mission Society Peru team (the Ivey family, the McEuen family, the Drum family, the Reeves family and Louise Reimer) as we work to minister to the people of Peru.

COACHING... OUR NEW OPPORTUNITY!



In December, we went to Spain for training to become professional coaches (not the sports-kind... the kind that help people reach their goals and grow). The training was wonderful! We spent a week in intensive training in Malaga, Spain, followed by several on-line teleclasses and follow up requirements. We have just a couple more classes to go and a few more hours of practicum to log before we receive our official coaching certifications. We are also currently enrolled in courses which are an extension to the coaching certification that will allow us to coach groups, teams, and communities (i.e. work related teams, mission teams, administrative teams, etc.) Although our coaching certification is a "general certification", our specific specialization and niche is coaching people/groups/teams in transition – people who are changing jobs or job descriptions, people who are moving, people who are transitioning into a different stage of life (retirement, second career, college life-to-"adult life", work world to home office or home-school life, etc.) We already have several coaching clients (missionaries and missionary families around the world, college students in transition, and clients in a change of life-stage). We have also been approached by a couple of Peruvians who would like some coaching in goal-setting and how to grow and move forward in life. The really exciting part of this is that not only can we be effective missionaries in our field (Peru), but via coaching we can effectively help others around the globe! It's very exciting!

Please join us in prayer for this new opportunity that we have to reach out to others and walk with them to reach their potential.

SHARE THE LOVE OF **CHRIST** WITH THE PEOPLE OF PERU.

WWW.DRUMSFORCHRIST.ORG | 979.985.5238

Photo header on page 1: The Huaytapallana Glacier range in Peru...
the view from our front door!

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