



Peru

Missionary Newsletter
of Scott and Meghan Dillon

October, 2011



Prayer Requests

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

» Praise: We are welcoming 5 new families to our team. They are all settling into their new lives in Cusco and will be assisting in student ministries..

» Praise: Our summer teams have come and gone, were a wealth of encouragement to our ministry, and were lots of fun!

» Pray as we transition from Short-Term Missions to Career Missions; that our time in the States would be both fruitful and refreshing.

» Continue to pray for the sweet children at the Josephine House, for their daily needs, & that they would one day be adopted into forever families.

» Pray for the foster-care placement process for us that things will go smoothly and in perfect timing.

Visit our website for some more updates.

www.soarchrist.com

Long-Term Missionaries

The delay in sending this newsletter has been killing us, quite honestly. We know many of you want to hear news from us and we want to share with you some very exciting announcements.

After lots of prayer, consideration, and numerous discussions with our team members, sending-church pastors, and staff at Mission to the World (MTW), we have decided to become career missionaries with MTW. Our job role in Cusco will continue and current projects will remain the same with long-term goals and visions. We are entirely thrilled and excited about this transition.

Coming to America

“He helped Joshua fight the battle of Jericho,
he helped Daniel get out the lion’s den,
he helped Gilligan get off the island.”

- Rev. Brown from the movie, *Coming to America*.

That’s right, we’re here in the States (until late January). We spent our second week here in Atlanta with MTW to seek their final and official approval of us as career missionaries. All went well.

We’re looking forward to seeing all of you and updating you on our lives. God has been very good to us and we want to share that with you. We are sending you a video (included with a post card or at the end of this newsletter).

We praise the Lord for affording us the opportunity to be in the States with our family for Thanksgiving and Christmas this year.

We’ll be doing a lot of traveling and visiting with new and current supporters, but we would love to hear from you. Please feel free to contact us to get in touch and hopefully we can spend some time with you. You can call us at: 302-355-0617 or email us at: us@soarchrist.com.

Ministry Updates

We have been super busy these last few months. Truly, they have flown by. Here are a few quick updates on what we've been doing in Peru.

Theology Classes (Scott)

In May, I finished the first semester of my theological classes at our church. I had thought we would have maybe 5-6 students with 3-4 finishing, but we started with 12 and finished with 11. It was very encouraging to me to see these men and women study hard and finish strong. I'm actually disappointed that I won't be able to continue our plan which was to have fall semester on Leadership. We'll have to continue when we return to Peru in January.



New Families (Meghan)

There are five new families that joined our team in Cusco this summer. We've become good friends with them all and we're looking forward to working with them more down the road. I really enjoyed the opportunity to serve these families by helping them get settled and it has made the extra work worth it.

Storm of Teams (Meghan)

We and all MTW missionaries in Peru had a restful retreat in Lima in June. It was the calm before the storm. Because shortly after that, we had a barage of summer teams come in rapid-fire style. Every weekend, one team left and another came. This went on for about 6 weeks. Most of the teams work with the Josephine House or with construction on our medical clinic here. It was encouraging, fun, and exhausting all at the same time. We were thoroughly blessed by all the teams that came, and the support, joy and peanut butter they brought with them!

The majority of the teams (if under 12 people) stay with us in our home. Scott also provides the transportation with our VW van.

Birthdays (Meghan)

Mark turned 2 on May 21, Rachel turned 4 on July 3, and Scott turned THIRTY on July 13 (he can officially sit at the dinner table). I, Meghan, also turned 28 on August 31. It's been a season of birthdays too!



Ministry Updates (cont'd)

Marriage Retreat (Meghan)

One awesome thing about living in Peru is getting to have our retreats on the mountainside. The amazing view adds to the feeling of separation from the world to give time to reflection and worship.

We were almost the youngest ones that attended the marriage retreat, and yet we were the ones organizing and leading it. I've never had a more intimidating experience than leading older married couples in a marriage retreat. But it was awesome! Scott had three sessions that included an overview of the five love languages.

We ended the retreat with men's and women's separate groups for gender-specific issues/struggles. After the small groups, the men came over to the women's group where they took their bride and washed her feet. It was really encouraging to see these macho men humble themselves to serve their wives. Everyone learned and lot and are already asking for a second retreat this December.



Youth Retreat (Scott)

The youth retreat happend to take place the weekend following the marriage retreat. Those were a couple of busy weeks.

Our title this year was "Pureza" (Purity). I thought the title would scare some youth away, but it did just the opposite. We had just under 30 students who were eager to talk about proper relationships and God's timing. Our "retreat center" was the home of a church member who doesn't have electricity or running water. To see these adolescents have fun and reflect on the Lord without projectors, sound equipment, and lightbulbs was very encouraging.

Without a doubt the youth ministry is one of the most enjoyable foci of our ministry here. The leaders are some of our very best friends.



Ministry Updates (cont'd)

¿Hablas Ingles? (Meghan)

Meeting Lucy was somewhat of an accident, but it has led to an opportunity for me to minister to a young lady who is taking English classes at school. At first I thought she just needed some help with some homework, but it has turned into a weekly tutoring session where I get to talk with her about the Bible and pray with her as I help her learn English.

The Josephine House (Scott)

This year we have seen three children go home with adoptive parents. Two more returned to their biological mother. Four more are in process of being placed with families and will leave the orphanage with only four (plus the three living outside of Cusco)! What an amazing God we serve to see these children be placed in homes. Two of the adoptive families were Peruvians.

My role at this point with the Josephine House is treasurer and human toy. I really am privileged to play with some really great and cute kids. I'm also proud of the orphanage in that I see Peruvian women taking care of these children as their own. Local officials have already said that our orphanage is one of the cleanest and best-run orphanages they know of in Cusco.



El Puente Baptist Church (Scott)

El Puente is a Baptist church that was planted by good friends of ours. You may remember that for five months I was their pulpit supply and helped with their church plant while they were away in UK for furlough. El Puente continues to grow and has seen a handful of newcomers in the last three months. One of the new attenders can play guitar and lead worship which had been my main focus at the church. God answered our prayer to raise someone up from among them and it means that our partnership with them is no longer required. We still visit them from time to time, but we're no longer specific ministry partners with them.

One of the new couples that began attending while I was pulpit supply recently suffered the loss of the husband. His health had been deteriorating for months and while his passing wasn't a surprise, the church will miss him. I was always encouraged to see him come to church no matter how much pain it caused him to get there.

Perú Days

In our training, Mission to the World suggested to us that there would be days where cultures would clash; differing philosophies emerge; unknown expectations confronted; immense frustrations pour. However, mere warnings can barely prepare you for some of the "Peru Days" as the missionaries have coined it. Let this small example give you an idea (*warning: this is a true story*).

You need a Peruvian passport for your Peru-born child. You go to the Immigrations office to wait in a line for twenty minutes only to be told that you have to go to the bank first and pay there. So you go to the bank only to find a long line out the door. The wait is so long that one woman faints. Nevertheless, you finally make your way around the snake queue and pay for the passport. On your return to Immigrations, you're told that you need a birth certificate for the child even though it's not on the list of requirements and you've already provided an official form of ID for the child (that actually has more value than a birth cert in most cases). You thankfully remember that birth certificates expire after 6 months of being printed. You go across town to request another copy of the birth certificate only to find that the office that handles certificates breaks for lunch from 12:00 to 4:00. Who eats lunch for that long? You decide to come back at 4:00 and request the birth certificate. You'll have to come back the next day because they can't print you one that quickly. You return the next day, retrieve the new birth certificate and rush your way back across town to finally apply for the passport. Nope, sorry, you arrived at 12:03 and they stop serving at 12:00.

Goodbye VW

That's right! Just after one year of having our VW van, we have sold it. The van has been very good to us this past year and we're thankful for it, but we recognized the need to invest a little more into a vehicle for ourselves. Now the difficulty will be finding a good quality vehicle with limited funds. Vehicles run about 30-40% more than they do in the States. And with gasoline at over \$5 a gallon, it's difficult to be picky and poor at the same time. Nevertheless, we're very thankful for our year in our van and we'll miss her.



Joy in Fostercare

For years Meghan and I have been passionate about adoption. Since before we were married we wanted to adopt and at the time we had thought that it would be a domestic adoption from the States. With our recent decision to stay in Peru indefinitely as career missionaries, we recognized that a domestic adoption from the States would be unlikely (maybe impossible). Our eyes widened.

Since our coming to Cusco, we've been able to get to know some of the children at the Josephine House (MTW orphanage). Aside from working as their treasurer, I am privileged to play alongside some amazing kids. Two of them in particular have been on our hearts for over ten months. Please meet Angelina and Fabricio.

Angelina (age 6) and her brother, Fabricio (age 4), came to the Josephine House in June, 2009. Their mother was a single mom around 22 years of age and there was a history of abuse in their home. Due to the nature of this publication, we can't tell you all of the details. Needless to say, these children needed to be removed from their home. Fabricio arrived to the home at just age 2 and had typhoid.

If I can speak frankly:

Meghan and I have fallen in love with these two kids.



Due to the Hague Convention, we are not allowed to choose children to adopt. However, Peru has a foster care system somewhat similar to the State's system that will allow us to take care of Angelina and Fabricio. After two years of a foster-care type placement, we would be able to request the legal adoption and be granted it.

Before leaving Peru, we started the process through hours and hours of working with our lawyer. Please pray that things go smoothly as our absence from Peru for 4 months could possibly cause problems in the paperwork. Our hope is that after returning to Peru in January, the children will be placed with us quickly. We know we're crazy for wanting two more and for doing it so soon after having Penny, but we can't deny what we feel called to (and the psychologist said we aren't crazy). You'll find more news and updates about it all on the website very soon.

Supporting The Dillons

You can find our blog and information about the Dillons on our website:
www.soarchrist.com

Send a check written out to Mission to the World with our account number in the MEMO line: #011823. For more detailed info, see our website.

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