

Davenport Family

E-NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2011



*Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.*
– Psalm 136:1

Dear Friends and Family,

Greetings and gratitude in Christ from Peru!

Our Thanksgiving celebration this year is coinciding more or less with the end of our time in language school. ***Yes, this means we will be moving very soon---in just over two weeks we will move to our permanent home in Trujillo!*** This timing has provided us with an added incentive to look back over our last six or seven months here in Arequipa and thank God for the numerous ways He has blessed us, provided for us, and prepared us for ministry. One small blessing was that we were able to enjoy a small Thanksgiving dinner together in the midst of our busy school schedules (of course, there is no “Thanksgiving break” from classes here).

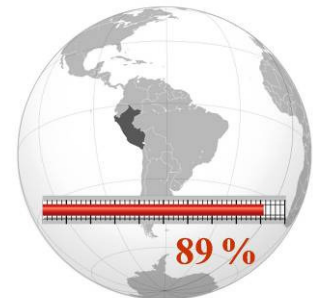
Language School

Julie and I have just two weeks left of classes at the Spanish institute. Our last day will be December 9. In our remaining class time we will work on weak areas and practice material we’ve recently learned, because we officially completed our formal study of Spanish grammar about a week ago. Completing the grammar material meant we then got to take the 23-page final exam! I think the test is designed to make sure we don’t leave language school overconfidently thinking we have nothing more to learn!



Saturday Soccer in the Park---A language school tradition!

Support Level



- Churches: 21
- Individuals: 76

GIVE

Stay Connected



Images of Peru



We are thankful for the progress we have made, but we also know that we have much, much more to learn to be able to speak and understand Spanish fluently. The methodology of the language school is to heavily frontload grammar, while beginning to build conversational proficiency. What that means is that we know much more grammar than we are (yet) comfortable using. So now, we need to continue to practice “on the street.” Obviously, this will be an ongoing process for months (and years!) to come. ***Please continue to pray for us and the kids as we seek language proficiency and, eventually, fluency.***



ABC Español building & Julie walking to class with her tutor, Ana Lu

Some Recent Highlights

Ministry during school: God has answered a specific prayer of ours that we would have ministry opportunities for Christ even during language school. This has happened in two distinct ways. The first is that I have been able to use some of my practice class to teach the Bible (in Spanish) to my tutor, Edgar. Due to his Roman Catholic background, he suffers from an almost complete lack of knowledge of his Bible. It’s been a pleasure to introduce him to important biblical teaching from Genesis, the Psalms, and the New Testament. ***Please pray for Edgar, Juli and their three children that they would grow in grace and knowledge of Christ.***

The second ministry contact is with a young, 24-year-old, taxi driver named Marcos and his wife Margareta. About six weeks ago, I began playing soccer on Wednesday afternoons in one of the parks a few blocks from our home. About 4:00 PM, a dozen or so taxi drivers take a break to play some *fútbol* together. They welcomed me to their game and over several weeks Marcos and I became friends. We had the chance one evening after soccer to invite him, his wife and their 14-month-old daughter, Estrella (Star), in for dinner. They stayed till almost 10:00! Though Marcos grew up in and was baptized in the Seventh-Day Adventist Church, he has not been back for years---at least not until he and I went together a couple weeks ago. He has lots of questions about the Bible. Hopefully, “Mr. Marcos” and family will be joining us for worship this week. ***Please pray for this young family,***



that they will get connected with other Christians in Arequipa before we leave.

Family Retreat: About a month ago our family was able to travel down to the beach for an extended weekend getaway. The local Norwegian Lutheran mission has some property with a house that overlooks the beach in the small town of Mejía. We enjoyed a wonderfully refreshing time of relaxation. We spent several hours on the beach itself, running and splashing in the surf, but the water was too cold and the Pacific Ocean waves were too large for us to do any swimming.

All Saints' Day Field Trip: November 1 is a national holiday in Peru, and it is customary for the people to visit the graves of their deceased family members on the next day. As part of our cultural education, the language school took us to visit several cemeteries, which were full of people. One tradition is for families to pack a meal and eat it together over the grave of a deceased loved one. This is a way to remember and show respect for one's ancestors, sadly though, it also reflects much confusion and error regarding the life and activity of the dead.



Brief Support Update – 89%

During our time raising support, we received strong one-time support that has carried us sufficiently through this time in language school. This is no small blessing from Christ our Lord! As we transition to our ongoing ministry, our monthly support levels become most important. Our ongoing support is at 89% of budget. Regrettably, this reflects a little drop in the last month as we got word that two supporting churches will not be able to continue their support. One, due to financial shortfalls, has had to suspend all missions support. The other has stopped meeting as a church due to dwindling attendance. ***Please pray that we might be able to replace these supporters or that our expenses will be less than budgeted.***

GIVE



Prayer items

- Strong finish to formal language school study and ongoing learning beyond.
- The many details related to our move to Trujillo in mid-December, including the safe arrival of our sea container with our household goods, a smooth departure from our rental house in Arequipa (our landlady may be dishonestly seeking to keep our deposit).
- Growth in grace for our friends Edgar and Marcos and their families
- That we would receive the permanent residency visas for our children. We anticipate getting these in December.
- Blessings on ABC Español, the institute that has been such a blessing to us.

We give thanks for each of you! Thank you for your loving, prayerful support!

Warmly in Christ,

Scott & Julie, and family



*Renewing Peru through
the power of the Gospel.*

Christian Missionary Society (CMS) / P.O. Box 53363 / Knoxville, TN 37950-3363

(support contributions via check should be made out to CMS and mailed to the address above; please designate "Davenport Family Support" on the memo line)

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