

Funks Update February 2010

But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign Lord my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds. (Psalm 73:28)

It was just a few weeks ago that we drove to the Winnipeg airport in a snow blizzard. Classes were cancelled, some highways closed, but our flight only left with about half an hour delay to Toronto and from there to Lima. We went from -24 to plus 35 degree Celsius. Our hearths were heavy from the good byes to family and friends. Here in Piura the temperature drops over night to only about 2 to 5 degrees. We needed to renew our Peruvian Visa but were told at Immigration that we had past our permitted time outside of the country in one year's time, by three days (laws were changed last year) which we were not aware of. With a lot of prayer and patience we were finally able to renew our visas. Thank God for that!

The first week we attended the Annual MB Conference, which ended without mayor inconveniences and the creation of an Education Department. This will help to train leaders locally with practical involvement in their home Churches. Last week we participated in a youth retreat in one of the first MB Churches, in Sullana. Sullana is now one of the most dangerous cities in Peru. We enjoyed sharing with the youth about Jesus and tried to convince them that with God's help we can change a whole generation.

We were also able to participate in a children's program (Vacation Bible School) in an open field, under some trees, in a very poor area about 20 minutes from the Miraflores Church for 3 days .Over a hundred children showed up each day, and on the last day we were able to give them a small gift for the beginning of their school year. We will continue this program every Saturday morning with the involvement of young people from our church, and on Friday evenings we will start a program for the junior youth. There is no church in the area and we found that people are open to the gospel. We are so glad that the local youth from our church are doing most of the programs and we are there to encourage them. I have to confess that we had a hard time keeping up with the children; they are so hungry for attention and affection. Some of our new Christians are struggling to keep their faith because old friends are trying to pull them back into their old habits and life. Personal friendship and evangelism is still the best way to reach people for Jesus; one person at a time, because God has created us all unique and we all face different challenges.

We would like to express a special "THANK YOU "to all of the churches that welcomed us and gave us the chance to share about our faith and what God is doing in us, through us and around us. Thank you for all the prayers, because it is more your prayers, than what we could do here for the Kingdom of God. Our battle is not against people, but against principalities and ingrained evils in society that are hard to change. We also would like to express special "THANK YOU" to all the people who have hosted us and made us feel special and loved; only God could repay you for that. God's provision has been overwhelming for us at all times and, we

have cried many tears and spend hours awake at night, but God's faithfulness has filled our hearths with joy and gratefulness.

Please Pray for:

- A clear doctrine in all the churches, that God's word and love would be preached.
- For health, protection and energy to do what God has called us to.
- For our children, grandchildren and us, pray that we stay connected in spite of the distance.
- For wisdom and patience to help restore broken relationships and lost faith.
- For children, adolescents and youth ministries.

Sincerely, with thankfulness

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