



Los Chasquis de Cristo a Los Quechua

The messengers of Christ to the Quechua

December 2005

Rockwell's News, Praise & Prayer

Huaraz, Peru



To our dear friends in Christ,

Everyday here in the Andes is one of surprises in some way. Granted many surprises we view negatively unless they are for our own personal benefit. We are learning to look at them as part of the big picture. "What can I learn from this?" is the question that often slips by me; rather I tend to grumble when it does not fit my selfish mode.

Recently in a Quechua pueblo called Huanja (pronounced Wan-Ha), we began a Bible study with a family and some other members of the community. The wife had recently become ill with some type of virus.

Still the openness to hearing the word of God was very apparent as they invited us to come. Perhaps a brief description of the setting would be helpful for you as you visit us in your imaginations.

We enter the humble adobe house that has no recognizable furniture. The tin ceiling is open to the bright stars of the evening. The beautiful snow covered Andes Mountains spread across the horizon. We sit around either on the dirt floor or on an old Eucalyptus tree log used for visiting quests. The air is cold even inside the old adobe house because any heat generated rapidly escapes through the open ceiling to the night air. It is quiet at this hour of six in the evening. As we sit in almost total darkness, the two pigeons cue and speak to one another in their own language. The folks all understand Quechua as their heart language and therefore we use a translator who can help us teach them the Bible.



**Mackenzie & Lynea
at Querococha**



Our friends Don & Sue Gahagen at Huazcaran.

This particular evening the woman who was ill sat in her wool manta trying to comfort herself. It was obvious that she was still in much pain as she said her whole body ached. I had already taken the husband and wife to a clinic the week before for "medical" attention. The couple had just returned and had no real answers for her pain after sitting and waiting at the clinic for most of the day. There remains much superstition here among the Quechua folks; they tend to mix their folklore with religion and come up with a reason for every illness on their own. They place their hope in

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Alpaca at Queroococha

superstitious beliefs and legends. On this evening we discussed, where one could find absolute truth in the Bible. The truth is God's infallible inherent Word. We explained that God is the one who gives understanding and faith comes by hearing.

At the end of the evening study, we prayed for the woman who was sick. They thanked us and then told us they would be traveling the following week to visit a community where they could find someone **to break the spell she was under**. May the Lord open the eyes of the blind!

Many times as we leave these tiny little dark abodes where the Quechua dwell in spiritual and physical darkness I catch myself wondering "What can possibly happen in such a far away place where the lights are dull and

the most excitement are the sheep who run down the cobble and dirt paths?" Then the Spirit of God reminds me of the story of Christ coming to a small village called Bethlehem. It most certainly would have been dark without the "Light of the Christ Child".

As we remember the great miracle of God coming in Christ, coming in the flesh being the true Word of God, let us remember the whole story of His life, death and resurrection. He is the living Word full of grace and truth.

We want to thank you all for your sacrificial giving and prayers. May the Lord renew your spirits this Christmas in the Wonder of Christ who lives! He is Lord and therefore we long to serve Him with joy.

Love in Christ our Savior,

Larry, Sandy, Lynae and Mackenzie



Neighborhood Children

"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 a fun Thanksgiving shared with other missionaries from this region.
- For a wonderful visit from our friends the Gahagens.
- God's protection as we traveled during the last month.
- For an abundance of God's grace during some difficult times.
- For some women in a community of Collahuasi who desire to study the Bible.
- For the encouragement we receive from all of you that pushes us to press on.
- For God's faithfulness and love to us.
- For a well attended seminar for the women in the church from the Independent Evangelical Churches.

***** PRAYER REQUESTS (One for each day of the month) *****
Pray for rain, we need rain. Many of the Quechua live off what they grow.

- 1.** Mario is a young Quechua man who desires to serve as a leader in the group that meets in Aco (where we used to meet in the cantina). Pray that God would strengthen him in grace as he studies and that he would stand firm in the midst of trials.
- 2.** The Gahagens will be traveling by bus to Lima today. Pray for their safety and also for us as it is always hard after visitors leave.
- 3.** Recently two friends of ours went to be with the Lord. One was our pastor's 16-year-old son and the other a dear friend who has been like a father to us and a grandfather to the girls. Pray for the Childs family and the Kornegay family. Thankfully we do not mourn without hope.
- 4.** The group that has been meeting in Monterrey, where we live, is suffering from lack of adult commitment. Pray that God would put a hunger and thirst for His word in the hearts of the people.
- 5.** Pray for Heber and Marcelina as we investigate new directions for their ministry here.
- 6.** About 20 kids continue to come every Tuesday to play games and hear stories from the Bible. Pray for these possible future church leaders that the seeds that are being sown would bear much fruit.
- 7.** Larry and Heber have begun a small Bible study in a community called Huanja. They have



Lucho Neighbor

helped a lady there who is not a believer and has Hepatitis. This has opened a door into the family as well. Pray that God's Spirit would move through Huanja stirring the hearts of the people to see their need for a Savior and for the truth.

- 8.** Tonight Heber and Larry will be showing a movie about Elijah and will to teaching regarding idol worship which is a huge stronghold. Pray for open eyes and hearts. It is opportune time as we are in the midst of a drought.
- 9.** Today we will be meeting with a new group that has desired teaching from the Bible in Collahuasi. As we read through the gospel of Matthew pray that God's Spirit would open the eyes of the blind.
- 10.** Remember the Quechua folks today in general who are stepping out in letting us come into their homes and communities. Their family and neighbors will most definitely judge them. For many they feel more secure joining the majority. Change brings much fear.
- 11.** Sunday mornings we try to encourage ourselves by reading the Word and having our own family worship in celebration of what the Lord has done, is doing, and will do. This is one of

the hardest areas for us as missionaries, not having a formal church fellowship of like minded believers.

12. We will probably be traveling to Lima today to pick up a whole package of equipment to more effectively show the Jesus Film. A friend from our home church graciously donated this equipment. Pray for our safety as we travel.

13. Pray for Sandy's mom's health and her sister as she cares for her.

14. Part of our vision is to help strengthen the existing churches here in the Huaylas and Conchucos regions. Many of these pastors are very set in their ways and will not change without a work of God in their hearts. We need wisdom in how to approach them and who to invest the majority of our time.

15. If you have never read Peace Child by Don Richardson I would highly recommend it. It not only shares some of the things new missionaries have to face but also tells how those missionaries were able to find a connection between the tribal people who did not trust anyone and bring them to trust the only "Peace Child" that is fully trustworthy. We are looking for "clues" like these in the lives of the Quechua.

16. We need to be reminded of the grace of God in our lives today. May we be willing to give this to those we will cheat us and take advantage of us as "gringos".

17. Growing up in a 99.9% Caucasian community, we looked at anyone who was different from us with prejudice. We are on the other side of the fence now as we hear, "You Gringos!" or "Gringo!" as we walk through the villages.

18. It is absolutely necessary that we have national/Peruvian workers who understand their own people. We need laborers.

19. As we look forward to the promise that Christ will build His church, we pray for more folks to disciple.

20. School continues on. Pray that all our attitudes would remain positive and we would stay focused.



Salange - Neighbor who attends Bible Club.

21. Marcelina and Sandy have completed the women's Bible study they were doing and now want to open it up to other Peruvian women. Pray that they would be directed to those God desire to participate.

22. The Quechua language is crucial to reaching the people of this area. Pray for Larry as he continues to dedicate himself to learning yet another language.

23. The girls are doing well. Pray that they would continue to grown in their faith and knowledge of the Scriptures.

24. The people celebrate more on Christmas Eve than Christmas Day. They have parties with food and fireworks that last all through the night. Pray that God would break through the darkness and stronghold of tradition that enslaves the Quechua.

25. Merry Christmas!!! May the greatest gift ever given have a real and lasting impact in all our lives.

26. Every person we meet whether we are in the market buying groceries or on the way to visit our regular groups is another opportunity to demonstrate or share the gospel in some manner. We want to be open to be "interrupted" for the sake of the gospel.

27. Today we will be meeting in Huanja. To many Quechua is the only language they really understand especially when dealing with the Bible. Larry's desire is that God would provide 5 men who speak Quechua and Spanish and are willing to go with us to help teach while we are learning the language.

28. We are building relationships and pray that some would bear fruit for God's kingdom.

29. Pray that God would continue to reveal His plan for reaching the Quechua.

30. Pray for our marriage to be centered on Christ.

31. The end of another year has arrived. It is hard to believe. We thank God for His faithfulness and pray for His Spirit to fill us and prepare us for the year ahead.