

Rich & Ramona Wagner
Rock the House!
April 1, 2008

Good morning from Cusco Peru! Ramona and I pray that you are Spiritually well, and growing in His grace.

Rock the House! What do you do in a remote mountain village when everything is quiet and you want to get their attention? You “Rock the House” of course! We were trying to find a way to get the people’s attention so that we could tell them that we were going to show the Jesus Film in a village called Uspabamba. We took an evangelistic team there on Good Friday. They went door to door and talked to people on the road and paths. But there were more we couldn’t get to because of the rough terrain.

So for the first time in all eternity, the glorious harmony of the vocal group Acappella, singing a capella, in Spanish, was heard all over the village, thanks to our amplified speaker system. Ramona kids me that my music is only loud enough for me when it vibrates the windows. We stuck the speakers out the door & windows and I think even the trees were vibrating! Even trees of the forest will shout out the glory of God, right?

Well, it worked. We were told to expect about 20 people. So Ramona and a young Quechua girl prepared chicken and rice for 20 people, max. The problem was that over 50 people showed up to hear Quechua Christians tell about how God had changed their life, and to watch the Jesus Film. There are no stores in Uspabamba, no place to get more food for the people. Some of the Quechua men on our team said that we should just give real small portions of food to the people and maybe we could stretch out what we had. I looked at the crowd as they watched the movie and saw children that had obviously not eaten much lately, some of the adults were just as thin.

So we prayed that God would feed His people that night. I told the men to fill everybody’s plate and not hold back. They thought I was crazy. (I get that a lot.) God fed over fifty men, women and children that night. Not just fed them, but fed them until they were full. All of the children came back for seconds, many adults did as well. The people didn’t really know what had happened. They just knew that they had been hungry and had been fed. The children left with potbellies they were so full. Our team was amazed and encouraged. God did what we asked Him to do.

I’ve thought a lot about what happened that night, and I’ve asked myself what I really expected God to do? What do we really expect to see when we talk to God?

Do we really expect to see Him do something, or is our prayer just the automatic, right thing for a Christian to do? I'll leave you to answer that question for yourself. But here in Cusco Peru, and the surrounding remote mountain villages, we are expecting God to move in wonderful ways to communicate His Gospel to those that He has chosen. By the way, we've been invited back to Uspabamba.

Last Friday we went to another small village called Sunko, and projected the Jesus Film on our screen tied to the fence of a basketball court. Again we started with the Acappella music, and by the time we started a DVD on alcoholism the dirt seats going up the mountainside were filling up. By the time we started the Jesus Film, the usable dirt bleachers were full and people were lining the rim of the "bowl" the basketball court was in. As a tool to try and get an idea of how many people came that night, we had a sack with 100 small loaves of bread in it. One peace of bread per person equals how many people were there, right? Hungry children and an enthusiastic evangelistic team didn't let that tool work, so I've given up on trying to estimate how many people attend these events. Inside a building it's easy, but when we are outside at night, in close to freezing weather, it's just not worth the effort. A LOT of people showed up that night.

That seems to be what our pattern will be like, at least for a while. Every Friday night we will go to another remote mountain village to give a Gospel presentation and show, at least the Jesus Film. This month, we have been asked to go back to Pisac where we showed the film in a small building, to show it again this time outdoors in the Plaza de Armas, which is the main town square. We will also take a team back to Colliani this month, the first place we visited in December. This time we will leave two Quechua Christians there for two weeks, to start a small discipleship group. We will replace those two with two more at the end of two weeks.

Each time we go somewhere we try to learn from our mistakes and make what we do better. At the basketball court in Sunko we saw that our 4' by 4' projection screen that worked so well inside a building, didn't do as well in a large outdoor setting. So yesterday we made a 10' square screen out of white plastic to use for our outdoor presentations.

Like this coming Friday night in Chimpawayu, where we will hang the screen on the wall of the municipal building. And for the following Friday? I don't have a guess as to where we will go. The Quechua Christians have taken over the scheduling and locating of new venues for what we do. I'll just load up the truck with the generator, projector and all the soft drinks, cookies, etc. that we need to do our presentations, and go wherever He has led the Quechuas.

Please continue to pray for these trips, and for the seminary class I facilitate. They are Spiritually exhausting. Pray also for Ramona. She goes on about every other

trip, and they are very physically demanding for her.

Pray also for our community development projects. Our chickens and guinea pigs are starting to mature and will soon start to reproduce. That will allow us to put projects in remote areas that will provide protein and a very small income to people who need that help very badly.

I just bought some large 4" pvc tubes and plywood that I will use to build a prototype hot water heater that should work very well this close to the sun. (14,000 feet in altitude) The goal is to take it families with lots of kids, and for the medical work as well, so that they can have hot water to promote cleanliness and better health.

Pray that God will continue to provide opportunities to share His Gospel, in conventional and unconventional ways. All of the funding from the guinea pigs to the cookies and the video projector all come out of my support account. There are no special projects that pay for them like we had in Colombia and Mexico. So please pray that God will continue to provide for the ministry that He has set before us.

There are a few new pictures on Photo Bucket from these last trips. The link is below.

We thank God for your prayers and financial support. Thank you for the part that you are playing in the remote mountains around Cusco Peru.

Lord Bless,

Rich & Ramona Wagner
Mission to the World
Hinterlands Ministry
Cusco Peru

<http://s227.photobucket.com/albums/dd146/WagnersinPeru/>
<http://www.mtwsa.net/people/rwagner.htm>