

Rising Star

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

Melisa was born and raised deep in the Amazon jungle, in a small town on the bank of one of the many tributaries of the Amazon river. At the age of 12, after suffering the sexual abuse of her father for three years, she got on a boat to the nearest city three days downstream from where she began to move from town to town towards the coast, working as a maid and doing what she could to survive. At the age of fourteen she met a boy in the town where she was working and became pregnant. When she told him...he took off, and she moved on to the next town in search of work. She gave birth to a baby girl shortly after her 15th birthday and six months later, now working in a coastal town near Chiclayo she met a man twice her age that offered to care for her and her baby. The relationship eventually turned abusive and she finally



reported the abuse to the authorities. Being a minor, she was taken into custody and after spending a couple of days in a very spartan police station without any basic accommodations she and her daughter Daniela, now 14 months old were taken to the Children's Protective Services office in Chiclayo. It was 4:30 pm on a Friday afternoon and the director of CPS knew Morning Star was full but called anyway...hoping to find a place for her and her baby to spend the weekend while they began the attempt at contacting extended family members. We accepted the "week-end" placement and were not so surprised that CPS would call asking for an extension while they attempted to contact the authorities in the jungle. When the social worker visited Melisa after four days at Morning Star, Melisa told her that she hoped that we would allow her to stay since she had never experienced the love and family atmosphere that had enveloped her during the time she had been with us. It's hard to imagine what she and her daughter have been through, but we are convinced that the Lord has brought her to us to be able to reach her with His love. Please pray for her salvation and for wisdom to find a path to a sustainable future for her and her daughter. We now have a total of 20 children at Morning Star and are making adjustment to best care for each of them.

We are thrilled to see the Lord at work in each individual He brings our way and for all those who support the ministry here with their prayers and giving.

The Staff at Morningstar