

# CALLED TO PERU

**The Purpose: A quick update on our lives and the passion that God has put in our hearts.**

**Sing to the LORD, all the earth; Proclaim good tidings of His salvation from day to day. Tell of His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all the peoples.**

**1 CHRONICLES 16:23-24 (NASB)**

First and foremost, we wanted to start this second letter by thanking you. It has been unbelievable for us to see so much encouragement and support from so many people. Preparing for our missions trip is quite a transition that requires a lot of work, as well as a lot of up's and down's. We can not emphasize enough that your prayers, words of encouragement, and financial support really do make a difference.

In our last newsletter we talked about how we got from a flag football team to becoming missionaries in Peru for a year. It is quite a jump, and two pages did not give us nearly enough space to say all the things we wanted or needed to say. So this newsletter is dedicated to why we feel "Called to Peru," as well as a description of what we feel called to do.

Since last March I have not been able to shake the feeling that Peru is going through some critical changes. They have had devastating natural disasters; the government is pushing certain ideals; advanced education is being strongly emphasized; even their sports teams, at all levels, have made a concerted effort to improve. You can even see visible changes beginning to happen from cleaner streets, to more female police officers. However, these changes are just the tip of the iceberg.

During our visits down there we, like many others, have noticed that Peruvians are becoming spiritually hungry. They are thirsty for God and they are asking serious questions. No matter the age range, people want to know about Jesus and the salvation that He brings. Recognizing this thirst for God, Pastor



Shaun  
& Amanda  
Wissmann

Pepe and his Church, Campeones para Cristo (CPC), have reached out, and they have used whatever resources they could get their hands on.

In pursuit of meeting the needs of the spiritually hungry Pastor Pepe visited America in April. He preached, prayed, encouraged, counseled, and began to raise financial support for his Church. While in Texas he stayed with Amanda and I, which afforded us a critical opportunity in this process. We were finally able to begin to decipher and understand his needs and the needs of the Church. For example, one thing the conversations allowed us to come away with was his want and need for organization within their outreaches. If you know Amanda, you know she would love to organize a box of crayons according to color and length; so immediately Pastor Pepe recognized how big of a role she would have in helping the Church. Not to mention the impact we all feel she can have in the women's ministry, where they already affectionately refer to her as their Barbie sister, or Blondie.



Pastor Pepe's family:

Left to right: Pepito, Joisy, Jessica, Amanda, Dani (a family friend), Pepe, and Shaun.



April 2009: Pastor Pepe in Jacksonville, TX preaching to some local children.



"Blondie" and some of her Peruvian sisters.

# PERU



Top Caption: Pastor Pepe baptizing a high school student.



Middle Caption: Crop fields approximately 45 minutes (by bus) from Chincha.



Bottom Caption: Gabriella, one of the sweethearts of Chincha.

Another passion God established in my heart last March was the youth to whom Pepe is currently reaching out. Similar to America, there is a great deal of pressure on student's to party, drink, do drugs, and "live life." Through our conversations, Pastor Pepe became aware that prior to my relationship with Jesus I fell into the party lifestyle, and the horrible hole of drugs and alcohol. We both believe God's Grace in my life is a testimony that can encourage these students towards living full spiritual lives in Christ. Pastor Pepe has reinforced to me, numerous times, the impact that "one American voice" can have on a youth that so desperately looks to American influence.

Although our organization skills and our personal testimonies will be used critically, there are also other serious needs. As we mentioned in our last newsletter, when a major earthquake occurred in 2007, certain areas like Chincha Alta saw extreme devastation. As the town has begun the long and slow restoration process, CPC has taken three hour bus rides at least once a week, every week, to work with approximately 90 children and a local Pastor. They have begun laying the groundwork towards building a childcare-facility in Chincha Alta, which will in many ways function similarly to an orphanage. However, they need help.

This ministry is in a particularly desolate area of Chincha, where walls are still collapsed two years later. The children's parents work in crop fields meaning they leave hours before sunrise, and arrive home worn down hours after sunset. The way the children survive through the day is by clinging onto each other. It is difficult for both Amanda and I to put aside the image of little Peruvian girls holding newborns similarly to little girls in America holding plastic dolls.

We want to do whatever we can with CPC to get these children fed, washed, clothed, educated, and know Jesus as their personal Saviour. We want these little babies to have hope, and hear "I love you" and get a hug and a kiss on the cheek. We want them to have chubby little bellies, and smell like soap instead of the dirt in which they are surrounded.

In this process, we have strongly desired to share our hearts from beginning to end. This has been a very difficult letter to write because we do not want people to

feel like we are "hitting them up." In all possible ways we have been trying to delay the inevitable. We have even looked into employment while in Peru to avoid having to seek help for any support. In fact, my mind was made up that we were going to pay our way through teaching English. Then God began to work through this situation, and on our hearts. This is our passion. We are being called to spread the name of Jesus, and serve the people of Peru. Every hour we spend in a class room on some institute's schedule, instead of God's, keeps us that much further from where we feel called.

As we said before, we have goals we hope to attain. However, until we get to Peru, we can only set goals; we cannot do the work. There is really no other way to put this: we need your help. In order to reach our goal of missions in Peru, we are in need of people who will be willing to partner with us. Would you please prayerfully consider becoming a monthly contributor and/or helping with a one-time financial gift?

Although this is the popular medium for seeking prayer and financial support we hope this is a letter of encouragement more than anything else. We hope that these newsletters will help stir your hearts towards acts of service whether it be in your hometown, or abroad. God is moving hearts all over the world, and we are looking forward to sharing with you how he is moving in our lives, and in Peru. We look forward to hearing your stories too!

In Christ~

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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