



# I Dig Peru News

*'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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## *On The Way to Peru* By Joy Brookie Nedved

Three years ago, my sister and my mom went to Peru on a mission trip. I remember seeing them off and wishing them a fun time but not really understanding what this trip had to do with God. The night they returned, our whole family went to dinner to hear about their trip. I went to dinner hungry for food but left with a hunger to know the happiness and contentment they showed while speaking of Peru. They glowed when they spoke, their eyes glistened when they showed pictures of the children and their hands flew as they described all of the work they had done. I wanted that feeling. I needed that feeling. So, I signed myself up for the next trip. I didn't know what to expect but was dreading all of the church activities that I must attend in order to raise funds for the trip.

To say that I was not a regular church attendee would be a kindness but the truth is I went to church twice maybe four times a year. I hit all of the big holidays, Christmas, Easter, Mother's Day and Father's Days. I took pride in my non-attendance because I felt that I had a cleaner, non-obstructed relationship with God that was not distorted by others' views. I studied lots of different things in order to feel a more spiritual connection with God. I felt that church was filled with people glad-handing each other and

that the focus was always on activities not on God. I thought I could find the path to enlightenment on my own, unaided by other's misguided or archaic views. However in my search to be closer to God, I knew that something was keeping me from growing closer to God and to leading a more spiritual life. I just could not identify what it was. I hoped to find it in Peru.

Yet, before I could set one foot in Peru, I had to blend in with the church group that would go. There was a fully set agenda of planned fundraisers, meetings, and team building exercises. I steeled myself to get through them. As I started attending the many activities/fund raisers

something curious happened; I found myself liking my fellow team members. Incredibly, I found myself identifying with them! They had the same questions as I about God, about being a good Christian and about church. It was a revelation to me. It felt good to know that there were

others like me. It was comforting that there were others also questioning and striving with the modern world's definition of Christianity. Already, I was changing and through the help of my team members I was finding answers that I had been searching for. And I hadn't even landed in Peru yet!

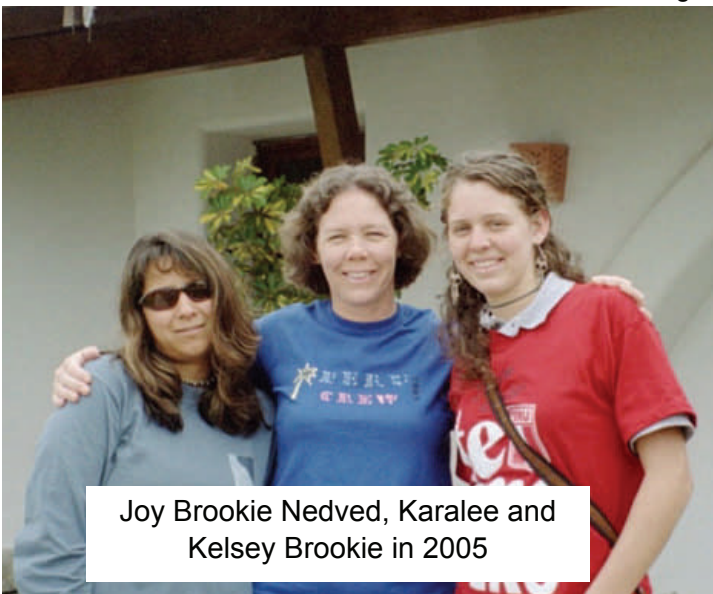


### Useless Information to Brighten your day

Every Mission Trip our team has taken an average of 2,500 photos.

Four the four years of mission trips we have taken just over 10,000 photos.

If you laid all the 4x6 prints end to end it would stretch 5000 feet or almost 1 mile.



Joy Brookie Nedved, Karalee and Kelsey Brookie in 2005

## Calendar of Events

Tanzania Trip Interest Meeting	October 14 3 PM
Blood Drive	October 25
Asbury Hills Work Day	October 27
Billy Clarke visit	November 1-12
Billy Clarke Sunday School Presentation	November 4
Peru 2008 Prelim. Interest Meeting	During Billy's Visit
Peru Party	Week of Nov 4
Peru 2008	July 25- August 3

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## Thanks

On Thursday, September 27 we had a Mutt's Fundraiser for Full Dimension Ministry (Rev. William Makali of Tanzania' ministry). We had 7 folks from the Peru teams volunteer their time to help us wait tables.

I personally appreciated their help, but I can tell you it also made an impression on many folks from other churches as well.

Of all the things I believe is important about our mission trips and projects, I believe it is the leadership of our people in helping get the job done that is often overlooked.

Every year, we run hard to get our fundraising done. But when there is a need outside of the Peru team many are willing to step up and help.

Our ministry grows because of how we work, lead and set an example for others. Not just when it is for our benefit like raising funds for our mission trip, but when we help other groups out as well.

We raised enough money at Mutt's that night to pay for the doctor's and one teacher's salary for an entire quarter.

## On the Way to Peru (Continued)

Meeting and seeing those boys in Kawai humbled me like nothing else ever has or will. They were a community of lost boys who had less than nothing to be happy about. Yet on the first Sunday with them at their church, I felt the presence of God. I saw it in their shining faces, I heard it in their hymns and I felt it in my heart. It hit me that church is so much more than the sermons, more than the Sunday school or bake sales but it is also a community of people. People all looking for the answers to the same questions and a community that holds each other accountable.

There are many other things to be said about Peru and it's effects on my life but I think others have described it better than I could. It

was experience like none other, working along side others to mix concrete, shoveling until you could barely lift another but yet finding the energy to play games with the boys every evening. Seeing the children's faces as we came in every night, is a memory that I hold next to my heart and revisit whenever I need a reminder of God's grace and love. However, to me, it was the process of getting to Peru that enhanced my experience there. Learning and growing with my fellow team members helped to open my heart and my mind to church as a means of getting closer to God. It helped me realize that one of the components missing in my desire to get closer to God was other people. Loving God is not a solo act but one that is best done in a chorus.

## Preliminary Mission Interest Meetings

We will be holding two meetings to determine interest in mission trips.

The first one will be for Tanzania. Since Rev. Makali's sermon at our church there have been several folks expressing an interest in going to Tanzania. We will be meeting October 14 at 3 PM in the Men's Classroom. To be discussed are the best times to go, costs involved, and what type of work to do on this mission trip. Jerry Warren of Full

Dimension Ministry-USA is hoping to make the meeting as well. If interested and unable to make the meeting contact Steve Hendrix.

The second will be one for Peru 2008 to see who is interested in making the adventurous journey to Kimo. From this meeting we hope to also find a leader for the trip. This meeting will take place while Billy is visiting.

## Fundraising Update

We are looking now for new fundraisers for Peru 2008 already. We continue to look for fundraisers that can be done throughout the year taking some of the fundraising stress off the months of March, April and May.

We have one fundraiser in the works now and will need help with. We are selling Christmas and Birthday cards that feature pictures of the boys but will also be used to purchase school and health supplies to be given out.

We need to raise \$600 to make 200 each school and health bags.

The cards will go on sell in late October and continue in early November. Please contact Steve Hendrix if you would like to sell the cards outside of the church. In addition we can run special prints for companies with their name on the card.

Any funds raised over those needed will go into the team trip money for 2008.

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