



La Luz de Cristo para Perú

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Community

The air at dusk has been crisp these last few weeks, reminding me of fall and spring evenings in Texas. I keep expecting to receive a call any minute from "The Porch Party Gang" - the group of friends that used to spend almost every Friday or Saturday night at our house, sitting on the back porch or out by the fire pit. These beautiful nights remind me of the fun we used to share with those couples... cooking out, telling jokes and stories, playing together and sharing life together around a campfire... best friends.

I loved living in "community" with the Porch Gang. Andy Matheson, in his book *In His Image*, writes about community:

Life in the warmth of community brings with it an awareness of belonging, of "family life", of hospitality, of feeling oneself to be somebody. In this community, people are accepted for who they are and are able to be real. In this community each individual is valued as an image bearer of God and not judged on outward appearance or on the specific contribution he or she is able to make. We must be in communities where relationships are supportive, where celebration happens often, and where people can journey in life and faith seeking truth for themselves... Such communities are messy, but they are real.

I love that passage! That is what I loved about our community of friends at home in Texas. That is what I loved about our small group from church. I always felt like we were a "family". We were always close, we could always share our ups and downs, our successes and failures, our tears and our laughter.

In reading through that passage, and in the book *In His Image*, we have been left with questions regarding "community" and how we live here in Peru:

- Is it possible to have the same kind of community that we had in Texas, here in Peru?
- Is it possible to remain in community with people who live 3000+ miles away?



- In the Kuyay Talpuy ministry, is this the kind of community that we are building? A community where people feel that they belong, feel like a family, feel like they are accepted and loved, feel like they have value? Do we have a community in which people can be in supportive relationship with each other? Where they can laugh and cry and celebrate together? We are working toward this goal...

- In our missionary team, do we share this kind of community together?
- In our small group of English speakers who do book study and bible study together each week, do we share deeply in each other's lives?
- What can we do better, to foster more community, to build deeper relationships? We must take responsibility for our relational community and our needs (with a lot of prayer and petition to God for guidance and help and provision), so what action steps do we take to live in deeper community with others?

I don't know all of the answers to these questions, yet. I trust that God is leading me down a road of awareness and helping me to find these relationships here. After all, we are created for relationship - Relationship with God and relationship with others. "The soul needs to interact with other people to be healthy," says Donald Miller. And God himself declared that it is not good for man to be alone. And it is only through relationships that we are ever transformed. "Transformation is about having transforming relationships, and relationships are transformed by people," claims Bryant Myers.

As we seek to build community and deeper relationships here, we urge you to ask yourself some of these same questions about your relationships, and see how you can go deeper in communities that celebrate together, share together, accept one another, and seek to journey in life together. Such relationships are worth working for, and they are a gift. While you're at it, invite some folks over and have a gathering on your porch and enjoy the gift of good friends!

Simple lessons With transforming effects



One of my favorite days this month (there are always many incredible days!) came on a particular Friday. We had a visitor come to see the Kuyay Talpuy program. Dr. Bibiana MacLeod spent the morning going along on home/community visits with Johana and Darwin (two of our Peruvian missionaries), did some more Community Health Evangelism training in the afternoon with the Kuyay Talpuy staff, and taught a lesson in the evening at the Family Workshop and Bible study group in Iscos.

The evening lesson was focused on nutrition - a topic that the community had requested. This involved having Billy and I go to the local open market in the community and buy examples of all of the types of fresh foods locally available. Although this exercise was not new to Billy and I, we hadn't ever shopped in this particular open market before. We had so much fun! The local vendors were so nice and so helpful and joyful. (This isn't usually the case in the city market.) And when they found out

what we were going to do with the foods, they were even more excited to help out!

In the evening, the lesson involved placing all of the locally available foods on a long table in the center of the room. The display included a huge variety of peppers, potatoes, greens, squashes, grains, fruits of every imaginable type, breads, etc. It looked like a marvelous feast! Since Dr. Bibiana is from Argentina, she asked the group to show her the foods and teach her the local names, etc. (All Latin American countries DO NOT use the same Spanish or the same vocabulary. Language is strongly influenced by local culture.) Then the group was asked to pull out the foods that they regularly eat - foods that are in their kitchens right now and are used in their daily diets. The overwhelming response was sugar, bread, noodles, rice, potatoes, corn, milk, and sometimes eggs, chicken and oatmeal... a dismal display of white and yellow. "If these other foods are readily available in your local market, and you actually work in the fields and grow most of these things, why don't you eat them?", asked Bibiana. "We sell it all. It gets exported to Lima. We can make more money by selling it and we can buy more of the other cheaper foods (noodles, rice, sugar, etc.). The foods that don't bring a high market price, we eat (potatoes and corn)," was the unanimous answer.

The lesson continued with a discussion and activity which separated the foods into food groups and discussed why our body needs each type. The group then revisited their current daily diets and discussed what is missing and how that affects their bodies and their health. They also discussed possible ideas for how to incorporate some of the things that they are lacking... they decided that they could hold out a few of the carrots or a couple of heads of broccoli, etc. and not sell those away to Lima - their family's health was important. It was beautiful to watch the ladies come to their own conclusions and talk amongst themselves to solve their own issues! The lesson finished with a discussion of our needing spiritual nutrition as well as physical nutrition and the importance of spending time feeding ourselves and others with Biblical truths, spending time with God, and building healthy relationships with others each day.



And then, an amazing thing happened! From those 20 women who attended the Friday night lesson, the knowledge began to spread RAPIDLY! By Monday morning, the community had decided to send fruits or vegetables for school snacks with their children! And they had told the mothers in the next community all about the lesson - so the moms in Patarcocha requested to receive the same lesson in their community. On Tuesday, a group of community ladies met in Patarcocha and learned the same information, taught by one of our Kuyay teachers. By Wednesday, the menus and diets of the two communities had begun to change to include more vegetables and fruits. The concept of multiplication was fully at work! Friday

night's lesson had taught a group of 20, who went out and taught their neighbors and families, and together they are taking responsibility for changing their own health - as a community. And they want to learn MORE!!! They want to do home gardening, they want to learn biblical business & microenterprise, they want to join together and better their community... and so, we are busily teaching more!!!

Short-term Mission Teams and Internships



Did you know that short-term mission teams and Internships are a couple of our ministries here in Peru? We host 8-10 short-term ministry teams and a few individual internships each year. Short-term teams and interns do a variety of things here, but **the most important thing they do** is partner with existing ministries to **build relationships** and bring people closer to Christ.

As full-time missionaries on the ground in Peru, one of our jobs is to facilitate those partnerships. We want to help you partner with other Peruvians and other ministries.

- We want to build relationships with you and walk together toward Christ.
- We want to help you build relationships with Peruvians so that **together** you can come to a better understanding of who Christ is.



A key here is to understand that short-term teams and interns are one of many ministries on the ground here in Peru. Short-term teams and interns from North America ARE NOT bringing Christ to Peru... He has been here for a *LONG* time and He is already working here, even before teams and interns and missionaries arrive. Teams and interns are here to partner in His work. To do this, you need to come as a learner - open to learn and discover and connect with people.

To learn more about short-term mission teams and internships in Peru and to learn more about serving with us here, go to www.perutraining.weebly.com, www.themissionsociety.org, or contact us (see below).

The Drums | HOW TO CONTACT US

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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: _____
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Prayers & Praises

Praises for continued transformation! This month saw the beginning of a second Family Workshop in the Kuyay program! We meet with community members and families to have Bible study and learn a craft or skill each week. We are so excited by how much the communities and people are changing due to the relationships being built in the Kuyay programs.

Pray for the continued implementation of CHE lessons (Community Health Evangelism) and for the ministry initiatives that the team is using to build up these communities.

Pray for the runoff elections in Peru. Peruvians will vote again this Sunday (June 5) to determine the president.

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 Katie Dean as she just joined us as a mission intern this month! Pray for her to build strong relationships and for deep learning and understanding of the Peruvian people she works with daily.

Pray for our boys (Ryan and Miles) as they live 3000 miles away from us. **Pray for Ryan** as he travels to Panama to study and do biology/herpetology research in June-August.

Prayers for the Kuyay Talpuy programs in Iscos, Patarcocha and Tinyari. Pray for the families, students, and the communities as they learn and grow in Christ. **Pray** for wisdom and strength and unity for our Kuyay Talpuy team as they work to build deeper relationships and share Christ's love in Peru.



This month marks our three year anniversary of service and life in Peru!

This month also marks our 25th wedding anniversary!

What else is going on in June???

- *Kuyay Talpuy continues to serve in three communities via two school programs for preschoolers, two Kid's Club outreaches, two Family Workshops and Bible studies, a youth group program, and English outreach, after-school tutoring, a small church plant, and daily home visits/home Bible studies.*
- *Our new summer intern, Katie Dean, is now on the ground and working with the Kuyay Talpuy staff. She is teaching in the preschool in the mornings and helping with youth group and English and other activities in the afternoons. Pray for Katie to build strong relationships while she serves here.*
- *A medical mission team from Roswell UMC, Georgia will join us June 10-19 to serve in the jungle area of La Merced.*
- *Laurie's mom, Pat Goins, will join us on June 10—midAugust to help with ministry and with Sarah during these busy summer months.*
- *The missionary team here (Iveys, Drums, McEuens) will host The Mission Society in July as they bring in 85+ missionaries from around the world to do cross-cultural ministry training. We are working hard to plan for this very large group of peers to come and learn and grow together next month.*

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

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