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July 31, 2004

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity." 1 Timothy 4:12 NIV

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings in the name of our precious Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We praise the Lord Jesus for having so wonderfully blessed us and for having sent his Holy Spirit to guide and teach us, especially during difficult times. We hope and pray that He has been blessing you wonderfully during this new year and that your life has been filled with His grace and mercy. Thank you for your continued prayers for us and support of the ministry here in Peru. We definitely see the results of you praying for us. 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.

The Lord Jesus Christ, has been abundantly blessing the ministry and work here in Peru. He is raising up an army of young adults, youth, adolescents, and children to carry his message to the spiritually lost and dying persons. You have been praying with us that the Lord Jesus would raise up workers for the harvest, and He is answering our prayers. We and our young people are working hard to live out the truths of the above passage from Paul to Timothy. Our young adults and youth are belittled and oppressed from many sides; peers, family, Church leaders and pastors. Some of these young people are no longer accepted by their families after giving their lives to Christ. The church leaders verbally abuse them when they go outside of the walls of the church to share Christ with others. In the face of this opposition, Christ is strengthening them and empowering them to not only proclaim Christ within the church, but to live Christ, both inside and outside of the church. I have seen one of our young leaders, Josue, humbly and patiently take unfounded verbal abuse from church leaders in the District Board meetings about the ministries of the district youth, and respond with calm clear truth to their abuse. What I saw in the leaders made me very angry, but Josue responded in a way that was a true example of Jesus Christ to me. We have shed many tears with these young people, suffered with them, and seen them stand firm, always proclaiming Jesus Christ as Lord and King. They have been true examples to us in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.



Leadership Team of the Youth Movement
(from left to right): Genaro, Heber, Freedy, Carlos, Christian, Josue, and not pictured Carlos.

This group of youth leaders has been traveling to different places, teaching about ministry to young adults, youth and children. They have helped to start or strengthen children's ministries from the Puerto Bermudez in the low jungle to the mountain cities of Ayacucho and Cerro de Pasco. They were the persons primarily responsible for organizing and directing our youth leadership retreat at the end of July. These young men will be the ones responsible for continuing these ministries when we return to the States.



Youth Leaders helping to start new Kid's Club in Ayacucho

The youth leadership retreat held in July was for the purpose of training youth leaders how to evangelize youth in the streets, how to organize youth and children's ministries and how to disciple young people. The retreat was made possible by a team from Sugar Hill United Methodist Church. This team provided financial resources, but more than that they allowed the Lord Jesus to use them to teach these youth many things. We have heard numerous testimonies from youth and from their pastors about how this event changed their lives. We had 62 youth leaders representing 19 different churches. Several denominations were represented: Methodist, Iglesia Evangelica Peruana, Christian & Missionary Alliance Church, Comunidad Vida Christiana, and Centro de Oracion, and 15 different cities. During the event over 200 people gave their lives to Christ during the two nights of street evangelism and an average of 300 children a day were ministered to through the Kid's Club activities.



Participants in the Youth Leadership Training Retreat.

In early July we had a team from Lewis Memorial United Methodist Church help with a church project in Pilcomayo. The Nazarene Church needed windows and doors in the parsonage and a new roof and windows for the sanctuary. In addition to the construction work the team helped to build-up the Kid's Club for this church. Starting the week with 150 children in attendance, we finished the week with more than 300 children. It was a wonderful site to see the church literally overflowing with children and even more wonderful to see children and parents drawn by the Kid's Club give their lives to Christ.



Kid's Club with Lewis Memorial Team in Pilcomayo.

The follow-up ministries to the two medical missions in June have been producing much fruit. The ministry in Canta is continuing to grow. As a result of this ministry a plot of land was acquired at a very low price in Yangas and will be used for a church and the beginning of a work to teach how to create self-sustaining ministries. In Puerto Bermudez the church has been growing. Using Kid's Clubs in combination with community health evangelists, a new church has been planted in Pelmaz, a community near Puerto Bermudez. The church in Puerto Bermudez is also in the beginning stages of trying to plant a new work in Palcazu, a larger city about two hours further north. This opportunity is a result of seeds planted during the medical mission in June.

Please be in prayer with us for the continued transition of the Kid's Club ministries and our efforts to find and train additional workers for this ministry. Pray also for the discipleship and leadership training and the youth cell ministry, and that God would continue to impart His vision to these young people. Please be in prayer for the follow-up ministries in Canta and Puerto Bermudez and the discipling of these new believers. Please continue to pray for our relationship with Mision-AMEN and our relationship with the Methodist Church. Most importantly we would like to ask you to covenant with us and the youth leadership team to be in regular prayer and fasting for the ministry to the lost and dying youth of Huancayo and the desperate situation here in Peru. Please pray for the leaders in the Methodist Church: Bishop Marco Ochoa, and District Superintendents Jose Bustamante and David Figueroa. Also be in prayer for Obed Alvarez, the head of 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,
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