



Peru Ponderings

Susan Crenshaw #011242

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Vacation Bible School Peruvian style! Three churches, three weeks, three hundred children! January was filled with singing, competitions and learning about Peter. Reyna (pastor's wife pictured below) headed up the effort, with Mauro and Robin, pastoral interns, teaching and Lucy and I as assistants. We started off in Huaycan, the biggest VBS, Amauta, the newest church plant and ended in Santa Anita, the smallest locale. Each presented new challenges and dynamics. Church members participated by providing refreshments and raising money through a Ceviche-ada, selling the local favorite fish dish. Becca taught health talks on washing hands and brushing teeth to minister to physical needs in these communities.

In Amauta, I helped Robin in his "green fish" class of 7-9 year olds. Robin taught me some great techniques to redirect the kids when they got distracted. On Thursday, I taught about Peter's dream of the unclean animals in Acts 10 and how "God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right." (Acts 10:34,35) This gave me a chance to share about the children I taught in the States who were from so many different countries but all need Jesus. I also asked which ones would like to go abroad to preach the good news to other parts of the world. Three or four raised their hand- Praise God! It gave me a taste of my grander vision of being here to raise up the next generation to reach those who have not yet heard the good news. It was such an encouragement to hear these children recite Scripture so assuredly and remind them of practical ways to use these truths in their daily life.

Alexander is one child in that class who reminded me of the unhealthy situations the children face in their homes. He came the first day but did not participate at all. He surprisingly returned the following day and excitedly participated and learned the verse of the day. He continued during the week until Friday when he misbehaved and blatantly disobeyed. He didn't know how to respond to the positive discipline I gave and sadly didn't return for the closing on Saturday. Please pray for him and his family that they may come to Christ.

Cultural Note

CARNIVAL

This celebration might conjure up thoughts of New Orleans and parades, but here in Peru it is a different kind! In the hottest month of the year there is a tradition of throwing water in various forms including water balloons, water guns and plain 'ole buckets on unsuspecting bystanders. I was warned ahead of time but didn't know what to expect. The last day of January I was inducted into the celebration. I was returning home from Bible Study that day and saw a few Sunday school children with water balloons and was curious as to what would happen. They passed the "weapons" to some teenagers who said "Get her wet!" I heard quick footsteps behind me as I crossed the street. I'm just thankful it wasn't a bucket!



praises

- God is really showing more of himself to me as my Father and co-laborer in the work here!
- Our team is growing... The Rosses arrived safely the first of February and are settling in here in Lima
- My safety