

GAHAGEN UPDATE - NOVEMBER 2007

Dear Friends and Supporters,

This Update will have two purposes. First to report to you on our ministry and secondly, to give you some personal news about our family. We want to wish all of you a blessed Thanksgiving as you contemplate the goodness of our God as He works His grace in your lives. And we trust that the Christmas season will bring you joy and peace as you consider the Savior and the purpose for which He came to earth. I Samuel 12:24 sums it all up when it says, "Fear the Lord and serve Him with all your heart, considering what great things he has done for you".

We had a wonderful time in Peru in September and October, working from the MTW Center in Huaraz with a medical team from Bay Area PCA in Houston, Texas. We were able to hold clinics in five villages, two of which were new to the MTW missionaries and our hosts, Larry and Sandra Rockwell. Although Larry had planned things out well in advance, when we arrived at one village, we were told by the mayor that we were not expected for several days. It seems there was confusion within the community as to when we were coming. So we had to fall back and regroup and go to another village, a move that proved providential..

We saw over 300 Quechua folks with mostly the same ailments. "My back hurts, my shoulders and knees hurt, my head aches," Sue and I got to the place as we translated back and forth that we could tell the people what to do before the doctors prescribed for them.. We wanted to say, especially to the women, "What do you expect after having a number of children (most had five or six), working in the fields cultivating crops all day, carrying babies or heavy loads of grain or firewood to market?" But we didn't and treated each one individually, listening to their problems. We tried to ascertain the spiritual condition of each one and prayed with them if they did not object. When asked, most of them said they were Catholics, but didn't even know where the closest church was, and if they did, they didn't attend.

It was sad to see the spiritual blindness of these dear Quechua folks. One lady, Victoriana, whom Don translated for, when asked if she knew about Jesus, said she knew nothing but wanted to know more. So we were able to get her together with one of the Quechua believers that was with us who shared the good news of Jesus Christ with her. She then invited the missionary to come back to hold a bible study in her home.

One of ladies Sue was working with, Maria, expressed interest in hearing more about Jesus so Sue got Larry Rockwell to share with her in Quechua. When asked if she would like to receive Jesus, she said she would have to go back and discuss it with her husband and family before making a decision. This is typical of the Quechua culture that makes decisions in community and seldom individually. This is hard for we North Americans to understand as we see decisions for Christ on an individual basis. Sue began compiling a list of names of people wanting a visit or a bible study and passed it on to the Rockwells for future ministry opportunity.

In one village, we got a surprise when we found a school of 350 children and the headmaster gave us an open door to attend students and teachers alike. Some of these young people walk over two hours each way to get to school. And it was easier to share the gospel with them as they spoke Spanish well, not like most of their parents who do not. This was an unplanned opportunity as a result of the mixup on days mentioned above. God's timing is never wrong!

All in all the team had a great time of ministry and fellowship over the week. Some kind of bug

went through the group but most everyone was able to continue with the outreach . We all rejoiced and thanked God for giving us the time together. The bonding was very special and Sue and I feel we made a number new friends for the years ahead.

As some of you know, our son Craig and his family are in the states for their Home Ministry Assignment. We are looking forward to having them with us for Thanksgiving and then Christmas. They have been on the run visiting supporters so we have not seen much of them and are looking forward to the holidays. Whitney is in the middle of her first semester at the University of Miami, and Kara has been enjoying being in Westminster Academy for her Junior year. Along with their studies, Whitney has made the crew boat rowing team at the U. Of M. and Kara has done well in cross country running, helping W. A. get to the state finals. Last but not least, SAMAIR was able to find and purchase the plane they have needed for some time to cover all the flying the ministry demands in Peru. It is being modified at the JAARS Center in North Carolina for the jungle and mountain flying it will be doing once it arrives in Peru.

Don's mom is having her ups and downs. At almost 97, she can't understand why she can't do what she used to do. So pray for her, please, as she copes with life at an age most of us won't experience.

And finally, we thank each of you for your partnership in the gospel. We plan several trips to Peru and Bolivia in 2008 as well as attending several mission conferences, so we will be seeing some of you at one time or another. We love and appreciate you all.

With love and joy in the Savior,

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