

Funk Update April 2010

Greetings to you with 2 Corinthians 1: 11

The God of All Comfort.

¹¹as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.

Since we came back, we did not have too much time to relax, but will try to do it soon. There was a lot of police and military activity at the beginning of March. Protests and clashes between the police and people from the local market place, left 5 people dead and many injured. The authorities tried to relocate the marketplace but the vendors who have been there for many years did not want to go, even though the market place is like a time bomb, with too many people and bad infrastructure. On the same day, gangs up to 200 at one time crashed and ransacked some stores and stole whatever they could get. Police weren't able to do much. Military from Lima and other cities came to help restore order. Since then nothing much has changed and violence could escalate again.

In mid March we had a visit from Victor Wiens (MBMSI) and Bill Benjamin (DMI). It was a time of sharing, learning and praying together. Many pastors and leaders from the Peruvian MB churches came to the three days of meetings, and told us later that they felt encouraged, and would like to have similar meetings in the future.

Looking back to our last update we realize that your prayers and ours have been answered in least expected ways.

We have prayed many times for God to clean his churches. God is at work, and all we can say is that it hurts, now that He is doing it. Many tears have been shed and many hearts have been broken. Aside from the Miraflores church where we had started, we now help out in two different churches. One of the churches is about 15 minutes by taxi from our apartment in the same city, however according to local people, the church is in a bad neighborhood and not safe to go. The other church is about 45 minutes by a small bus or taxi, in the rural outskirts of the city.

The Peruvian MB conference has lost three of their pastors in the last month and a half. Three churches in our area are now without a pastor, but continuing to work with the church leadership, and with some of the members who stayed after the pastors have left. The church in El Indio, the church in Almirante Grau and our Miraflores church grieve the loss and are trying to understand; restructure; forgive; and love in all of the turmoil they are facing. We (Otto and I, Lidia) are in the middle of all of this, going from church to church; counseling; listening; trying to understand their situation; and helping in whatever way we can. All three of the pastors left because of malpractice in their function as pastors or counselors. As a result, some of the youth from our Miraflores church are no longer attending, while some of the older members have left and are attending other churches. At the same time, new people are coming and the ones, who stayed, are willing to continue and rebuilt the church. Praise God for that, He is at work in rebuilding His Church.

God is faithful, His forgiveness and love is new each morning.

Please Pray for:

- For more workers to come to Peru to help us and the churches.
- 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 wisdom and patience to help restore broken relationships and lost faith.
- For our children and grandchildren in Winnipeg, Canada.

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