



La Luz de Cristo para Perú

Volume 7 Issue 4
May 2012

The Great Potato Story

Jenny has been a mother in our Kuyay Talpuy program for 3 years. Her daughter, Emilia, graduated from our preschool and kindergarten program and is now in 2nd grade. Her second daughter, Margarita, is 4 years old and is attending our preschool program now. Jenny also has a baby daughter and an older son from a previous marriage.

Last year, Jenny's marriage became unbearable. Her husband was verbally and emotionally abusive to the family, especially to her son (from a different father). In this culture, it is common for the step-father to completely ignore the existence of step-children or to treat them extremely poorly. It is not uncommon for step-children to be fed last and least, to be denied educational opportunities, etc. Jenny became more and more depressed with this situation until, finally, she decided to separate from her husband. Because the family had no economic resources for a legal divorce, they decided to split their assets. Jenny took the children and moved to a near-by town, he took the house. They divided their farming field 50/50.

When it came time to plant the fields, Husband went out and bought seed potatoes and fertilizer and planted his half. Jenny went to town and used her only money to buy the left-over potatoes in the market. Her potatoes were full of bugs and worms and half rotten, but it was all she could afford.

Jenny hand-plowed her half of the field. Then, she prayed over her field and her wormy potatoes "God, you know that this is all that I have. I'm planting these on faith. If I plant wormy potatoes and all I get in return is wormy potatoes, so be it. But I'm asking you to bless my field and my potatoes."

In the months that followed, Jenny waited and watched her field. Her potatoes grew and flowered, but potatoes are formed underground, so there was no way of knowing if anything was happening below ground. Much like our hearts, there is no way of really knowing what is truly going on inside until the fruit begins to show on the outside. This was also true of Jenny's husband... something was changing inside of him as time passed.

Last month was potato harvesting time in Patarcocha. Jenny's husband harvested his half of the field, and his potatoes had not fared well. His harvest was not the yield that he had hoped for. His potatoes were small and the bugs had attacked many of them. It was not a good crop. But on Jenny's half of the field, the potatoes were ENORMOUS! A miracle had occurred! Jenny pulled up plant after plant that yielded several pounds of potatoes each. Jenny harvested single potatoes that weighed in at 1 kilo a piece! Gigantic, plate-filling potatoes! They were beautiful, shiny, healthy potatoes—not a worm in the bunch! Truly, it was a miracle!

Jenny invited our teachers over to have lunch one day. She shared the potato story with them as she served them giant potatoes. She related how life has changed for her family in the last couple of months. She has moved back to Patarcocha. Her husband has changed his attitude. He now accepts her son in the family. He has changed his ways and is no longer abusive. Instead, he is kind and honoring to her and the children. But the best change of all has been in his statement to her after the harvest...

"Jenny, I now believe in your God. He is real!"

He wants to begin bible study with our teachers. He wants to open the family home to bible study for the community. He has changed.

Thanks be to God for a pile of wormy potatoes and the faith of a loving mother, Jenny.



REAL Southern Living... Our life in rural Peru

Deep into the jungle



Although our home in Peru is situated in the high sierra of the Andes mountains, we frequently have reason to travel into the jungles of Peru for ministry. Just last week, we took our Kuyay staff to Shankivironi, a native community in the jungle, to attend a retreat and training with our Peruvian missionary friends, Miguel and Haydee Trigoza. Miguel and Haydee run a Christian camp and retreat center, and also train other Christian leaders in how to plan effective retreats. Our staff is now trained as Christian camp counselors. We will be taking our Kuyay families on a family retreat to the jungle later this year. We partner with Miguel and Haydee in other ways, too. In June, we will be partnering with them to take medical teams into two different native Ashaninka communities. And in August, we will partner with them again as a team from Christ UMC—College Station, Texas comes to build a playground for an Ashaninka school that Miguel and Haydee work with. Our desire, in all work that we do, is to partner with local Peruvians and help them to further their own mission work.



Billy just returned from a vision trip that went MUCH deeper into the jungle. He and Arthur Ivey (our teammate) traveled with John Pearson (Roswell UMC—Georgia) and Jorge Ayala, Abraham, and Charro (Peruvian missionaries) and some other locals from the jungle. They drove via road (I use that term loosely) until there was no road left to travel, then they got into boats (think 35 foot canoe-type boats with a motor) and went upriver for HOURS. The purpose of the trip was to visit some native Ashaninka communities that are situated FAR from other towns, cities, or medical facilities. We were made aware of these communities by a discipleship group leader that lives in the jungle. The hope was to make contact with these communities of people (namely the chiefs of the villages) and investigate the possibilities of taking medical teams in to do medical campaigns in 2013, as well as make way / open doors to take discipleship programs into the area.



The trip was a great success. Billy and the other men were able to make contact with the villages, speak with the chiefs and open doors for the work that will begin there in the next year. The hours of driving, riding the rivers, and hiking were nothing compared to the joy of being welcomed into the villages, meeting the people, and making plans for future encounters. Jorge (the Peruvian missionary that traveled with them) is feeling called to move into the area and help lead the mission efforts there. *Jorge has been trained via The Mission Society! He attended training last summer as a part of The Mission Society's cross-cultural training program in Peru! So we send him in well-trained and prepared for the work.*

Please be in prayer for the plans that are being made for summer 2013! These will be “extreme missions / medical campaigns” as the travel is tough and the work/living conditions will be rough. But we know that God will call the right people together and build great teams to take on the task for Him!



Happy Mother's Day from Kuyay Talpuy!!!



Praises! Billy and Laurie graduated and are now certified coaches! We received our coaching certifications in late April! We are now certified to coach individuals, teams, groups, and communities. Soon, we will begin training others in the COACH model. Woo Hoo!!!

Praises! Kuyay added another teacher to our ranks this month - Luz Rios is no stranger to Kuyay... she has been involved as a parent for the past two years! She is from the community of Iscos and she is a certified teacher, so she was a natural choice when we needed to add help.

Praises for our Kuyay team... they are now trained and certified as counselors and hosts for Christian retreats and camps! We are now certified via the CCI -LA (Christian Camps International—Latin America).

Pray for our Kuyay Talpuy team (Johana, Rosio, Tania, Milagros, and Luz) and for the communities of Iscos, Patarcocha and Tinyari. Our team is working well together, growing in their missionary and ministry abilities, deepening their faith, and working more and more with the people of the three communities. They continue to grow and to hold each other accountable in personal growth and commitment to serve Christ. Pray also for Julia and Elva and Alfonso as they serve our team and their communities via their hospitality, cooking skills, and opening their homes to our projects.

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.

Pray for our boys—Ryan and Miles. Ryan is currently doing biology research work in Mexico and Miles is working in Texas

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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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Thank you so much for your generous gifts and prayers for the communities of Iscos, Patarcocha, and Tinyari!!!

In the past month, we have received some very special gifts and donations! You may recall that we put out a special plea for funds to help build a playground in Tinyari... well, YOU DID IT! Thanks so much to the special people who sent funds to make this dream come true for the children of the Tinyari public school. Just today, the parents of the school began to level the ground and ready the area. We will be buying the materials over the next two weeks. On May 21-23, we will construct swings, see saws, climbing apparatus, and monkey bars alongside the parents of the community! Thank you!!!!

We also received a very special gift designated to buy books for the 3 different educational programs! The children of the Lafayette UMC's Vacation Bible School sent us funds for children's literature. These funds will enable us to purchase books for more than 100 children in 7 classrooms in Iscos, Patarcocha, and Tinyari!!! I love it - kids supporting and praying for kids in other parts of the world!!! Wow!

THANK YOU!!!



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