



## Morning Star Child Reach Ministries News Bulletin

August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009

### Newcomers to Morning Star

In almost 25 years of ministry we've never really had a "team", ie colleagues/co-workers with whom we could share the concerns and burdens of the ministry in prayer, so everyone was excited about our first "staff" meeting set for noon on Monday the 24<sup>th</sup>. The agenda was basically... let's get the Coates settled in before we hit them with any new responsibilities and just thank the Lord they're here. So about 9 am Tom received a call from the family court in Tumbes, the region of Peru that borders with Ecuador, a very impoverished section of the country where there are no temporary or long term child care facilities, private or government operated. There were three siblings that shared the same mother but not the same fathers: the oldest, Kevin, age nine, was "cared" for by grandma, who sent him out to "work" (read: beg for money on his own as far away as Machala, Ecuador, about 50 miles north); three-year-old Olenka would wander the dirt streets of the shanty town where they lived amusing herself,



that is, when she was not locked up with her three-month-old sister, Cesia, by themselves in their small hut made of bamboo canes. Mom is a member of a religious group so devoted to prayer and fasting that she would ignore the children's cries of hunger for entire hours while she knelt out in the yard. Cesia was placed in the hospital upon intervention to deal with her bronchitis, while the older two sat for three days and nights in the police station for lack of anywhere else they

could go. This of course brought a certain sense of urgency to the situation since Peruvian police stations are not the bastions of friendly or godly attitudes and not a very good environment for small children. New agenda for the board meeting! Can we take these kids in already? The consensus echoed with Morning Star's own version of "No Child Left Behind" and the decision was made that Carol and Tom drive the 7 hrs up to Tumbes that afternoon and look into the case more closely to make the decision while on the scene. They



returned to Chiclayo Tuesday evening, the older two entered Morning Star that night while baby Cesia arrived two days later once the doctors decided she was well enough to travel. This led to the expected redistribution of children and staff. Now our two houses are functioning as such, separate family units that will have a better effect and more personal attention for each child. We also called in Desiree, who was Sammy's care giver, and she has rejoined our team to assist the Coates in house #2. Bob & Janet as well as Albert from house #1, all put in 3 or more hours a day as teachers in Strong Tower, so the added help is much needed. As Tom sat at his desk literally writing what you have just read, he got a call from the local District Attorney regarding three siblings whose parents had left them with equally poor neighbors "for a few days" several weeks ago. The decision making process is challenging, knowing we cannot serve the entire population of needy children, but must try our very best. We'll keep you posted on this most recent development, in the mean time, thank you so very much for your continued and prayerful support of the ministry here!!!