



Los Chasquis de Cristo a Los Quechua

The messengers of Christ to the Quechua

July 2005

Rockwell's News, Praise & Prayer

Huaraz, Peru



Wheat fields awaiting harvest.

Dear Friends,

It is harvest time for wheat here in the Andes! All around us we can see golden fields that are ready for harvesting. You may not have had the "privilege" of working in the fields harvesting grains during your life-

time, but here in Peru, almost every person who lives in the country will be obligated to work in the fields (chacras) at some time during their lifetime. It is not an option here among the Quechua mountain folks.

Much of the wheat will be used to make bread, however there are other ways in which it may be used. One of the more common breakfast and dinner foods is a wheat soup called "Sopa de Llunka". Llunka is a Quechua name for wheat that has had the shell taken off so that it can be eaten by humans. In many Quechua homes you could find a large brick oven that is shaped like a dome or a small igloo shape. These ovens are heated solely by wood and in most cases here in the mountains it is eucalyptus wood.

Before the wheat ever gets to the oven it has to go through several processes. Of course, first of all it has to be cut, then bundled and gathered from the fields. After it is cut it is carried to a spot where it can be trampled to get the wheat to fall from the stalk. In most cases the wheat is put in a pile where a horse or burro will then be used to walk over it several times in a circle to loosen the wheat heads from the stalks. Later, the wheat will be sifted from the chaff.



Chosa - adobe houses used by the Quechua in many areas.

This process is usually done by throwing the wheat and chaff into the air to allow the wheat to fall to the ground and the chaff to be blown away into a separate pile. It is a long arduous process to get a bowl of wheat to the dinner table but this is the way things are here among the Quechua.

In similar ways the work of laboring in the Harvest of our Lord takes much time and effort. We are learning just what that effort requires here in a culture that has syncretistic beliefs. What I mean by that is that Peru is a very religious country in one aspect, however the religion is counterfeit because it is not a religion that holds out the real truth. It is a religion combined with much tradition and folklore. This also may not quite appear to be such a bad thing since tradition often has great value. The real problem here is that the traditions have taken the form of absolute authority leaving people very suspicious as to what truth is. Many folks are afraid to admit that they have nothing to hold on to so they go on year after year holding to a tradition that is combined with many fiestas and folkloric beliefs as their only hope, which is no hope at all. In their imaginations many have converted Christ Jesus into a figure and a good luck charm along with the cross that is carried around in fiestas where people end up in a drunken stupor. Oh, that God would go before us to hold out the true light of His word in these dark communities.

The chaff has overcome the wheat in many cases. It has taken over and people are starving for something that has substance. We recently visited a Quechua village and began talking with a Quechua lady that is in her late 50's. She happens to be a widow and lives alone with her little three colored cat except on the weekends when her granddaughter comes to stay with her. As we entered her humble Adobe house, it

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was like most Quechua homes without a single window and very dark inside. The lady sat beside a pile of wool that had been recently sheared from one of her sheep. She had hopes of making a blanket or sweater with it perhaps. The smell of smoke is always apparent in the Quechua homes as they cook on a small adobe stove without a chimney and the smoke fills the home. The lady told us she felt cold all the time and her legs and hands ached from rheumatism as well as years of hard work in the fields. Her hands and fingers showed the evidence of pulling those hard roots from the ground and picking up rocks to clear the fields for planting. I am sure she could share many stories of her life experience with us.

As we continued in a small conversation just to get to know her, I asked her if there was anything we could pray for her in relation to any of her needs. She was very grateful for the life she had and could not think of anything in particular that she was willing to share but humbly agreed to bow her head and pray with us. As we prayed, we only asked one thing - that the Lord would open her heart in such a way that this dear widow would have a living relationship with the Great Harvester – our Lord Jesus Christ.

It was unfortunate for us that I have not grasped the Quechua language yet to speak to her in her heart language other than a few common phrases but I am sure the Lord can communicate to her by His Spirit. One thing I noticed as I raised my head for a second while I was praying and asking the Lord to show His power and love to this widow was that she had taken her hat off and was covering the side of her face to keep anyone from seeing her pray with us if they passed by the door of her humble home. She had tears running down her sun burnt cheeks and she was praying in her Quechua tongue. After we prayed, I reached for one of the Quechua hymns we have

been learning and singing in our groups. We began to sing it to her as a way to minister to her heart in some form perhaps. The song has the story of how Jesus came as Immanuel and was born in a stable where the animals were because there was no room for Him in the Inn. He gave Himself in ways we cannot fully grasp. Being fully God and fully man he did no consider it something to be grasped to be equal with God. Instead He submitted Himself to the Father's will. I don't know exactly what the widow lady was praying exactly. Once we finished singing with her she immediately asked us if we would like to take a small bag of wheat home to cook and eat. Here we had just meet this lady and she was initially kind of timid and unsure of us which is very understandable as we were strangers to her off the street so to speak. Now she was asking us to come back and visit her again when her granddaughter was around to trans-



Carrying the wheat

late for her.

Wheat harvesting takes time; it resides in a hard shell and has to be treated with some care in order that it is not overcome by the chaff. The chaff must be taken away in order for there to be any hope of using the wheat.

I plead with you to pray for us as we are in the process of the harvest; the fields are ripe but the laborers are few. We desire that God would raise up laborers in each village we go to that would have a burning passion to pour out their lives in spreading the true Gospel of Jesus Christ to their own people. Will you join me in that pray? Will you come and see the fields that are ready for the harvest? We invite you to come and spend some time with us as well. Come get to know the fields, the smell of the wheat and the process of the harvest here in the Andes.

We love you all, Larry & Sandy

"Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. Thus the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true."

John 5: 35-37

* * * * P R A I S E * * * *

- For the incredible ways in which each of you blesses and encourages us.
- For Amanda's safe arrival, adjustment to the altitude and great help and encouragement she has already been.
- For the safety Larry and Heber have experienced in their many journeys to villages.
- For a wonderful anniversary in which we were able to take a breathtaking hike in the mountains.
- For a successful end of school for another year.
- For more and more opportunities to show the Jesus film in Quechua in the surrounding villages.
- For interest in another village to begin a Bible study.
- For the safe return from the States of our team leader and his family.
- That Sandy's mom is doing somewhat better with regard to her health.
- That the woodstove to heat our home, so graciously provided by our home church, has arrived. Just in time as the weather is getting colder and colder. Many, many thanks.



Close Friends

**** PRAYER REQUESTS (One for each day of the month) ****

1. Proverbs 2:6-9 talks about how the Lord gives wisdom, preserves the way of His godly ones and gives discernment. Please pray these verses for us today as we definitely need all of these things.
2. That we would focus on the good things here and not on the things that aggravate and annoy.
3. We are re-starting the children's Sunday school class in Monterrey today. Please pray God's word would penetrate their hearts and change their lives.
4. Happy Independence Day!! We will be celebrating by having a picnic with our neighbors, Brad and Laura who are also from North Carolina, and Amanda. One thing we won't be worrying about is rain.
5. We are still juggling some dates for communities where the short-term teams can minister. Please pray we would be very sensitive to the Spirit's leading in all of this.
6. Please pray Ephesians 4:1-3 that we would have open and honest communication on our team with these verses in mind.
7. The first short-term team will be traveling from the States to Lima today. Please pray for their safety.
8. Today the team will be making the 8-hour bus trip to Huaraz. Please pray for their safety and that no one gets sick on the way.
9. As the team acclimatizes to the altitude please pray that they would begin to get a sense of God's heart for the Quechua.



Threshing wheat.

10. – 15. For the next 6 days we will be traveling with the team to schools in 6 different communities and sharing a program consisting of Bible stories, presenting the gospel, a cross cultural time of sharing, crafts and games. Please pray that these experiences would have a profound effect not only in the lives of the Peruvians but also with the team members.
16. The team will be taking the bus back to Lima and leaving on a midnight flight back to the States. Please pray that as we all reflect over the past week, God's Spirit would illuminate the many lessons we have learned.
17. Today is Mackenzie's 8th birthday. We thank God for the blessing she is to our family.
18. Please pray for our health during these weeks of intense activity and exposure to so many people.

*** * * * * P R A Y E R R E Q U E S T S (c o n t i n u e d) * * * * ***



Preparing the Pachamanca, a form of cooking underground.

19. Please pray that today as we minister to the kids that come from our community to hear Bible stories, etc. that the Lord would help them see how what they are learning applies to their particular situations.

20. Amanda is moving to our house today to complete the last 3 weeks of her stay. Please pray that God would use all that she is experiencing to grow her faith and reveal to her more about herself and her relationship with Him. We thank Him for the blessing she has been to us.

21. During these weeks when the short-term teams are here the regular ministry that we are involved in must go on. Please pray that in spite of the weariness we would be diligent in all God has put before us.

22. All the traveling and busyness is very trying for the girls. Please remember them in your prayers, especially that they would see the important part they play in all of this.

23. The second short-term team will be making the bus trip to Huaraz today. Again, please pray for their safety and also that they would adjust well as they come up to 9,000 feet.

24. – 28. During this week please pray for continued safety in our travels with the group and also that God would be at work in the lives of each team member giving them a vision of who He is and how He works in order that they might be encouraged in their faith.

29. The team will be traveling back down to Lima today. Once again, please pray for their safety and health as they experience the switchbacks going back down the mountains.

30. Today one team returns to the States and another arrives in Lima. Please pray for us as we have only about 24 hours to prepare for the new team's arrival.

31. The 3rd team travels up from Lima to Huaraz today. This team is the largest consisting of 15 members. Please pray that their time here would have a life changing effect.



Us, The Rockwell's
June 2005

Philippians 3:12-14: "Not that I have already obtained it, or have already become perfect, but I press on in order that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do; forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

We love you all. PRESS ON!!!

Note: For many of our email supporter all we have is an email address. Could you email additional contact information to us at LRockwell@mtwsa.org so we can update our mailing lists and not loss contact..