

JUNTOS

July-August 2004

Dear Family, Friends, Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings from way down south and “un abrazo fuerte” (big hug) to each one of you from the Berry clan! Here in Lima we’re passing from winter (50’s-70’s, overcast, drizzle) to spring, where temperatures start going up a bit and the sun comes out a lot more. As the sun comes out more often, it lifts your spirits and warms your bones, and is a welcome change. Spiritually, Lima is a city that is perpetually in winter: gray, dark, depressed, oppressed. But your prayers and support for MTW’s work here through our team are making a difference, and in this letter I want to give you some examples of how the Spirit is using your work of support to cause the sun to crack through the clouds with the light and warmth of the gospel of Jesus Christ, which alone is the hope for Lima.

Last letter I told you about the three key result areas we have in our ministry: leadership training, justice and mercy, and church planting. I’d like to tell you how we’ve seen the Lord of the harvest working in each of these areas since that last letter.

Leadership Training

- We’re nearing the conclusion of our Evangelism Explosion training in Huaycán and in San Juan de Lurigancho. By October 10 we will, Lord willing, graduate 14 students from the course in both churches, 6 in one, 8 in the other. The Lord has given us a wonderful bond with our students and we are very pleased with how they are picking up the material and learning to use it as we go on our visits each time. In both places, we have seen numerous conversions, and we are working with the churches as they organize to do follow up and receive these new believers into their churches. It’s been very hard work, but very gratifying. It’s gratifying because we are seeing people come to know Christ. But what is really thrilling is that we are seeing people trained who are going to continue effectively leading people to Christ from within their local church context, AND train other church members to do the same. The multiplication factor is what makes the future impact so exciting.
- Along with training others in EE, I want to thank the Lord also for how he is growing our team. Andrew Halbert, Julie Murphy and myself have all grown in many ways too as we have taken this first attempt in teaching and training others in the EE material. God has taught us a great deal about how to train, and how to effectively share the gospel with others in this context. It has been super challenging, but God has been faithful to help us and give us grace each week as we’ve entered in, many times feeling like we were in over our heads with the language, culture differences, and just the battle that it is to engage in front line evangelism. So thank the Lord with me for the growth in our missionary team as well. In both these areas, your prayers are making a difference, and making light to shine through in a bleak city.
- In June we had our first citywide training conference. Scott Roley and Bill Yarbrough and Chip Demetri came and taught on Christ centered preaching and worship. We had almost 100 leaders and lay people from different churches and denominations around Lima and from other cities in Peru. This past weekend we did another conference with Bill Yarbrough teaching on our Adoption as sons and daughters of God. It also was well attended and I especially appreciated how the Lord worked in our small group as people began to get a hold of the material at a heart level and pray for one another. The



EE trainers and students in Huaycán

goal of these conferences is to provide Biblical, Reformed teaching in a winsome, inclusive format, that let's us network with people outside of the Presbyterian framework, while at the same time providing solid Reformed teaching for the leaders inside our Presbyterian and Reformed church planting contexts. The attendees get two days of teaching, then leave with a folder of the material, which they can reproduce and teach, in their local church contexts.

Justice and Mercy



Second Floor Going up at Huaycán

Presbyterian Church from Suffolk, VA; Mitchell Road Presbyterian from Greenville, SC and New City Fellowship from St. Louis, MO.

- Please pray for us as we are now meeting with the session of the Huaycán church, which has asked us to partner with them in the development of this diaconal ministry of their church. We will be consulting and participating with them as we now children and families, as well as church members who will serve as staff. Pray that God would bless our partnership relationship, and that he would powerfully used this second floor facility to proclaim the love of Christ to these most needy members of the Huaycán community, and their families. May He use us to make His light identify shine through the dark, dark clouds that hang over this part of our city!

- We focused our short-term teams this summer on the construction of the second floor of the Huaycán church, which will be used as a ministry center for children in extreme poverty in the community. It has been a summer of very hard work, for the groups as well as for our team, but it has been extremely rewarding seeing the second floor literally transformed in the space of 3 months. We thank the Lord for the financial and sweat contributions of these churches and their work groups: Oak Mountain Presbyterian Church from Birmingham, AL; The Church at West Cobb from Marietta, GA; Westminster Reformed



Constructions workers with work Team from Church at West Cobb

Church Planting Movement

- The church plant in Santa Anita continues forward. Attendance is growing so that they are outgrowing their rented garage space. Adrian, the lead church planter and pastor of the mother Huaycán church, needs your prayers as he fulfills these two big roles. Continue to pray for him as he mentors Mauro and Walter, two men who we are praying God will use in a future church planting movement here in Lima.

A Loss Too Great for Words



Last letter I asked you to pray for our teammate Sean: *“Please pray with us for Sean as he has returned to the States after completing his 2-year term of service with us. We had a tearful goodbye, as he indeed had “become dear to us” and so helpful in the ministry here. Pray for his future and for his adjustment stateside.”* On July 10 I got the call from Sean’s Dad Kit that Sean took his own life on July 9. We had known he was struggling in his adjustment back in the States, but were completely unprepared for this news. It is now two months since that date, so significant healing has taken place in our hearts, but it has been an agonizing time, and in a very real sense we will not be completely healed until heaven, when

we are reunited with our dear brother in the presence of our Lord Jesus, who will wipe away all tears from our eyes. So please pray for Sean’s Mom and Dad, Kit and Charlotte Galton, and for his younger sister Juliet. I know they will appreciate it. And pray for us too. We’ve gone through a lot of loss these years on the field, and sense our need for Christ’s healing. We know He will continue to minister to us, as you help us with your prayers.

Thank You!

I want to take a moment to say thank you to those of you who have supported us financially these past 3 1/2 years. We are deeply appreciative for the sacrifices you are making to make the love of Christ known here in Peru through us. And thank you too for your precious prayers, which are the backbone of our ministry. Thank you friends, for all you do to support us in the work the Lord has called us to here in Lima

Write or call anytime. We enjoy hearing from you.

With much love in Christ, and
Depending on his promises,



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