

Rich & Ramona Wagner

What a Week!

May 30, 2008

What a week we have had! We went places missionaries haven't gone to before, and did things we never thought we would be allowed to do when we got there!

Ramona and I were asked help with a medical brigade that would work in two small villages about two hours west of Cusco. The "plan" (God was laughing) was that we would facilitate the medical work of the two medical doctors, two dentists and two nurses.

A line of over 100 people was waiting for us when we pulled up to the building in the first village we would work in. That line didn't seem to get any shorter until we started to shut down the clinic in that village after two days of work.

We had only been working about an hour the first day when the director of the Catholic school, the only school in the area, asked us if we could come and examine the children at the school. After talking with the doctors I explained to the director, a nun, that we could come and look at the children, and that we could also help them with their classes for the day.

We spent an hour or so explaining that the Jesus Film was not Protestant or Catholic, it is "simply" a documentary on the public life of Jesus exactly following the book of Luke in the New Testament. We ended up comparing her Catholic Bible with mine and she couldn't find any difference comparing the book of Luke.

That morning we showed the Jesus Film in a Catholic school to over 200 children, not counting teachers and parents who were required to be there. We got to tell them about Jesus, how He died for us, and how they could have eternal life. We also showed them all a DVD on alcoholism and talked to a captive audience of over 100 adults about it. A nurse and I triaged and treated for worms and parasites over 200 children. And that was just our morning's work.

All afternoon we alternated showing the Jesus Film in Quechua, the Jesus Film for Children in Spanish, and the MTW produced film on alcoholism in the local community room. At the same time, we also used that room as the waiting area for people waiting to see the doctors.

The third day we moved our brigade to another remote village, where we were again greeted by over 100 people waiting for us. By now our operation was as well organized as it could be, so the doctors started seeing patients almost immediately. We set up the DVD ministry where the people were waiting to see

the doctors and Ramona and I went on to other things. Did I mention the only place large enough to show our films was the Catholic Church next to the community room we used for medical work? I'm still not real sure how God worked that out. The priest only comes every 2-3 months so the man in charge of the building just opened it for us when we asked.

The request to come to the local Catholic school didn't even take an hour in the second village. The director was waiting for us when we pulled up. Ramona, the nurse and I went to the school and started all over again. There were a lot of open wounds in this group that we didn't see in the other school. I treated the various cuts and did the triage looking for obvious medical and tooth problems. The nurse checked for heart & lung problems, and Ramona gave out the medicine and applied antibiotic ointment to the cracked and bleeding faces of the kids.

And if you were wondering, 2 doctors, 2 dentists, 2 nurses & their gofers (Ramona & I) treated over 600 medical cases, 160 dental patients and 360 students, in four days. They went back to the states exhausted. Over 1100 people were touched by God's grace, and heard about the salvation that only comes from Jesus Christ. Quechua Christians were sharing the Gospel to the waiting groups and one on one the whole time. Helping one of the team from the US, I translator English to Spanish to a bi-lingual Quechua Christian who then shared the Gospel with other Quechuas.

We also learned the astounding fact that almost 100% of the children were dehydrated, with the accompanying illnesses that come with that. (Worms/parasites, dry, cracked bleeding skin and sores) They only drink maybe a cup of water a day in tea or soup. I'm wondering why couldn't we put one of the big 2500-liter water tanks in selected schools, along with training in the need to drink water, and personal cleanliness? Then have somebody go back every week or so to refill it. Community development is part of what we do. To that end Keith Powlison and I are moving ahead with getting high capacity water filter systems to use for this need, and for disaster relief as well.

It's not set in concrete yet, but I think we have a source and funding for the water purification systems. If that works out, I think that for about \$250 we can buy the large water tanks to put in very rural schools. You might want to think about this for an easy Sunday School project. I'll send out more on this when we are ready to move ahead.

We continue to present the Jesus Film, along with the alcoholism film, cookies and Coke every Friday night in rural villages. Every Thursday night I teach a seminary class. Ramona is involved in all I do, as well as working with some young girls preparing for marriage. As you remember, please pray for these items.

Thirty-one new pictures of what happened this week and more can be seen on our Photo Bucket page:

<http://s227.photobucket.com/albums/dd146/WagnersinPeru/>

Thank you for your continued prayer and financial support. From guinea pigs to large evangelistic events, our supporters help us to make it happen.

Lord Bless,

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