



## Exciting changes are beginning

May 2017

Wow, where to start? We realize now that it has been 5 months since our last newsletter update. There has been so much going on here in Arequipa. I hope that many of you have been able to follow us on Facebook and have felt updated on what has been happening here.

One of Arequipa's nicknames is the "city of eternal blue sky" because of the (close to) perfect climate here year round. This year, however, we experienced an usually wet summer (Jan-Mar). It rained almost everyday for about three months which drastically affected the way of life for many people in our town of 1 million. There were many landslides, causing major water cuts, road closures and endless potholes. There were also fogged in skies which cancelled and delayed countless flights. Also, here in Arequipa, many people are not used to the rain and choose to stay home instead of doing their normal activities. As native Oregonians, we found this quite comical.

Thank you for your continued prayer and financial support for the work here in Peru. We are learning daily about life, relationships, ministry, culture, etc. We have seen God working and consider it a privilege to serve Him here.



Sarah's parents made a visit here in January

### Family Update

In February, we took our first family vacation here in Peru. We spent 5 days in the Cusco region. That part of the country is known for its rich Incan heritage. The highlight of our trip was going to Machu Picchu. We weren't expecting to go there on this trip, mainly because of cost, but we were pleasantly surprised to find out that our Peruvian residency gave us a HUGE discount, which, made it possible to go. What an experience! It was a wet and blustery day, but well worth it. A great lesson in history and culture!



Touring the ancient ruins of Machu Picchu

In March, our 3 kids started their school year. This year Evelyn and Andrew returned to the Peruvian school that they attended last year. We chose to homeschool Nathan this year. This means that Sarah spends her mornings at home with him now. We have been blessed by a family that arrived here in Arequipa recently that has allowed us to do a co-op with them. Nathan enjoys this new setup and the new friendships that have come with it. Recently, we celebrated our 12th marriage anniversary and Nathan's and Sarah's birthdays. Next week, we celebrate Evelyn's birthday as well as Mother's Day. It is quite a busy time of year for celebrations in our family!



The kids enjoying a music and rhythm class

### Ministry Updates

We are grateful to serve here in Peru as a part of a team and larger church community. Our main objective here is to help Peruvians plant churches. In the past year and a half we have been able to be a part of a healthy established church, begin the process of planting a church that is in its infant stages and receive wise counsel from many national pastors and fellow missionaries. We have learned so much and will continue to.

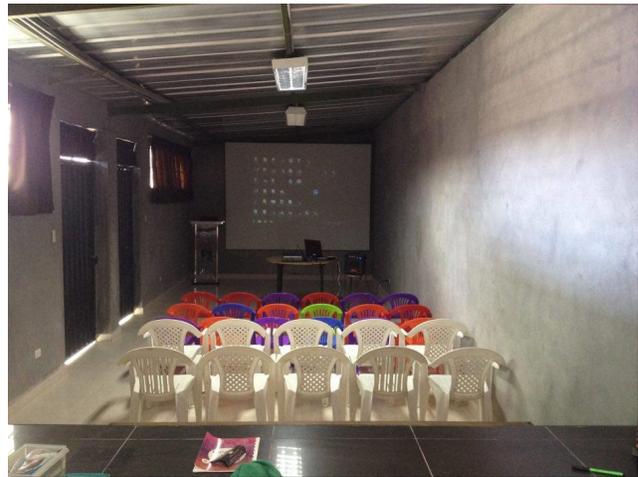
After much prayer and counsel, we have decided to start a Saturday evening service in Ciudad de Dios. Throughout the many years of this ministry, there has never been a formal service for adults. We pray that God uses this in a mighty way to establish and grow a church. We also plan to increase to amount of community events that care not just for the spiritual well being of a person, but also their physical and emotional needs as well. To begin achieving this, we will be continuing our homework club on Wednesday nights, having a volleyball open gym on Tuesday afternoons and beginning an evangelistic home visitation ministry on Sunday afternoons in addition to our existing kids program.



Our preteen group and their leaders studying the Bible

### Summer program

Another “new” ministry that happened this year was our summer program. During the months of January through March, we hosted midweek events twice a week in the afternoons. Despite the rainy weather, we were very pleased with the turnout. Some of the activities that we did were arts and crafts, legos, sports, games, music, cooking and English. It was a privilege to serve our community in these ways. We are thankful for the opportunity and the great group of volunteers that helped make it happen.



The new sanctuary space in Ciudad de Dios

### New sanctuary space

Here in Peru, the term “church” is most often affiliated with a building. Also, there is cultural value placed on a “holy place” and “holy time” to have a church service. Since we are planting a church in this culture, we have made some exciting changes to our building. We remodeled a small space to use for our sanctuary. The walls now have stucco (and will be painted soon) and the floor is tiled.

The Bible tells us that the church is more than just a building. It is the body of Christ. We will be spending the next few months teaching this from the pulpit on Saturdays, but we pray that having this dedicated worship space will be a culturally relevant and strategic way to welcome people from the community to our services. We praise God for those who have contributed to this project. If you would like to contribute specifically for other strategic (and desperately needed) projects on the property, we have an account setup. Please contact us for more information.

## Ciudad de Dios home visit

A few months back, we got word that one of the ladies from our church had a difficult situation happening in her home. We decided it would be best to go to her home to visit and to pray with her. When we arrived, we discovered that her husband was back in the house after many months away (he works in Lima). The husband explained to us that he was sick and that his father had told him he would be sending a witchdoctor to his home to heal him. The husband didn't believe that the witchdoctor could really heal him nor did he want him to arrive at his home the next day, but he was struggling with the idea of calling his father to tell him "no". He later explained to us that God had appeared to him one night recently in a dream and that he wanted to know more about who God was. We prayed with his family and shared openly with him about how God is our healer and that He provides not only physical healing but also offers us the gift of salvation. It ends up that he called his father and told him that he believed that only God could truly heal him. He came to our church the next day, feeling almost completely better, and studied scripture with us. We are praying for this precious family. The wife is a believer and a regular part of our church along with their two young daughters. We are still not certain of the husband's relationship with the Lord, but we do know that he is seeking Him and also desires to see his family moving forward together at our church. Sadly, he again is away in Lima working. This is just an example of the spiritual environment that exists in the area of our church planting work.



Some of the incredible Peruvian men and women on our ministry team that serve with us in Ciudad de Dios.

## Home Assignment 2017

That's right. At the end of this year, we will be finishing up our third year of ministry outside of the US. That means that we are scheduled to return to Oregon for about 3 months. We still don't have the details all organized but we are already starting to think ahead to our time there. The months of June-August will be full with administrating the new ministry strategies mentioned earlier and in September-November, we will be preparing and equipping our team to continue while we're gone as well as welcoming a new family here as part of our team. We miss our friends and family dearly and look forward to spending time with you all as well as taking time to focus on our marriage and family.

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*Declare His glory among the nations,  
His marvelous works among all the peoples!  
For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised...*

*Psalms 96:3-4a*

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Prayer requests:

- For Jason as he begins preaching on a weekly basis
- For Sarah as she serves as both mom and teacher
- For the kids, that they do well in their studies
- For the new Saturday night service starting in June
- For the new evangelistic ministry of home visitation
- For the families that live in Ciudad de Dios
- That God would raise up men that lead their families spiritually

### How to partner with us:

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A game of tug-of-war during our summer program



Evie ready for her first day of 2nd grade



People lining up with buckets to receive water. There were many water cuts this summer.



A demonstration of traditional Incan textile dyeing techniques



Andrew feeding the "cuy" - guinea pigs



Out to breakfast with Nathan on his 10th bday



Our volunteer team preparing a craft project for the children