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PURO PERU: Epicenter of Missions

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Carmen Rodríguez



Carmen is a Peruvian missionary/evangelist ministering in Latin America. She is a member of the Assemblies of God Church in Trujillo, Peru.

Pucallpa

Pucallpa is a large jungle city located on the Ucayali River in Peru. We arrived there on Monday November 3rd in a down pour of rain. My first impression was that God was raining down his blessings on Pucallpa and us. This was my third time in Peru and Andes first time. It has indeed grown much since I was last there. There are so many motor-taxis than

any
one
can
possibly
ride
in
one
day.



The city is a booming metropolis and there is clear indication that God can do for these people in the spiritual what he has obviously done for them in the supernatural. Their lot in life has improved and they remain a

warm and gentle people.

Our first day in Pucallpa we met a young waitress who invited us to her church on Wednesday night to service because her pastor speaks English. We readily accepted her invitation as the church we had observed from a far happened to be Catholic. 80% of the Peruvian population happens to be Catholic. Missionaries from all over the world have been working these fields for several decades now since the sixties and there has been little break through with the exception of the Wycliffe Bible Institute who has managed to translate all the indigenous languages into the Bible.

We had a great opportunity for me to return to the ministry I use to spend my summer with



while in college. I met the resident missionary on the compound who happened to be a Peruvian. What an awesome time of visitation we had with him and his family. First we visited the school on the compound that is functioning again as a school. After the grand tour Andes and I sat for a while and spoke to Julio and Olga Chiang about the direction the Lord was taking them in. Julio was scheduled to speak at a conference in two week titled "Peru—Epicenter of Missions." I shared with Julio some of the many impression the Lord had given me since being in Peru. That Peru was a nation ripe for the harvest and that the mistakes made by the foreign missionaries can be their learning tools and they can do better. I told him that Peru can be used by God too.

Not A Chance Meeting

On October 29th the day before Andes and I left for Peru we were on Wall Street praying for the financial crisis of the world. While standing in front of the NYC Stock Exchange we met Cindy Jacobs and spent the morning pray walking and praying with her and others. We thought how exciting that was until we arrived in Peru and I

began to hare what the Lord had laid on my heart for Peru. The young Jewish woman we were staying with began to speak about a prophecy that was spoken over Peru a year ago and could not readily remember the name of the prophet who spoke it. She said that the prophet said that God would use Peru as the center of

world missions. It so happened that while we were on our next leg of visiting Pucallpa that we met a Peruvian Missionary who told us that Cindy Jacobs prophecy Peru to be the epicenter of missions and that he would be speaking at the upcoming conference with the same title. This was no mere coincidence. God is at work to do His will.



Attending a congregation in Pucallpa

Isaiah 61:1

**The Spirit of the Lord
God is upon me;
because the Lord hath
anointed me to preach
good tidings unto the
meek; he hath sent me
to bind up the
brokenhearted, to
proclaim liberty to the
captives, and the
opening of the prison to
them that are bound**



Renee Eifert giving us a tour of Mission Santiago and a new resident.



Pucallpa continue page 1

Lessons learned from the mistakes of the foreign missionaries can be the learning tools needed to do better. With as many foreigners coming into the country each year from many countries evangelizing can be realized from within the nation. If you can evangelize enough visitors they can go home and do their own evangelism. I told him that God was able to do for Peru spiritually what He was doing naturally.

Returning to Peru after 24 years I have seen much im-

provements. I do not know that it is possible for a nation to change that much in such a short period of time without divine intervention. The street kids that once begged incessantly in the airport as you arrived in Peru were gone and the conditions of the vast majority of people had drastically improved. Everyone I came across were busy with one thing or another. People literally found a way to improve their lives by making and selling products. This is true in Lima and in Pucallpa. The people

carried themselves with dignity and a sense of belonging somewhere. These are not proud people in the sense of pride but a humble people. Not puffed up but equipped to improve. I can see God giving the reins to Peru because of their gentle and quiet demeanor. They are not a loud and boisterous people and there are as kind to the strangers that come in among themselves as they are to each other. They are not perfect but there are of great use in the kingdom. Lord, let thy kingdom come to such as these.

A Mission in Pucallpa

We were given a special tour of Pucallpa by a very unique woman named Renee Eifert. She and her husband have been missionaries in Peru for almost 48 years. About 20 years ago, Renee started a drug rehabilitation mission in Pucallpa called Mission Santiago. Out of this ministry have come many preacher and pastors over the years. I asked Renee how she keeps tracked and she said she only sign in people when they come in and note when they leave. I am reminded of Paul's word that state, Paul planted, Apollo watered, but God gave the increase. Never a truer statement made. Ultimately it is only God that know the increase from the harvest. Our job is to plant and water and leave the counting up to him. Sometimes we are so interested in the number we neglect the quality of the fruit—will the fruit remain. I think in the end we will find that Renee's fruits have remain. She said that they are some who have relapses but they return and then off they go again as God gives them grace - where sin abide

grace the much more abides.



Renee interpreting while Joy speaks to the residents of Mission Santiago.

One of my greatest moment was the opportunity to speak words of encouragement to the current residents of the mission.

Renee showed us her accomplishments that have taken all these years to bring this far. Many volunteers over the years have come to Peru to help build each building of the mission. There is still a lot of work to do but the main thing is that they continue to receive finances to keep the program operating. It cost about \$100 a week to feed the residence. Brother William that operates the facility is Peruvian and is not salaried. He must raise his own funds and support his

family on what he receives. One of the medical volunteers arrived at the mission with two large suitcase filled with needed items for the mission and a financial donation from her home church in Chicago. The



supplies covered every need possible from toiletries, writing materials to medical supplies. The mission consist of housing for newcomers and those already making strides to recovery. It has a kitchen area, church, office, a chicken coop to sell eggs that is not yet functional, a bakery that is to expensive to operate, a carpentry building that is in need of funds.

Arequipa

After Pucallpa we returned to Lima and to catch up with Carmen from Trujillo who accompanied Andes and myself to Arequipa. We visited Colca Canyon and the city of Arequipa. We learned that the ancient Incas worshipped the volcanoes as gods and many people still



they go. People believe if you build a rock altar with the rocks from the volcanoes you can make a wish and it will come true. This landscape is literally covered with such altars. The truth is, God's creation is only a reminder to us of who He is. All I could think of when we were viewing the sights in Peru is that God created a beautiful world and all that we have left is in ruins from the fall of man and the flood etc. Yet, the foolishness of man cannot

eradicate the splendor of God no matter how much we try. God gave us a perfect world and we carved it out and called it a thing of beauty. There are



many strongholds in Peru but the Spirit of God can also bring them down.



Wherever we went we prayed for the harvest to be brought in, for the salvation of the nation, that eyes will open to the majesty of God and not to what we have done with His creation and for idols to be brought down and grace to abound.

Cusco

Carmen was our interpreter at the churches we spoke in. She was indeed a mighty preacher of the word and was invited for the second time to speak at one church. She preached about her testimony how the Lord delivered her from the



practice of witchcraft 11 years ago. She was given the opportunity to share with a family who lost their mother and beloved wife to bring comfort to their hearts. She also spoke at our host church and prayed for the sick. Andes spoke of the gospel needing to be taken to the Jews first and asked the congregations not to forget Israel in their prayers and service. I spoke about bringing their

harvest and reaching out with the gospel to the million or so tourist that visits yearly. We also visited a Brazilian missionary and his family to encourage them in their work. Syncretism is a stronghold.



Matthew 25:35-36

For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: [36] Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

A Mission in Pucallpa continue page 2

The mission only has an out house but there are showers that need to be completed with toilets. They is much to be done and so few people to do the work. The dorm where



the men sleep need upgrading. They use mosquito nets on their beds but much in the room is inadequate. You can help as we have tried to help while there. We were blessed to contribute \$100 for food for one week for the mission. In light of what can be done with the right resources and what we so frivolously spend our resources on, we can make an impact into the lives of so many people in need. It is preferable to spend resources on human

lives rather than on buildings that will come down when Jesus returns. Food and a salary for William with an improved toilet for health and windows to keep out mosquitoes.



Mission Santiago's kitchen



Mission Santiago's shower and chicken



Praying for healing at the Regional hospital in Pucallpa



PRAY FOR:



- The Shipibo Bible Institute students and their families
- The continued ministry of the medical team
- Salvation and the release of missions to the nation of Peru
- Strongholds and syncretism will be broken

CONTRIBUTE TO:

Mision Santiago
 Drug Rehabilitation
 1021 Maxwell Mill Rd Ste B
 Fort Mill, SC 29708
 Make checks out to
 South American Mission
 Acct # 74452

The greatest privilege in the world is to share the gospel with the lost.



What an incredible opportunity it was to purchase 900 tracts and distribute them to the people in Cusco. They were so receptive and if you missed someone they would come across the street or reach over to receive one. Carmen, Andes and myself took two days to distribute these tracts. More money and more time we could have done much more. Carmen brought along some of her own and the Christian book store where we purchased the tracts donated some English tracts which we were also able to use with the high school students who were learning English. We met a young man who gladly received the tracts and declared that he would read it to his best friend and classmates the next day. Even though Peru is 80% Catholic, the people are receptive once you explain what a personal relationship to Jesus is. Who would deny themselves the opportunity to speak their heart to Jesus knowing He is closer than a brother or a best friend. We spend too much time disputing the difference between us that keeps us apart rather than starting with what we have in common that unites us. This worked quite effectively for me. I had a great opportunity to share with a family in a plaza. Jesus wants us to share His love, the rest is up to Him how he gets through to others. Our problem is that we try to do the work of the Holy spirit and mess things up. Jesus does not need to be defended, he needs to be shared. The Gospel is simply—love not debate. Catholics believe in God and loves Jesus. Remember, it is the Spirit that brings the increase, we plant and water only.

Machu Picchu

Psalm 24:1-10

A Psalm of David.



pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. [5]

He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation. [6] This is the generation of them that seek thy face, O Jacob. Selah. [7] Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up,

ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. [8]



[1] The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. [2] For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods. [3] Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place? [4] He that hath clean hands, and a



Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. [9] Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. [10] Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory. Selah.