

Perú

The Missionary Newsletter of Scott and Meghan Dillon | March-April, 2009

Language School Update

Before we left for Peru, we received many warnings that women learn language faster than men. We heard that most times when husbands and wives learn language together, it becomes a point of contention because the wife is speeding through the course and the husband is stuck struggling through it. Well, thanks for your advice - I'm sure it's true for most couples. But the Dillons have rarely found themselves fitting in the mold. We were in the same grammar class for the first month and a half along with another married couple. Then suddenly, Scott was moved into the grammar class that moves at a more rapid pace. At first, I was a bit sad, but a week later, I was moved also.

We are both succeeding and struggling with different things. There are words and ideas that I get more naturally than Scott, and vice versa. It is a good balance when we're together. In our new grammar class, we move a bit faster than we previously did, but it will be good for us. Our teacher says we will probably finish the grammar portion of the course before our baby's due date. Then after the baby is born, it will just be a matter of having practice classes.

We are leaning patience along with every word of Spanish and it is humbling us as we struggle to understand and speak. Thankfully, our classes are enjoyable and there are some great people here who want to help us learn.

Sunday Bible Study

Along with some friends, we started a bible study on Sunday evenings. Arequipa is a large city (there are more people in the city of Arequipa than in the state of Delaware) and so there are a handful of missionaries that live here and because of the language school, there are even more studying here. In getting to know a handful of them, we found that many wanted to have some kind of Bible study in English for fellowship and encouragement. For a lot of us, Sunday mornings are very tiring. Trying to understand a 30-40 minute sermon can be exhausting for a non-native speaker. A bible study in English is quite therapeutic here.

We have been meeting for the past two months now and it has been quite a blessing to all of us. We have the standard "Bible Study" format with a time of worship, a study taught by one of the men, and a time of fellowship with snacks and so forth. It is a taste of home, but more than that, it's a huge encouragement.

Even though the purpose of our Bible Study is to encourage each other as Spanish-learning missionaries, we were blessed to have two Peruvians with us this passed Sunday. They are both Christians and one of them is the pastor of the new church that we have been attending. Continue praying for this study as it becomes more accommodating for Peruvians to attend and that we can effectively exhort each other as brothers and sisters in Christ.



PRAYER REQUESTS

"The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."

James 5:16

- ☞ PRAY: We still only have about 75% of our support coming in monthly.
- ☞ PRAISE: Scott and Meghan are officially legal residents. Rachel is due soon.
- ☞ PRAY: Concho, our caretaker for Rachel while we're at language school, had a close aunt pass away and a child in the hospital within two days. Pray the Lord will comfort her family and that we would be an encouragement.
- ☞ PRAY: Monday Meghan goes for an Echo Dopplar Examination. Meghan's obestrician here has *slight* concerns about the baby's weight. Pray all is well and that the examination clears any concerns.
- ☞ PRAISE: We know the Spanish language is growing on us as we lose our ability to speak English!
- ☞ PRAY: Good friends of ours (SAM Missionaries) had a sudden death in their team in Pucallpa. Pray for the deceased's spouse and the team as they recover from Tommy's death (moto-cross accident).
- ☞ PRAY: Continue to pray for our Sunday evening bible studies.
- ☞ PRAY: A lot of students at the language institute have been sick. Some are having reactions to the different food, some have had typhoid, and some have contracted parasites. Pray for the overall health of the people here.
- ☞ PRAISE: We have made good Peruvian friends at a new church. The church meets in a Cafe and Scott has the opportunity to help out at the cafe to practice Spanish and give the pastor of the church (who is also the manager of the cafe) a bit of a break.

Visit us online and find more updates, prayer requests, and photos.

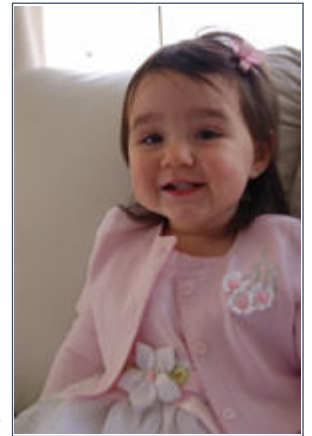
www.soarchrist.com

More Updates

Since we were short on reporting for March, we thought we would make this an extra long update.

Official Residents

Meghan and I are official residents of Peru and Rachel's process will be completed soon. Mission to the World has a person in the Lima mission office that is partially dedicated to helping other missionaries with residency stuff. This person, Enrique, made it quite bearable for us when having a little roudy 20 month old. Our process was surprisingly smooth and we are just waiting to hear when Rachel's is completed. When the new baby arrives, we'll have to do even more paperwork and Enrique will be working overtime just for us!



Disruption of the Peace

On March 21, friends of ours here at the language institute, were robbed. We're such good friends with them that we normally leave our pack & play at their house for Rachel to sleep in when we visit. That too, along with many more valuable items of theirs, was taken. The intrusion was a disruption of the perceived peace that most of us have had the first few months here. Certainly a break in can occur any where in the world, but apparently this is quite "normal" here. Still, our friends, the Listros, lost a good deal in personal belongings after only bringing the most valuable with them to Peru.

Easter Dinner

On a positive note, our Sunday night group has been going very well as mentioned previously and on Easter Sunday, we had a nice big Easter dinner-- USA style. Roasted turkey, mashed potatoes, apple pie, you name it. It was really nice and a handful of people that don't normally attend our Sunday night group came to dine with us. A few Peruvians too.

My biggest regrets for Easter were (a) I didn't get to capture on film or photograph the "Burning of Judas". A Catholic tradition here, on the Saturday before Easter Sunday a handful of churches throughout the city each burn an effigy of Judas Iscariot. And (b), I didn't eat a chocolate bunny or a Reese's Easter Egg. However, other than those two, we had a very nice Easter weekend.



Cafe Berea. Do Like the Bereans Did: Drink Coffee

How appropriate is a church that meets in a cafe? I will admit that that wasn't the first thing that drew me to the new church that we have been attending. MTW friends of ours in Lima who also attended the language school here recommended this church and now we know why. The church we had been attending was a good church and the pastor, who is also the director of the language institute, was an (as well as I could tell) expository preacher with good messages. However, it's a larger church and a bit more difficult to get to know people. The new church that we've been attending helps with that and we've been able to make good friends with a handful of the people in the church. The pastor, Efrain, and another woman from the church have joined us for Sunday evenings for our bible study. In addition to pastoring a new church, Efrain is also the manager of the cafe. And on the side he is a professional tailor. So, I (Scott) will likely be helping him throughout the week at the cafe hopefully to afford him some more time and for me to practice my Spanish.

Support Status

Over the past four months, we have averaged about 74% of our monthly needed support. Praise the Lord, we have only needed about 80% of our monthly support. However, this still leaves us 6% shy each month. Our support account is healthy, but at this rate we will be heading home in less than a year. The news is covered with headlines about global recession and a few people have asked if this is affecting us. We can't say with confidence one way or the other because we have not heard from those who committed their support and haven't given. Therefore, if there is any reason why you are not able to keep your commitments, we need to know immediately. If not, please resume or begin your support.

This isn't a glass-is-half-empty speech. Instead, we have more thanks and more gratitude for the 74% that we receive each month. Sacrifice isn't easy and so many of you sacrifice so much. Thank you for your support and your continued encouragement.