



'The King will reply, I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.' Matthew 25:40 NIV

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God is Just Full of Surprises by Dena Williams

One of the lessons I have learned on our mission trips to Peru is that God can really use you in ways you never dreamed possible if you surrender your will to him and just put yourself into his hands.

On my first mission trip with our church in 2004, I really didn't know what to expect but I learned quickly to just expect the unexpected and enjoy it. Soon after we arrived in Puerta Alegria we found out that Scripture Union wanted us to do a Bible School with the boys. Steve gave the task to Dilsa and me (Maybe we didn't look up to concrete work). We didn't have much in the way of supplies but we had a love for children, we had a couple of Bibles, Dilsa spoke Spanish and Katherine was there to help us. Bible School was great and we learned that God can take the little you have and accomplish his purposes.

I wanted to go back to Peru last year but couldn't plan to because of health issues. But God sent me anyway. He took care of those issues and allowed me to join the group in April when someone else had to drop out.

Derek gave me the job of preparing a Bible School...."I can do this" I thought. I had a suitcase full of supplies this time. Dilsa had helped me translate everything to Spanish and I felt good. I knew what God was sending me to do in Peru this time. I knew my biggest problem would be my lack of Spanish speaking skills. But right before the trip my sister Amy who had just returned from a mission trip to Mexico gave me the Spanish Dictionary that her mission group had given her.

When we arrived in Lima we had an all night stay in the airport before flying on to Iquitos. We finally got on that plane to Iquitos and I was exhausted and looking forward to a nap. There was an empty seat beside me and I thought "Good...I won't be disturbed." Just before take-off a lady sat down in the seat next

to me. She started talking to me in Spanish and I couldn't understand much but I tried. Her name was Mery and she was a profesora in Lima. Her husband was a policeman and she was going to visit family in Iquitos. I shared the pictures of my family that I had brought to show the boys in Puerta Alegria. We had a lot in common. She wanted to know why we were in Peru and I struggled to tell her about our church sending us to build the home for the street boys. "Por Que? But Why? She asked....."Because we love Jesus and he has sent us to love those boys," I answered. She shook her head and was very quiet for a while.

Finally she wrote something on a piece of paper and handed it to me. It was her name and address and this sentence in Spanish...."I desire to know Christ, to become a Christian."

"Oh my!" I thought, "What do I do now?" I remembered the little dictionary for missionaries that my sister had given me....the plan of salvation was right there in Spanish....just what I needed! I shared it with Mery. Right there high above the Andes God enabled me to share his love with her. He had prepared her heart for this moment and mine. He gave me the tools and he brought one of his lambs into the fold. After Mery had accepted Jesus as her Savior, I hugged her and proclaimed her my new sister in Christ. She was so excited and hugged others in our group after we left the plane. I later explained what had happened. It still amazes me what God can do and how he surprises us. As Kelsey said, he takes us out of our comfort zone and blesses us.

I don't know what God is doing in Mery's life...I try to keep her in my prayers but I have confidence that he will complete the job he has begun in all of us.



Useless Information to Brighten your day

On the 2007 trip 125 cubic feet of concrete was placed in a septic tank system and 105 cubic feet in columns.

The weight of the concrete lifted up ladders to pour in the columns is approximately 15,225 lbs. (145 lbs per cubic foot)

Calendar of Events

Peru Dinner	August 25 or September 1
Peru Team Presentation	September 5
Rev. William Makali Sermon at MUMC	September 23
Billy Clarke visit	November 3-12
Peru Party	Week of Nov 4

Scripture Union has assigned us a new location for July 25-August 3, 2008. The location will be Kimo, which is an eight hour bus ride in the mountains. The area is similar to Puerto Alegria in temperature and humidity from our understanding but at an altitude.

We will be working hard in the coming months to get a game plan together before Billy arrives for his visit so we can hold informational

meetings and start the fundraising for this trip. We would like to stretch the fundraising calendar again this year.

Currently a leader has not stepped forward, though some did express interest early on. If you are interested, please contact Steve Hendrix as soon as possible.

If you are looking to help the team, please also contact Steve to get lined up for a position.

Do you want the I Dig Peru Newsletter via email? If so please go to the website to sign up for email version at www.idigperu.hendrix-engineers.com

Next Month's Article will be a review of the recent trip. Look for photos on the website in coming weeks.

Rev. William Makali Visiting

Rev. William Makali from Full Dimension Ministry-Tanzania will be visiting with his wife Martha from September 21-October 8. He will be giving the sermon at all three services at MUMC on September 23rd. There will also be a Mutt's night fundraiser while he is in town

on September 27th. Steve Hendrix is heading this up for FDM. If you are interested in advertising or helping work that night please contact him.

Rev. Smoke Kanipe will be coordinating the trip in SC.

Newsletter Information

When the idea of a newsletter first surfaced, we were looking for ways to help create a community of support for those who have participated in MUMC's Peru Mission. It has since grown some outside of that original scope by providing information for those who signed up to go in 2007 for the first time to hear more about some of the people who had gone before them and how it had been a positive influence in their lives. Also many of our great supporters like the newsletter to hear about what we are up to and keep up to date with activities in Peru.

There are a couple of things necessary to keep the newsletter going though. The first are your stories and updates. We have front page stories lined up through December of this year, so I would love it if you have a story you would like to tell to please sign up for a month in 2008. Those of you from 2007 may want to write a quick story and send it now while it is fresh in your mind.

The second thing we need to keep the newsletter going is for those who can do email newsletters to please authorize us to send you the email version. Actually the newsletter is posted at the website and we just send you a notice when it is uploaded to the site. Currently on a handful are using the email version. The printing and mailing cost to the majority is roughly \$35/month being handled through a donation, but that donation ends December 2007. Instead of going to the Peru fund or asking for money, it would be easier and no cost to send the email version.

If you no longer want the newsletter, please let us know. If you want to keep receiving the snail mail version do nothing at this time and we will continue to send it.



Dena Williams with one of the boys at Puerto Alegria during the 2006 trip.

Upcoming Opportunities to Serve

UMM work day at Asbury Hills-Sept 14 and 15

Bids to Help Kids by the UMW on September 22 where they will be holding a silent auction and dinner to support several children's ministries and programs. Items and services needed for the auction. (Peru Items left over make great auction items)

Full Dimension Ministry-USA Mutt's fundraiser on September 27. We need work volunteers and help advertising.

Please feel free to copy and distribute this newsletter to anyone you think would be interested.