



## *La Luz de Cristo para Perú*

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### Is it really church if there are only two people?

It was Sunday afternoon and it was time for our church group to meet. We walked over to the park to wait on the group and on our Peruvian teacher, Rosio. While we waited, we chatted with others in the park, stared a sprinkler on our garden area that joins the park, and just “hung out” with two other people who were waiting. Soon we learned that Rosio wasn’t able to come today - she stepped on a nail earlier in the day and wasn’t able to walk. I mentally went into “punt mode”... I had my Bible and was trying to decide in my head what I should teach and what I should do to “fix” our current issue... no plan and no teacher.

But as I tried to make mental lesson plans, the two ladies who were there waiting with us just kept on chatting with me about life... what they had planted in their fields, how much we needed rain, asking questions about our garden area that we were watering, etc. An obvious pattern was emerging... plants! So I quickly turned to the Parable of The Sower and read out loud to my friends. We thoughtfully considered the story together. Then one of the ladies (Estrella) began to tell me about a CD that she has of Peruvian-style worship songs. And she began to sing them for me! So I sat, amazed, as Estrella sang Quechua worship music. Then the conversation turned to rain again and the lack of water we have right now in the valley. And we talked about countries where there isn’t EVER any water and they are in a constant state of drought. Which led to the ladies saying how blessed we are in Peru to have water (sometimes not as much as we want, but we always have water). And also how blessed we are that no one is ever dying of starvation... there is always food in Peru. Billy stepped away from the group for awhile and returned with 6 eggs to give to Teodora and Estrella. (see article page 2 for more on chicken eggs) They asked, “How much are you selling them for?” When we explained the new chicken house ministry, they were amazed. “You’re going to give them away to us? They are a gift?” Then Teodora began to cry. “I love eggs! I love them hard boiled. I’m going to go home and cook these for us for dinner.” She had been carrying a plastic bag with three small patties of homemade cheese. “Here. You have to take these in exchange for the eggs. I have a cow and I make cheese from her milk. Please take these cheeses, Hermano.”

It was starting get dark (which means the temperature will drop to freezing within the hour), so we all parted ways from our seat on the park bench. Estrella announced that she would like to start a

prayer time - she wants to pray for all of the people in our pueblo by name, so she is on a quest for the names of each person in each household. We encouraged her in this, hugged and kissed and said our goodbyes, being sure to invite her to come on Tuesdays to our house for afternoon workshop and bible study with the other ladies.

As I was reflecting on the situation, I was critiquing myself and trying to decide if I had done the ladies justice in our “church service”. Was it sufficient? Was it really church? I felt that I had done an inadequate job of leading... in fact, I didn’t feel that I had been a leader at all. And, as if to answer my concerns, I received an email from my missionary leader (Arthur Ivey). He had attached an article on discipleship and church planting that he thought we might like to read. What an answer / reaffirmation to my concerns!!!

There are a lot of days where I don’t feel like I am doing any overt ministry activity. This week, I spent several days working with several community members to build a community greenhouse. I cooked in the community kitchen and helped serve the people who came to eat. I met many of the abandoned elderly and sat to chat with them over lunch. I spent several afternoons learning to embroider from a group of ladies. One day, Billy and I traveled with two other Peruvians to the other end of the valley to visit some Christian families that are doing amazing things with self-sustaining gardening and “green living practices”. My friends want to bring these concepts to Patarcocha, to their pueblo. Although these things were not overtly “ministry”, there was a lot of relationship building and “seed sowing” that went on this week. It was, perhaps, my most favorite week in Peru to date. We and a few new disciples are “doing life together”. We are spending time together, working in community, learning about each other, and pouring into each other’s lives. And along the way, we are studying the bible together and putting Jesus’ teachings into practice.

Yes, sitting and talking in the park with two ladies on a Sunday afternoon was a GREAT church service!

# **REAL** Southern Living... Our life in rural Peru

Where to begin?! Last month was ridiculously full of activity and new experiences for us as we spent our first weeks in the house in Patarcocha.

- ◆ We were barely moved in when the team from Covenant UMC (Dothan, Alabama) came to spend a week working with the ministries here. They worked in the public elementary school in Tinyari doing VBS, health classes, reading workshop, and a sports ministry. In the afternoons, they learned Peruvian cooking from the ladies in Patarcocha, learned to knit from the ladies in Iscos, learned how to shop in the open food markets in Chupaca, and they built a chicken house for the new egg production part of the ministry. The beautiful thing about this type of mission team is that they came to share and to teach, but to also learn from the locals and experience the culture.
- ◆ One of our real concerns in this community has been the fact that (#1) there is a very high rate of malnutrition in children and elderly, and (#2) there are a large number of abandoned elderly people who do not have a way to feed themselves. There is a community kitchen that functions at lunchtime... six different ladies in the community take turns cooking in the kitchen and serving community members—mostly the abandoned elderly. I had the pleasure of working in the kitchen the other day with Elva. The mayor of the community gives the kitchen some dry goods each month... noodles, rice, sugar. Anything else comes from the ladies who cook, or the occasional community member who gives something to the “pot”. During seasons like right now, when we are at the beginning of planting season and the last harvest was early in June/July, times are pretty lean and there isn't much to go in the pot. For example, one day last week, lunch consisted of rice and potatoes with a little sauce on top. On the day that Elva and I cooked, we served spaghetti (more noodles than sauce or meat) and a mixed bean soup on the side - it was nutritious, but only because Elva and I put in the vegetables, the mix of beans, and the meat. Which brings me to one of our new ministry initiatives via nutrition and agriculture:



- The new chicken house is now in production. We currently have 15 hens who have begun to lay. The eggs are being donated to the abandoned elderly and the community kitchen. The first two “egg gifts” were greeted with such excitement (and actual tears of joy!) that we knew we were on the right track. With the lack of protein being such a major problem, we felt that the chicken house could be a great answer to this problem. We have also been able to supply the children's feeding program with eggs on several occasions in the past couple of weeks. Special thanks to the Positive Thinkers Sunday School class from Plano, Texas for supplying the funds to build a chicken house and buy our first flock!

- We just finished building a community greenhouse. Elva (my Peruvian neighbor and best friend) saw a greenhouse at a government program and came home all excited, saying that we needed to build a community greenhouse to help us grow vegetables year-round and make the kitchen self-sustaining. She was so excited about it that she and her husband, Alfonso, donated a piece of their land for the building. We bought the wood posts for the frame and they went to work. Elva and one of her sons had the frame built in a weekend. The team from Dothan, Alabama donated funds to purchase greenhouse plastic. Elva, Alfonso, Billy and I, Milagros, and Magna worked to cover the greenhouse (which took several days due to high winds and the sheer size of the greenhouse). Then we took a trip to a community at the other end of the valley to visit some greenhouses that have been working and supplying food for several years. Elva was on FIRE by the time we returned to Patarcocha! She is making plans to mobilize the other moms in town to go visit the other community so they can “catch the vision” and start to build their own family greenhouses and gardens to improve the nutrition of their own families.



This is a dream come true for Billy! With a degree from Texas A&M in Horticulture, he has always wanted to see this particular “open door”. Now he is working side-by-side with Peruvian families as they work to use appropriate technologies to improve their lives. You should see their homemade irrigation system! Who knew that you could build a very effective sprinkler system with a little tubing, electrical tape and recycled plastic bottles?!

# THE TESTIMONIES OF CHILDREN...

We have always had a ministry to children via an educational outreach program. Beginning in the town of San Juan de Iscos with 20 children, this ministry soon grew to include the town of Patarcocha and a second educational program. Last year, we were given the opportunity to start a third educational outreach to the public school system in the town of Tinyari, teaching Bible and biblical values to the children there. Our students continue to be our best missionaries! With no fear, they go out from the classroom and tell others about Jesus, retelling the bible stories that they have learned in class, praying in public, teaching their families to pray, and singing the bible songs that we have taught. It is such a blessing and brings such a smile to our faces to overhear a couple of the kids playing on the playground while singing about the disciples in the boat!

Last month, the a mission team from the States was working in the school in Tinyari. One of the activities one day was for the kids to write out their testimony of how they became a Christian or of what God has done in their lives. We were so touched to later receive / read several of the kid's testimonies. For example, "I wasn't a believer. I didn't believe in God. But then last year, Jesus sent 'Hermano Billy and Hermana Laurie' to our school to teach us. Now I am a believer. I am thankful to Jesus for Billy and Laurie. I am glad they came to live here and teach us." Wow! I really needed to hear that!!! These same students have helped us open doors in other parts of the community... the community health post has now asked Laurie to teach Community Health classes once a month to moms in the community. Our community health classes are all biblically based on Jesus' interest in caring for our physical needs as well as our spiritual needs.

This past week, we also received news that one of our little students (5 year old Samuel) had gone to see relatives in another town with his parents. His mother brought back the news that she was amazed at her son... he was telling bible stories to other adults in the town and teaching them the things that he had learned in our program! Go Samuel!



**Praises** for new ministry opportunities (greenhouse, chicken house, community health, family workshops, etc.). The ministry is growing and changing rapidly!!!

**Pray** for our sons (Ryan and Miles) in Texas. Miles is currently working in Bryan/College Station and Ryan is in his final year of studies at Texas A&M Kingsville.

**Pray** for our upcoming travel... we leave Peru on Dec. 1 to attend a training in Spain. We then travel to Texas to spend two weeks with family for Christmas. Then we head to a Mission Society training in Florida for all missionaries in North & South America. We will return to Peru on January 12. **Pray** for our travel safety. **Pray** for our home in Peru to be safe and protected as we won't be here for 6 weeks. **Pray** for our training and continued learning during the two training workshops that we must attend.

**Pray** for our Kuyay Talpuy team (Johana, Rosio, Tania, Milagros), for the Kuyay mission projects, 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 the new arrival - Louise Reimer) as we work to minister to the people of Peru. **Pray** for the Goshorn family, Theresa Anderson, and The Weigert family as they train and prepare to become a part of the Mission Society Peru team.

## The Drums | HOW TO CONTACT US: NEW!

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## TO THE MINES...

Miguel works in the mines in Peru. For 14 days he works deep in the earth in the mine, then he returns home to his family in Iscos for 7 days. Then the cycle repeats. When Miguel is home, he and his wife Medely are studying together in discipleship classes. They were recently baptized. They are using the Proclaimer machine from [Faith Comes By Hearing](http://www.faithcomesbyhearing.com/) to foster a group of new believers who gather to listen to the Bible together. Peru is a culture of oral learners... they prefer to learn via oral means - storytelling, hearing information, discussion groups, etc. When Miguel returned to the mines last week, he took the Proclaimer machine into the earth with him so that he could let other miners listen to the Bible. He is taking the Word to other men so that they, too, can hear and believe.

We have 4 Proclaimer machines in use in our ministry. Miguel is using one in the mines, Miguel and Medely have a listening group in Iscos, another machine is being used in weekly bible study and workshop groups, and another is being used by a family unit in Patarcocha. Special thanks to our support partner in College Station who helped us obtain the 4 machines from Faith Comes By Hearing!

<http://www.faithcomesbyhearing.com/>

SHARE THE LOVE OF CHRIST WITH THE PEOPLE OF PERU.

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

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