



## La Luz de Cristo para Perú

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### Lost and Found

Your July newsletter was not lost in the mail. It was not lost in your email inbox either. It was just one of the many things that have been "lost" over this summer of lost and found...

- Our cell phone was on loan to our summer intern while she served here in Peru. Sadly, she was caught in a pick-pocket scam on her way to work one morning and our cell phone is no longer with us.
- Our visas have been in the process of being renewed for 70 days now. This process should have taken 5 days. Although we are not in danger of being kicked out of the country because the paperwork has been "in process" since early May, our visa has expired and we are on borrowed time now. Every lost day is painful.
- Our credit card identity was stolen in early June (not the actual card, just the numbers and info). Thanks to Billy being diligent at taking care of our finances, we realized this within a few days of the occurrence and were able to stop the charges. In the mean time, someone in Lima had quite a roaring good time at several restaurants, bars, and shopping establishments at our expense!
- This past weekend, while traveling back to Huancayo after taking new missionaries and The Mission Society staff to Lima to catch their flights, our laptop was stolen in the bus terminal. Hence, the loss of the newsletter and MANY other files and photos and info, and the loss of the ability to get some vital work done until the laptop is replaced.
- Loss of personnel... this month brought about the loss/firing of one of our key workers in the Kuyay Talpuy program. As this worker will no longer be working with our team, we are trying to cope with filling his responsibilities and the team is working to pull together and rebuild the loss of unity and trust that we need.
- Loss of financial support... the last two months have seen a dramatic drop in financial support. While we usually see a downward trend in the summer months due to people traveling, vacationing, out of school, etc., the drop is significant enough this time to cause us to worry a bit.

I can't lie... when you pile all of these "losses" together and

overlay them with the responsibilities that we have been facing with everyday ministry and short-term teams and training, there have been a few pretty stressful, tense days, a couple of days when I just broke down and was ready to throw in the towel, a couple of days when I just had to have a seriously good cry.

But my quiet time keeps me going. In my quiet time, during my devotionals, during my Bible study or my journaling, God keeps showing me the "found" side... these couple of months have been pretty big months for personal growth, for seeing things from a different perspective, for team-building, for relationships.

- I had the privilege of spending 21 days with The Mission Society staff as we hosted their annual training event, of going through missionary training for a second time and seeing it through different eyes.
- I had the honor of teaching 20 new missionaries from Peru, Ecuador, and Brazil - something I never thought I would do!
- I learned just how much I really do love the people I live with and serve. The possible loss of our visas has hit me hard, because I really love serving here and I really don't want to leave yet!
- I "found" new friends this month.
- I learned new tools to study the Bible this month.
- I "found" a new peace as I sat on the side of the mountain one day and thought about life and God.
- God helped me to restore a broken relationship that I thought was lost forever.

I'm so blessed that He is the God of the lost and found! I'm thankful for everything that He has brought to pass in these past couple of months. My God can use all things for good, and He will! Spend some time with Him and let him help you recoup some losses.

# It takes time to build relationships But the rewards are so great!



It is sometimes difficult to convince people that building relationships IS ministry and it is so important. It takes a lot of time, but relationships are essential to the life God wants us to lead. The North American mindset is riddled with deeply embedded ideas to the contrary...

"Time is money." Efficiency. Don't waste time. Stay on schedule. Productivity. We are a goal-oriented people. Results-driven. Time-management.

I frequently have inner-struggles with my built-in set of USA values and what I know to be best for the work we do here in Peru. I'm a list maker. I have things to do, things to accomplish, line items... and it is easy to let these things rule my life and become more important. But there is this constant tugging in my heart that keeps me in check — the tugging of the "want to do" list in opposition to the "need to do list". You see, my need-to-do list is the one that is always full of things like *go to the market, type the newsletter, re-write nutrition fliers, write article for The Mission Society, enter financial info*, etc. And my want-to-do list is the one that is always pulling at my heart with things like *buy thread and fabric for embroidery project with Mama Elva, eat lunch in Patarcocha, help Mama Victoria with corn harvest, hang out with the elderly in the community kitchen, finish crocheting my poncho with Iscos moms*. Which list is more important?

Easy... it's always the task that involves building a relationship with someone else that should win out.



A couple of weeks ago, our Peruvian workers were sitting in the sun with Julia. Julia has been the "grandmother" of the project from the beginning, but she wasn't a believer. She has always been there for us, always opened her home and her heart to us, always takes good care of us and the children. She listens in on the lessons, she listens at the door when the girls teach the children, but she always stayed on the fringes of the work. We never pushed the subject. But last week, she asked the girls about a dream she had—about the end of the earth and the moon fell from the sky and everything was dark and bad. They listened. And they talked a little. They laughed a lot. And Julia said that she was finally ready to believe and accept Christ. It took more than 2 full years of being with Julia every single day, of building a relationship with her and her trusting us enough to listen... but the reward is so GREAT!

There is also Manuel... a 13 year old who comes to Kuyay in the afternoons after school. He comes to get tutoring, to take English classes, and to have Bible study. When he started coming in January, he was skeptical. He was very open about NOT being a believer. He called Christians "hypocrites" with closed minds and closed churches. He questioned every word from our teacher's lips and made them prove everything they said and back it up with Scripture. He really put them to the test! A couple of months ago, his mother approached the project and said that he is a changed kid... he skips lunch to go straight to our center to learn more and be with our teachers. Last month, he stated that he wants to be a missionary, too! Last week he was in tears as he talked about how sad it makes him to hear his friends in school talk about Christians in the same way he used to. He is impatient with his schooling... "it is taking up too much of his time - he wants to be out sharing about Christ and teaching others." Our teachers are pouring their lives into Manuel. They have taken him on as their little brother. They are investing time in a relationship with him. Because they know that the dividends on this investment will effect countless others in Peru.

Relationships take time, but the rewards are incredible!

# SPECIAL PRAYER REQUESTS...

We have some special prayer requests this month that we would like for you to add to your list:

- \* **Please pray for our visa situation.** We are 70+ days into the process of renewing our visas. This should have only taken 5 days. We have run into various roadblocks and continue to work via a lawyer to remove the holds on our visas and proceed. It is now time to renew Sarah's visa and we cannot begin the work on hers until ours are approved. Please pray for a quick resolution to this issue.
- \* **Please pray for us to find a house** in Iscos, Patarcocha or Tinyari (the communities where the ministry is located). We are truly convicted that we need to move into these communities to be closer to the ministry and build deeper, stronger relationships with the people we serve. This is an important move for us and for the ministry.
- \* **Please pray for our financial needs.** Our support has been down over the past two months and we need to see an increase in financial support in order to continue the ministry as it functions now. Also, due to the losses of physical goods (see article page 1), we are faced with replacing our laptop and phone ASAP, as well as possible costs associated with paying the lawyer for the work on our visas (see above).
- \* **Please pray for a new initiative** that God has really put on our hearts. There is a population of abandoned elderly in Patarcocha who are in their 80s and 90s—on any given day, between 16-26 elderly come to the community kitchen in hopes of finding a meal. They cannot work their fields any more and have no way to take care of their own needs, especially food. The community kitchen tries to feed them one meal a day, but no longer has the resources to do so. The regional government cannot give food supplements any longer because these elderly people do not have “appropriate paperwork” i.e. birth certificates or baptism records, therefore they don't legally exist. Billy would like to start a community garden and a chicken house to help supply fresh veggies and eggs each day. In the mean time, we need to find an answer to helping to feed the elderly.



**Praises** for an incredible time of training as The Mission Society held their giant annual new-missionary training event in Huancayo! New missionaries from USA, Peru, Kenya, Ecuador, Brazil, Haiti, and Jamaica came together for an intense time of learning and training to go out to the nations.

**Pray** for the Christ UMC team from College Station, Texas as they come to build playgrounds for two communities in August.

**Pray** for the Halltown Baptist medical team as they come to serve in the jungle.

**Pray** for our Mission Society Peru team (the Ivey family, the McEuen family, the Drum family, the Reeves family) as we work to minister to the people of Peru. **Pray** for Louise Reimer (arriving in October), the Goshorn family, Theresa Anderson, and The Weigert family as they train and prepare to become a part of the Mission Society Peru team.

**Pray** for our boys (Ryan and Miles) as they continue to live in the USA. Pray for them to grow in faith and for God to protect them and guide them through their 20s.

**Pray** for our Kuyay Talpuy team... Pray for strength and guidance and unity for them as they work to share Christ's love in Peru. Pray for them as they put new strategies into practice and as they build relationships in the communities of Iscos, Patarcocha, and Tinyari.

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SUPPORT US: USE THE FORM BELOW, OR GO TO <http://www.themissionsociety.org/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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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DESIGNATE GIFTS: "DRUM—0321SUP"





New missionaries from USA, Peru, Brazil, Kenya, Haiti, Jamaica, and Ecuador spent much of July in training with The Mission Society here in Huancayo, Peru!



Children from Iscos spend their recess time each day on make-shift swings... their teachers tie ropes on a soccer goal. In August, these children will have their first "real playground". A team from Christ UMC in College Station, Texas is coming to Peru to help build two playgrounds in the communities of Iscos and Patarcocha. Stay tuned for photos of the new and improved swings next month!!!

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

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