

Rising Star

News of some of the Lord's work in Northern Peru

This month is flying by with many activities. Please forgive the "longevity" of this summary, but too much has happened since our last!

Strong Tower high school is being built as you read this! Just two classrooms are going in on the ground floor for the time being but the finished building may hold up to 16. We are grateful to the Lord for his provision for this new building and also for being able to have it finished in time to get the doors, windows and fixtures in before school starts in March.



The Peruvian government required that all schools close on November 30 this year. Since the original plan was well into December, most children had to go to school on Saturdays to get the hours in in time. The reason behind this early termination was that due to "el niño", there would be rain and flooding. None of this made much sense, since rain cannot be forecasted well in advance, and if it had rained enough to cause a problem parents could then just keep their kids home, but decisions don't have to make sense when made by a bureaucracy. We still don't have rain, but of course the children are enjoying their long summer. =)



So due to the early culmination, the end-of-year parties, which are also Christmas parties, were in November. Graduation was wonderful with many parents who publically praised and encouraged their child's accomplishments.

But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing." II Thessalonians 3:13 We can truly relate to the "why" this verse was written...

Saturday morning Tom and I delivered some gift baskets we had bought with money sent by a team. It was for the ladies they had helped when they were here in June. They were REALLY nice baskets **because the team** sent a generous amount of cash and there were only five baskets to make. We also invited those same ladies and their families to our Christmas program yesterday. They came. =) When it was explained that the Sunday school was giving out prizes for

the year and that children who hadn't come wouldn't be getting one and that they were welcome to start attending and next year they would easily be eligible, I started hearing a bit of grumbling from these ladies that were seated not far from me.

-“So what did they invite us for?”

“ (The gospel had just been preached. HELLO!)

-“This is messed up”.

-“They shouldn't have invited us”.

-“They **should've** just had their little Sunday school thing and not invite us”.

-“I'm leaving”. (But she doesn't, not for another 45 minutes.)

-“Ha! Next year! That's ridiculous”.



A bit later we were serving the hot chocolate and **paneton (traditional Peruvian Christmas fare)** and I had come over to the program specifically to say hi to these ladies and make them feel welcome (I would've been there anyway except it was my turn to care for the baby in the nursery.) So I told them thank you for coming and I apologized for the simplicity of the program. I told them we were glad they came and hope they come back. I was sincere, but I also sincerely wanted to say some very different things!

We could say these ladies were undeserving of the gospel with their ungrateful attitudes. But then, who of us actually does deserve salvation? Certainly not I. So pray for these ladies and others that came to have a peek at us that the Spirit will work in their hearts. It's easy to think that we are grateful and loving, but at least for me, it is the Spirit's work in me that produces those qualities, so I should not judge or look down on others who may lack them. If they don't have the Lord, they have no real hope.

Sunday night we sadly put Joanna on her way home. She is our latest volunteer, from what seems to be the volunteer state of Georgia (They surpass all other states by far when it comes to volunteering at Morningstar. =) She was here just three weeks and did sooo much- organized and cleaned the tool shop, cleaned the storage room which was overrun with cricket carcasses, and painted FIVE classrooms!! Tom wanted to clone her, I just wanted to “lose” her passport. =) The Lord is so kind to send us such awesome volunteers.

Tom just left for the Ferreñafe courthouse where he is seeing this judge yet again (for the third time about the same case, plus phone calls and missed visits). After that we are to pick up a baby at the regional hospital. She has severe brain deficiencies and has a life expectancy of 1 to 5 years. It seems we have been black-balled recently with our legal woes and no one has been calling us about taking in more children. But this child it seems no one wants. Who would want to watch a child die? And of course no one wants that on their “record” either- a child dying in their care. So they are allowing us to have her. (That was yesterday...)

Nicol is now home. =) It took much more red tape to allow her to stay at our house but because of her health issues we didn't



want her at Morningstar which is much farther from the hospital and has no one who drives. Our daughter Lucy is her primary caregiver and so far Nicky is doing very well with no seizures. She was found hours after birth abandoned in the mountains of Incahuasi, the poorest province in all of Peru and is approximately three months old. We praise the Lord for this little one and have given her a Christmas name since she is our favorite gift this year. =) While we feel that it is the Lord's will that we find ourselves required to give much of our time and energy to the continued development of Strong Tower and we thought we were stretched to the limit, we feel compelled to honor the Lord Jesus Christ when He said, "in so much as ye have done it to the least of these, you have done it unto me", and so when asked to stretch just a little further to care for this precious life there was really no option to refuse.

Please pray for

- ✦ the seven children of Morningstar, that they would continue to grow and learn this summer (Rosita is making progress with her speech, praise the Lord).
- ✦ the finishing of the new school building- lots of details there
- ✦ the ten or eleven school teachers we need for 2016

"Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all." – 2 Thess. 2:16 I love this verse because only when we speak of the divine could we realistically use superlatives like "all" and "always" or "never" (He never changes) or "forever" without exaggerating. We sincerely hope that each one of you is basking in the peace that only our Lord can give. To the King of grace be all glory and honor forever.

We thank our gracious Savior and Lord for all He is doing. May His name be magnified without ceasing.

The Staff at Morningstar

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