



# Peru

Missionary Newsletter  
of Scott and Meghan Dillon

October, 2009



## Prayer Requests

“The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.”  
James 5:16

- » Praise: We have a home here in Huaraz and it keeps us dry from the rainy season which arrived with us.
- » Praise: We made it to Huaraz with all of our stuff from Arequipa, including the kids.
- » Praise: Rachel and Mark have adjusted well to a new home and a bit higher altitude.
- » Praise: God has been proving Himself faithful these past few weeks in remarkable ways.
- » Pray for the Listros, another missionary family as they prepare to move their family (5 children) from Arequipa to the jungle in Pulcallpa, Peru.
- » Pray that God would plant great opportunities for us to be a blessing to others.
- » Pray for patience, compassion, and understanding. Huaraz makes the cultural difference between Peru and the States stronger than Arequipa. It's like moving from New York City to Idaho.
- » Pray for our partnership with other missionaries here in Huaraz, not just with the Rockwells.

## Estamos en Huaraz, Finalmente

Our leaving of Arequipa was a lot more difficult than we anticipated. We had made some really close friends with other missionaries and Peruvians we had met there. They were to us a surrogate family and we hope to stay in contact with them as they move on to do other things.

I (Scott) had made a trip here to Huaraz in the beginning of September to scout a place for us to live. Slim pickens. Two mines have opened up less than hour outside the city and because of that, all of the real estate has becoming extremely expensive and rare. The Lord provided a place for us and we were excited to have a place where we can at least put down some roots.

Have you ever seen the movie *The Money Pit*? It starred Tom Hanks and another woman whose name I can't remember. Well, the home we have rented hasn't quite become the money pit, but we've had a couple moments of frustration with this new home.

*For example.* Shortly after moving in, I noticed that the kitchen breakers were concealed in a *wooden box* in the corner. Upon opening the box, I realized that actually four different electrical loops are controlled by two breakers that appear to be from 1908 and function by a small piece of solder wire. If the wire gets hot, it melts and breaks the connection. Also the other day, I turned a light switch on and the entire light fixture exploded and fell to the floor. But this is all normal... this is Peru.

Other than a few things to fix around the new home, we are getting settled in. We haven't purchased a handful of furnishings because of a lack of funds. While this isn't a plea for special giving, I wouldn't be honest if I didn't communicate the need. At this point, we still would like to purchase dining room and living room furniture and bed frames for Rachel and ourselves. Because of our status as Short-term missionaries, our setup funds from MTW is greatly reduced. Therefore, if you are interested in sending a special gift, you can mark it with "Gift" and MTW will forward the money directly to us.



The Listros and us as we say goodbye.

## Justice and Mercy

“He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”

Micah 6:8

Justice and mercy have been a topic of recent discussion between us and some other missionaries. I imagine that it is a common “missions” discussion whenever there is a country with a corrupt and unjust government system. What is the missionary’s place in it all? Are missionaries supposed to just live and minister to people directly and ignore the injustice around them?

Corrupt governments tend to perpetuate themselves. For example, in Peru there is a significant amount of corruption among the police. A traffic ticket for not having valid documents is close to \$1000. If a police officer pulls over a taxi driver that doesn’t have a driver’s license, the officer can ask for a bribe of close to \$500 and still make it an excellent deal for both. This happens all of the time. The government rarely sees the money from actual fines and so it doesn’t have any means to pay the police officers fairly. In turn, the officers feel they have to ask for bribes to make a fair living. The system perpetuates itself.

Other things aren’t as black and white, but there are many aspects of Peruvian culture that need redemption. It is ethically acceptable to promise what you can’t provide and to say yes when you already know the answer is no. For example, when planning a birthday party, it is culturally accepted that everyone will say that they are coming, but only a handful will actually make it. Many will say they are coming *while they know* they can’t or aren’t interested.

I have heard some missionaries say that this is just how Peruvian culture is and like showing up two hours

late is okay, we shouldn’t be concerned about it at all. However, Jesus spoke through culture and called *all people* to do justice and love kindness. The message wasn’t only for those who would believe in him.

Finding our place in doing justice and loving kindness (the NIV says “loving mercy”) can be a difficult thing. I can’t say that I have a quick and easy answer to the dilemma. Obviously, we are not about to approach the police barracks with picket signs. However, when we are witnesses to injustice and can directly minister to the source, I believe we have the responsibility to explain what the Bible says about God’s justice and mercy.

The more difficult situation is when we are the recipients of the injustice. Lately, there seems to have been numerous occasions where we have been intentionally taken advantage of as gringos. Beyond the few extra coins the taxi driver charges us, we have been pressed by a few people in the last three weeks for hundreds of dollars beyond what is fair. Some have been people with whom we were close. But these past few weeks have taught us to think these things through completely as we have spent hours talking through, praying about, and finally dealing with these experiences. We have confronted some of these people with the hope that a message of justice will be an effective representation of the Gospel.

Pray for us as we learn to contextualize, *that is*, mold the Gospel message to impact the people here: their culture, their beliefs, their lives completely. We are not naive to think our own culture doesn’t need redemption and we don’t want to offer American Christianity, but we also don’t want to present a Gospel without justice. After all, *justice is that which was completely satisfied on the Cross*— and that hope is the Gospel message.

## Latest Photos



Scott and Pastor Efrain



Meghan and Amy Listro



Mr. Happy Mark!



Rachel loaded Mark's bouncy seat with stuffed animals for the photo.