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Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

1. The formation of a Peruvian Missionary Service Committee

Epaphroditus is a wonderful example of selfless service. On the one hand risking his life to carry the love and concern of the saints of Philippi to the hands of the Apostle Paul, "Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me." On the other hand we read of his love for the saints in his home assembly, "For he longed after you all..." These are the passages that have moved our hearts and inspired us to see the formation of a missionary service committee in Peru.

Over the last few months we've been working along with other believers in laying the ground work for such a committee. By necessity it must become a legal entity but in practice I prefer to think of it as a group of believers with a common love for the Lord's people and a desire to assist those who have been commended to the work of the Lord. It is not a mission board. There is no interference in the work or in the relationship with the commending assembly. Nor does the committee have anything to do with the commendation of a worker. Its only purpose is to serve those who have been commended and to provide the assemblies with up to date information about the work being conducted by these servants of the Lord.

We long to see the assemblies in Peru actively involved in fulfilling the commission the Lord has given us (Mt 28), to go into the world and make disciples. We do not all have the same calling but we can all work together toward that great objective of fulfilling the Lord's mandate.

This is not the first time that such a committee has been proposed among the assemblies in Peru but it is the first time such a proposal has been generally well received. Last week we meet with the elders and commended workers from assemblies across the country and at the end of the day were overwhelmed by the unanimous approval. Not a single brother in the meeting was opposed or even objected to parts of what was being presented. There was a real evidence of the working of the Spirit of God.

One of the first tasks the committee will be working on is the preparation and publication of the next edition of "Olor Fragante," a magazine that was started a few years ago with the intention of letting believers know about the work being conducted by those who have been commended by assemblies in Peru. To date the magazine has been sporadic and has depended solely upon one or two. Now there will be a team that can share the work and responsibility. We trust this will help the magazine become more effective.

The statutes are also in the process of being turned over to a lawyer who is willing to help us with the process of registering the committee, a process that may take some time but is no impediment to the voluntary members of the committee who can being working toward the objects which led to its formation.

I have no doubt that there will be those who will have objections. I think if they had taken the time to come to the meeting many of their fears would have been put to rest, however the committee will not be interfering in their work or that of any other commended work and I trust with time they too will appreciate the simple and humble service being carried out by those who are on the committee. We value your prayers as we begin to carry out the work the Lord has laid on our hearts.

October 2008 Newsletter



Contents

Work Highlights

The formation of a Peruvian

Missionary Service

Committee 1

The work in Ayacucho 2

Reconstruction and Camp

Work 3

Personal Highlights

Family News 2
Thank you 3

Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me.

Philippians 2:30



Baptism in Avacucho in July



Construction of girl's drom
Betel Camp in Ica



Andrea holding Melanie

The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

Psalm 34:18

2. The Work in Ayacucho

There are now three small assemblies that meet together to break bread in Ayacucho, two of them in the department's capital. In July the two assemblies in the capital got together by a river about 20 minutes outside the city for the second baptism this year and it is the second time the baptism was organized by the believers themselves. A conference was also held the last weekend of July .

Our participation in Ayacucho has been difficult this year as we continue to travel back and forth with the reconstruction work in Ica, but the believers are pressing on with the work and Maximo Rodriguez, along with others in the assembly continue to run the Bible bookstore and help with the work in the local assemblies. One of the key brothers in the assembly in Las Casuarinas has had to take work in another part of the country and we only see him every four or five weeks. Please pray he will be able to get work closer. Also, please pray for the gospel campaign that is being planned for of December with the help of Micah Tuttle who is serving the Lord in Trujillo along with his wife Amy.

3. Reconstruction and camp work

The reconstruction work that was started last year is all but finished. A couple of small jobs are being finished up in San Clemente. We are planning to go around in November and visit each of the families that were helped to see how they are doing.

The big job continues to be the Bible camp. The work is moving ahead but we are under a great deal of pressure in order to be ready for January. There is still a lot of work to be done and the heat is starting early this year. Mason and Debbie Jacobson moved to the camp in July to help us with the work but are still in the process of settling in and the responsibilities still weigh heavily upon us.

There are now seven camps scheduled for this summer, and an eighth is very likely. Please pray that the camp will be ready and also for planning that still has to be done in order to prepare for these camps. If we finish the construction the camp will be able to accommodate about 100 campers a week.

Please pray for the meeting with the camp directors that is planned for November. These will be the first camps since the earthquake and there are a lot of issues that will need to be ironed out before the camp season begins in January.

4. The Family

Benjamin is back with his correspondence and is now in Grade 5. Andrea is getting bigger and we now have a new family member born October 26th at 5:15 pm. Little Melanie is a healthy little girl of 3.1 kg. Please pray for Mirtha and the baby. Melanie's other name is Eliana, which means "God has answered." The Lord is gracious. I came to Peru with nothing and now have a little family of three.

We would like to take a furlough next year around July if the Lord opens the way. It will be four years in June since our last furlough and the baby will still be small enough to travel for very little.

5. Thank you

We do want to thank you for your interest in the work here in Peru and value your prayers. We trust the Lord will bless and encourage you as we await his return.

By the grace of God, Daniel and Mirtha Mckinley