

Dear Faithful Warriors,

As we think of Thanksgiving we can't help but be reminded again and again of how blessed we are to have such a faithful, encouraging, loving team working together with us to accomplish God's work among the Quechua here in Peru. In all honesty we could not keep going without you. You are a vital part of what God is doing in our lives and the lives of those we are attempting to minister to.

We mentioned in our last letter that Larry and Heber (our Peruvian co-worker) were going to be going to do some follow-up in a village we had visited with the medical team that came down in September. Well, here is a synopsis of that trip.

I just got back last night from another trip out to a Quechua village, one we had taken the medical team to. They had asked us to come back and teach them more. When we were close to the village, within a few hundred yards, we had a flat tire. The rocks are so sharp they cut right through the tire. This is a prayer request for constant protection. We were with the medical team before and never had one incident but now I realize even more the need for prayer on these trips. The worse part was that I had a spare but was not able to use it until the next day. I had put security lugs on each tire on the vehicle and had left the special tool to remove them at the house. How stupid!! I had cleaned out the vehicle and was trying to remember everything to go even sleeping bags and tent in case we had to stay out or got stranded for some reason. Had a cooler of food, ice, water, etc, but the one most important thing, the tool to remove the security lug, I had left behind! I learned alot on this trip. One, the Quechua have very little. They



**One of our Quechua neighbors out early shepherding her sheep near our house.**

have no cars therefore, they have no tools. The most a Quechua would have would be a pick, hoe and shovel to work the fields along with a wooden plow and perhaps some oxen. Heber, our Peruvian co-worker, tried to go get help in a village about 3 hours away by foot and 30-45 minutes by car. Fortunately, he got a ride, but the mechanic, the only one in the pueblo, did not want to come out to help us. This was incredible to us considering how poor the people are. However, the Lord provided in another way. Heber ran into another friend of ours who is Quechua and helps us doing translation. He "just happened" to be passing through this area with a group of hikers. The neat thing was that I had prayed for special help like this and the Lord answered. Even though he did not have the tools we needed he was headed back to Huaraz ( a four hour ride by bus) and could come back the next day with the tools.

There is another part to this story. Though we felt stranded, some of the Quechua that we had met when we had been in this village before came by and that evening we were still able to show the "Jesus" film which had been dubbed in their dialect of Quechua. We had not been able to advise anyone that we would be there, but we still decided to see if folks would come if we set up the little 13 inch TV with a generator we had brought. As Heber began playing his guitar people started to show up two by two. We then showed the two hour movie. About 30 people or more stood for two hours watching the movie and never moved. This was not a huge group, but God is at work.

We were welcomed for breakfast at two of the Quechua homes the following morning before our help arrived. So Heber and I, after sleeping in the "Rover" for the night, woke and went down to the homes, both of them, for breakfast. Even as all the folks were getting themselves ready to work in the fields for the day, they thought of us and came up to invite us down. How humbling. Above this, they offered the best they had to us. I now know a new word in Spanish: lujo which means luxury. They gave us their best bread and dried corn and wheat soup for breakfast. I did find myself praying for protection from any parasites as we ate. We didn't know what might happen but we could not refuse their generosity. It is their way of showing appreciation and love to us. The night before we were invited to stay in one of their houses but felt the need to guard our vehicle and they accepted our explanation well. However, one lady

offered us two very thick woven blankets made from sheep's wool. They were great except for the fleas. About four in the morning both of us woke up and it was freezing. It had turned from a mild cool evening to a freezing cold early morning. We both lost a little weight in two days, not from the lack of food, but from the fleas and biting mosquitoes. We arrived back at around 8 pm to Huaraz and were very thankful for the protection of our Lord and the opportunity. We have yet to decide what we will do next in this pueblo called Colcabamba but ask for prayer for the folks. Pray that the Lord would transform their hearts.

One last thing, while I was waiting for Heber to come back, about three hours, an older man, who could barely walk came up to where I was with the vehicle. He was getting his three pigs that he tended each day. Here they either tether one of them to a stake by one of it's legs or let them roam. I had seen this man before when we came with the medical team a week ago. I had thought at the time by the way he responded that he was mentally retarded. He could not talk and only made noises, but he seemed to have a joy and was very happy we were there. This same man came up to where I was and started trying to communicate to me even though I was not able to understand any of his speech. I then noticed his swollen and infected legs and feet. I also began to realize that he could understand me. He appeared to have had a stroke of some kind rather than being mentally retarded. I began to share with him that I did not come with medicine this time, but we had come to explain more of who Jesus is. I asked him if I could pray with him and for his legs and feet. He immediately responded with overwhelming joy and laid down on the ground so I could pray for him. I only prayed for a short time that the Lord would be glorified in this man's life in whatever manner. I then helped him up. He was not miraculously healed at that moment. I gave him two of the stories from the Bible about Jesus calming the storm and the other of Him being the bread of life, both in Quechua and he went away really happy. My heart was taken by his enthusiasm. I pray that He would be the first follower of Christ in this pueblo and be able to "speak" the word of Christ to his own people and that the Lord would use this man who seems hopeless to bring hope to this pagan village. All in all, I see how weak and helpless we are without the power of God and His Spirit moving both in the hearts of this people and sustaining our own hearts so the love of Christ can flow through us.

I had left for the trip very discouraged and even a little overwhelmed with everything here. It is harder than I ever expected. I have overestimated what we can do and underestimated the need for prayer and the power of our Lord. The trips are really difficult. It takes a few days to recover but the possibilities are incredible and the need is huge. More than one can imagine. I still am learning and continue to see how great the need for workers of the gospel is here among the Quechua.

I know this is a long letter, but the whole experience revealed so much of who these people are and how they live that we wanted to share it with you.

May the grace and peace of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, dwell richly in your hearts and minds. We miss you all and pray for you also. Press on in the strength and Spirit of our Lord.

We love you.

Larry, Sandy, Lynae and Mackenzie

(nothing larger than a large padded envelope please)

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**Plowing & Sowing - We are in the rainy season. Many are planting corn while we are sowing the Word. I had a hard back breaking day of this type of plowing behind "toros" working with Florencio one of our Quechua members who attends our bible studies in Monterrey.**

**PRAISES:**

- For Larry and Heber's trip to Colcabamba and safe return.
- For a great time on Lynae's 11<sup>th</sup> birthday. Thanks to all of you who sent wishes, cards, gifts and love. We had a wonderful day.
- For the safe arrival of Aaron Joseph Matthews to our friends in Lima, Frank and Suzanne.
- For the blessing of having a couple we studied with in Costa Rica, Brad and Laura Lindsey, living on the same property as us.
- For the love, prayers and encouragement that each one of you gives us. We are humbled by your support.
- For safety this past month and only minor health issues.
- For Heber and Marcelina and their son, Caleb.



**All patients are prayed with and given the opportunity to hear the Gospel. Thanks to our Cusco team member Nathan Leslie and one of the doctors from Westminster PCA, Dr. Sam Corbin who helped tremendously.**

**PRAYER REQUESTS: (there is one for each day of the month)**

1. We are back into school full swing. Please pray for the girls' attitudes as each day seems to be a struggle to motivate them.
2. Larry is sharing the teaching responsibility for the two Bible study groups that we are involved with. Please pray for fluency of speech and that he would be able to present these foundational truths in a way that is culturally relevant to his hearers.
3. Being gringos means that we are very visible, especially in the small community where we live. Most of the Quechua don't have the whole Bible in their dialect yet and many cannot even read. Therefore, they form their opinion about who God is and what the gospel is all about from the impressions they get of us, His servants. Please pray for us to be good witnesses in our daily actions and relationships.
4. Please pray that our marriage would be protected and even strengthened as we are challenged with culture shock, language barriers, helping the girls get adjusted, etc.
5. For all of us our thoughts play a huge role in our reactions and dealings with others. Please pray that we would soak our minds with the Word in order to replace all the wrong perceptions and thoughts that chase around in our heads.
6. Larry's allergies have been awful recently and once again he hasn't been sleeping well.
7. Some days we feel like we can't speak a word of Spanish. Please pray that we will continue to progress in our language learning.
8. Lynae continues to have different aches and pains and just generally not feel 100%. Please pray for relief and that God would give her the grace to press on in spite of it.
9. Our vision is to build up the existing small evangelical churches in the city of Huaraz, as well as start new works in the outlying areas. Please pray that we would be wise in selection of a church home.
10. Many of our teammates in Cusco have gone to the States for various reasons. Please pray for those few who are left carrying on that God would renew their strength and vision for the work there.
11. Please continue to pray for the girls to make some good friendships. Several little Peruvian girls from their Sunday school class have begun coming over, but unfortunately in many instances it is only to see and play with what the gringas have and not so much to build relationships. This has been especially difficult for Lynae.
12. Balance and priorities are things that we all deal with. Please pray that God's priorities would be ours.



13. Our co-workers, Heber and Marcelina, have faced many challenges since moving to Huaraz from Lima. Please pray for God to strengthen their marriage and give them a strong unity of purpose in the ministry.
14. Larry has been talking with several people in our community and has invited them to the Bible study. He has also been able to distribute many tracts, some in Spanish and some in Quechua. Please pray that God would water these seeds and bring growth and change.
15. We have been told that the first year on the field is the hardest and we can say that has certainly been true so far for us. Please don't stop praying for our adjustment to the culture.
16. Being diligent with school and at the same time having fun and enjoying it is a huge challenge. Please pray that God would enable us to do both.
17. Communication, communication, communication...in our family, with our team members, with our team leader, with the people in our community, and the list could go on.
18. Please pray that God would build servant hearts in us so that inconvenience and discomfort become secondary issues to serving His people.
19. Please pray Ezekiel 34:6 – that God would raise up shepherds from among the Quechua.
20. The girls seem to be getting a little sick of only having each other for company. Please pray that they would do to each other what they would want the other to do to them.
21. There are several new believers that attend the two groups that we are working with. Please pray that as they face trials and temptations that they would stand firm in their faith learning and using God's Word as their weapon and guide.
22. Sandy and the girls had the opportunity to be introduced to some of the families of the miners that work here from Canada and Australia. We are hoping that through these contacts the girls may make some English speaking friends.
23. Today please pray for unity among all the different missionaries that are here (there aren't many) in order that we could be a testimony of the love of Christ to the community.
24. Mackenzie has been struggling lately with outbursts of anger and frustration. Please pray that we can get to the root cause and help her to overcome this.
25. HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!! We hope you all have a terrific day. We are gathering with some other missionary families and sharing our traditional family favorites with each other.
26. Please pray for Larry and Heber as they work together that God would knit their hearts together in unity of purpose and that God would strengthen and renew their faith as they serve.
27. Today the children and young people's groups meet in a town called Recuay. Please pray that the Holy Spirit would begin a work in the lives of the parents of those that attend in order that we might begin an adult study as well.
28. On Sundays at 4:00 we have a group of adults that meet to study the Bible in the small town where we live. Sandy teaches the children Sunday school during this time as well. Some of those that attend have recently accepted Christ. Please pray that they would grow as they learn more of God's Word. Also pray for God's Spirit to work in the hearts of the others to draw them to Himself.
29. Please pray for our friends, Frank and Suzanne Matthews, their twin 4 year old boys and their new baby (1 month old) as they travel to the States for a month with family.
30. We all find ourselves getting angry and upset over the littlest things. Please pray that we would be patient and understanding and forgiving of each other.



**A village we visited with the medical team. While patients wait we teach them songs about Jesus and tell them the gospel.**



**After church July 2004**

We love you all. Larry, Sandy, Lynae and Mackenzie