

*December 16, 2009*

*Joy to the world! The Lord has come...*

*Let earth receive her King.*

*Sing for joy to the Lord, all the earth... Psalm 98:4*

Dear Friends and Family,

We hope this letter finds you well and in great anticipation to celebrate Christmas with your loved ones. It almost feels like yesterday, that we were celebrating the holiday season in Lima Peru, together with our oldest daughter Nancy and with our son Kevin. Nancy had come from Winnipeg to spend the holiday season with us. Kevin had finished his two years of schooling in Lima and we went on a tour with them to see and learn more about Peru, its people and its rich culture and heritage. It was a time of mixed feeling since we had to say goodbye to Kevin after having him with us for two years in Peru, and since he is the youngest of our four children, it also meant that we were looking at having an empty nest from then on. On New Year's Eve, both of them went back to Winnipeg, leaving us feeling somewhat lost in Lima.

We signed a contract for another year of rent for our apartment, and went ahead with the work in the Church and the community. We made up a work schedule, but God had other plans for us. At the end of January, Otto and I went to a meeting, (one of many) to Piura and as we arrived there, we were asked to come and join the church in Miraflores Piura. The church had gone through some struggles and was looking for a Pastor. With the agreement of our partners in Lima (Jose and Esperanza Prada) and also in agreement with MBMSI we arranged to move from Lima to Piura. So our work together with the **Pastor couple Gustavo and Mariela Delgadillo**, continued in Piura from February to this day.

God's timing is always the best, and we can now look back and see how he has guided us every step of the way. Throughout the whole year we felt so blessed and reassured that we were at the right place. People started coming back to the Miraflores Church and the congregation has increased in numbers, by baptism and also by transfer of some members.

We had the chance to make many good friends in the Miraflores church; at the daughter church; and also with neighbors, with whom we stay in contact while we are back in Canada.

We came back to Canada at the end of August to take part in a re-entry retreat together with other missionaries. It was a time to re-connect with our North American staff and share our experiences, joys and also frustrations. After having spent one month in Abbotsford, visiting some churches, friend, and coworkers we were ready to travel to Winnipeg. It was a time of mixed feeling for us, as well as for our children to see each other again after a few years.

Our time on MINA (Mobilization in North America) has been a good, but also a tiring time. We have shared from our hearts with many people, in churches; at small prayer or bible study groups; with friends and with family. We have made many new friends and are so thankful for the support in prayer and encouragement we got from so many of you. Every one of you, who is reading this letter, is part in some way of our lives, and of what God is doing in Peru.

We are so happy that we can have a time of rest and reconnecting with our children and four grandchildren, and also for having been here when our youngest granddaughter (Olivia Berlin) was born on November 11, 2009.

We are humbled and thankful for the prayer and financial support from Churches; Sunday school children; individuals; family; and even a girl in a wheelchair who sacrifice to give, so that we can meet our suggested budget in order to go back to Piura, Peru.

We have been blessed by a very generous friend, Helle, who let us live with her for the entire time we are here in Winnipeg, and we were able to stay at different people houses while travelling from BC to Winnipeg, thanks to each one of you. People are not giving to us, but to God, and that encourages us because we know that God will bless a happy giver.

We ask that you will continue to pray for us as, our job description has changed and we are now on a long-term position. We depend on your prayers and financial support to keep God's work going so that many people will get to know HIM.

*Merry Christmas, Blessed New Year, 2010*

*Sincerely, Otto and Lidia Funk*



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