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***"And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, giving them the Holy Spirit just as he also did to us; and He made no distinction between us and them, cleansing their hearts by faith." Acts 15:8-9 NAS***

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. We praise the Lord God for all He is doing in our lives and in the ministry here in Peru, for filling us with His Holy Spirit to guide and direct each of our steps, and for pouring out His grace upon us through His precious Son, Jesus Christ. We hope and pray that He has been blessing you wonderfully during this past month and that your life has been filled with His glorious riches and mercy. We want to give you special thanks for your continued prayers for us and support of the ministry in Peru. We definitely see the results of your prayers for us and for the ministry here. You are special people called by our Lord Jesus Christ to minister to His children. Thank you for your faithfulness to His calling. Thank you for your love for Him, for us, and for His children.

Peruvians really love to celebrate all important events, so Christmas is always a big celebration here. In most of the Kid's Clubs, they had a big celebration to celebrate the wonderful birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. In the Kid's Clubs in Pichcus, each age group and the teachers presented something special - a song, a drama, or choreography. They all did a great job. The parents were invited to come, and Benjamin shared about how only Jesus Christ can give us happiness. Some people accepted Christ when he gave an invitation. Of course, at the end of the club, the children ate panetón, which is a sweet bread with candied fruit, and drank homemade hot chocolate. Eating panetón and drinking hot chocolate is something that all Peruvians do during Christmas. We now have 12 Kid's Clubs that meet every week to learn about the Lord Jesus Christ. Please pray that each child and each youth that comes will be truly passionate about the Lord Jesus Christ.



Praying at Kid's Club in Picheus

We had an enjoyable visit from Louise Reimer, who is a potential missionary that will work with us in the future. She is a retired teacher from Kansas, and was excited about the possibility of teaching children. Please pray for her as she goes through her training and raises her support to come to Peru.

Justin Grogg, who worked with us for a year and had a significant influence among many people here, finished his term and returned to the states. We already miss him a lot, especially his joy. He always had a way of keeping everyone laughing. Please pray for him to adjust to living back in the states. It is not easy to adjust to living back in the states after one has been in a foreign country. Also, please pray for his future marriage that will occur in May 2008.

Our son Joshua graduated from high school this year. We are very proud of him, and next year he will be helping Arthur with teams and doing some advanced home school classes. We would appreciate your prayers for perseverance for him, because he has a lot of work to do this year. Please also pray for Joshua to choose a direction for college.



Joshua at his graduation.

We were involved in a special wedding during December. Alejandra Aquino is one of our best workers. She has probably started more discipleship groups than any of our leaders. Her daughter, Thalia, lives in Bolivia, and recently married David Tijlla. Alejandra wanted them to get married in Peru, so they came here to have a wedding in the presence of Thalia's family. We were privileged to be the godparents, which was a new cultural experience for us. The wedding was very pretty. Thalia is also involved in the discipleship ministry, and she hopes to start a discipleship group in their home in Bolivia. Please pray for Thalia and David to have a blessed marriage and for wisdom as they begin a discipleship group.

Our jungle missionary team returned to Huancayo, and then to their homes for the holidays. Their reports were positive, indicating that several of the folks in the jungle are starting to take responsibility for leadership in the jungle ministry. As these persons are trained, the discipleship in the jungle will begin to grow even more rapidly. Our biggest obstacle to the growth of this ministry is a lack of workers. Please pray that the Lord will continue to raise up faithful men and women. One of our missionaries, Miguel Chavez, decided to stay in Palcazu during the holidays. He helped Mario, one of our discipleship leaders, make panetón in his bakery. Please pray for Edwin and Haydee, Edith, Flor, and Miguel as they continue to serve the Lord Jesus Christ.

We were also blessed to have another gathering of all our discipleship groups. The Praise Band played many worship songs, and we worshiped the Lord Jesus Christ for all that he is doing in our lives. Justin Grogg gave his testimony and shared that our identity should determine our actions. If we are truly Christians as we claim to be, our actions should show that in everything that we do. For this gathering, we divided into small groups for Bible study. People that are in our discipleship groups were the leaders of the small groups. Many of them had never taught a group before, so it was exciting to see the Lord Jesus Christ work through them. Also, we had a Kid's Club for the children that came to the event. The Lord is setting many people free, as a result of the discipleship studies; please pray that He will continue to do so.



Ita Hualcus leading the dance group at the gathering.

The Praise Band was invited to play for a Christmas celebration at a local university. Although the university is not Christian, the director of this university is Christian, and wants the students to know the Lord Jesus Christ. Please pray that there will be other opportunities at this university and other universities for the band to play and influence people for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Arthur is continuing to work hard on the design for the Center of Production and Renewal in Zapan. It appears that another missionary couple from Georgia, Jeff and Carol Morgan, (not with the TMS Global, but associated through Larry Williams with Agrimissions) will be partnering with Obed and Arthur in this project. Jeff will bring a significant gift to the ministry through his agricultural research and training, which will help us develop the agriculture, appropriate technologies, and production part of this project. Carol, a nurse by profession, is interested in helping with the medical missions and possibly further developing the community health ministry through the center. Please pray that the Lord will guide us in this significant endeavor.

We would like to thank all of you have helped to support the ministry here in Peru during this past year. Without your prayers and financial support these ministries would not have happened. We would like to especially thank those who responded to our increased need at the end of the year. This was a special blessing for us from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Please be in prayer for each one of our workers and for each one of the ministries and projects. Please continue to pray for financial support for the ministries both from Peruvian sources and U.S. sources. Please continue to be in prayer for the continued growth in the ministries here in Peru, especially in the Canta Valley, Palcazu, Pelmaz, Bermudez, Shiringamazu, Villa America, Huánuco, Sambillo Alto, Rio Azul Ugarteche, San Augustine, KM 40 and Tinahuani. Also, pray for the ministries in Huancayo, especially the Colegio El Camino. Please continue to pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to awaken and change hearts among the young adults of Huancayo. Please give praise to the Lord for bringing us additional persons called to be part of the missionary team in Peru. Covenant with us to continue in prayer for the young adult leadership team and their continued ministry to the spiritually lost and dying youth of Huancayo. Please pray for the leaders of the churches in Peru, and for their spiritual protection and growth in the Lord Jesus. Also be in prayer for Obed and Cynthia Alvarez, the head of NEWMA (Mision-AMEN), as well as their other leaders and missionaries. Please pray for our safety as we travel, and that we will boldly speak God's Word wherever we go.

We pray that God is drawing you closer and closer to Him every day. God bless you. We love you.

Yours in Christ,

*Arthur, Mary Alice,  
Joshua, Benjamin, Mary Beth*

Arthur, Mary Alice, Benjamin, Joshua, and Mary Beth Ivey  
Missionaries to Peru

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