

“Can You Tell Me His Name?”

...Missionaries in Peru Share the Answer

Story and photos by Liz Oppenheim

A Peruvian girl ran out of her aunt's shop when she recognized a group of Americans who had performed a Gospel skit in the market square. The thirteen-year-old peppered them with questions.

“I understand that God sent someone down from heaven to save our souls—was it an angel or a man?” the young girl asked excitedly. “Can you tell me His name? I have so many questions about God, and no one has been able to answer them for me.”

The missionaries told her that God sent His Son, Jesus Christ. They explained the Gospel message and invited her to the church service in San Vicente on Wednesday night. She thanked them and ran back to her job.

Such scenarios were common for the team of 30 from Calvary Chapel Orlando, led by Pastor Gib Allen, who ministered in Peru last summer. The five-day mission trip helped supplement the ongoing work of Brian Vander Kodde, pastor of Koinonia Calvary Chapel.

A unique opportunity presented itself due to a fire that had recently broken out in San Vicente. A farmer's market, essential to the livelihood of many families, had burned almost completely down. Long-term Calvary missionaries worked with the Orlando team and reconstructed the market.

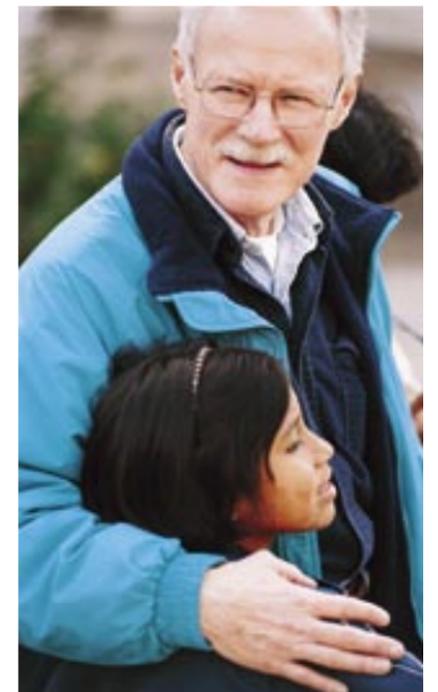
The unlikely construction crew from America met with skepticism from the locals. Obviously unaccustomed to heavy labor, the missionaries nevertheless began to make progress. By the second day, doubt and disbelief turned to admiration and acceptance. The team built concrete and brick walls, replacing the original palm thatch, plywood, and bamboo. Observing the tenacity of the missionaries, the natives questioned why they would come all the way from



Worship service in San Vicente.



Excitement is evident in the children's service.



Gib Allen, pastor of CC Orlando, makes friends in Peru.



Lucho Garcia, pastor of Grace Calvary Chapel in Lima, consoles a Peruvian girl.



Local woman in San Vicente



The evening coastline in Lima.

America to help. This provided an opportunity to share the Gospel. Many Peruvians accepted invitations to the evening church services.

Brian Vander Kodde saw the need for Biblical teaching when he and his Peruvian wife, Betty, visited family there. Shortly thereafter, the couple moved from CC Miami Beach to work with Pastor Lucho Garcia in Lima.

After serving a year with Pastor Lucho, Brian began an outreach ministry in the city of San Vicente. Each Wednesday morning, the team travels there to evangelize door-to-door and in the streets. They minister to the people by helping with various projects and needs, as well as discipling believers.

The short-term team from Florida participated in the established outreaches, one of which was to children. This consisted of Biblical parables, puppets, dance, and Spanish praise songs. They also traveled to an orphanage on the Pacific Coast, north of Lima. Over a four-day period, members of the CC Orlando team shared the Gospel with nearly 600 children.



Sherry Smith, right, explains a faith bracelet to a Peruvian girl.



Jamie Garrett of CC Orlando is an object of intense curiosity.

Pastor Brian said, "Peruvians love Americans. As a result, Americans can minister in a way that others can't. There is a wide-open door for pastors and teachers here. People call from different locations throughout Peru asking, 'When are you going to send a pastor to teach us? There is no one here to teach.'"

Pastor Lucho Garcia: a seed produces fruit in Lima

Story by Christmas McGaughey

Pastor Lucho Garcia shepherds the congregation of Grace Calvary Chapel in Lima, Peru, whose body of 350 has continually grown since the first Bible study in March 1995.

Lucho initially heard about Calvary Chapel in 1989 when Pastors Jeff Johnson and Raul Ries came to minister to young people in Lima. "Their casual manner and the simplicity of their message touched me deeply," said Lucho.

Two years later, he encountered another group of Calvary Chapel missionaries from CC Verde Valley in Cottonwood, AZ. "I asked about the philosophy and beliefs of Calvary Chapel," he said. One missionary he met, John Bonner, encouraged him to attend Calvary Chapel Bible College.

Lucho graduated in 1994 and returned to Lima to plant Grace Calvary Chapel. Recently, Lucho helped begin a new church in the Amazon, pastored by Carlos Caverro, a native Peruvian. There are 300 natives in attendance, 240 children and 60 adults.

Grace Calvary Chapel Lima

A. Postal 18-0727

Lima-18, PERU

lgarcia@newton.edu.pe

How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

Romans 10:14



After performing a skit, members of the Orlando team interact with the children.

John Bonner: Serving in Peru

by Liz Oppenheim and Christmas McGaughey

LIMA, PERU - Serving the Lord in Lima, Peru, John Bonner takes Jesus' admonition in John 15:8 to "bear much fruit" seriously.

"I was saved at the age of four, but was convicted by the age of twenty of my lack of spiritual fruitfulness. I began attending CC Costa Mesa in the late 70s and read John the Baptist's exhortation: '...every tree which does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire' (Matthew 3:10). Right then I understood God's design for us is to be fruitful!"

John signed up for language school at the church's outreach in Alamos, Mexico. He later met Juan Domingo, who had served many years in Mexico



Matt Houser working to rebuild the market place in Canete.



Jim Kattelmann entertains the children by dancing with a broom.



John Bonner, left, teaches on a beach before performing a baptism.

Photograph by Evan Wathen

By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

Romans 10:14



Pastor Gib Allen, CC Orlando, says good-bye to his new friend.

City under Mike MacIntosh. "Juan, Mike, and Raul Ries were all instrumental in equipping me for outreach. I saw these guys and admired their bold witness for Jesus," John said. "Their example encouraged me to trust the Lord for great things!"

After serving nearly ten years as a Calvary Chapel missionary in Mexico and Costa Rica, John attended the Calvary Chapel Bible College in southern California in the mid 90s. He then moved to Lima to establish Calvary Chapel Bible College, Peru, now in its third year of operation.

This soft-spoken man first came to Peru in the early 90s on a humanitarian relief mission in the remote community of Huaycan. He soon learned the area was a training ground for the guerilla terrorist group, Shining Path.

During that trip, he received a threatening phone call from the Communist group. He was told if he returned to Huaycan the next day, he would be killed. Undaunted, he

returned to do work there for two more days without incident.

Three months later, he traveled back to Huaycan, bringing another team to minister medical care and share the Gospel. John believes that some members of Shining Path came to know the Lord during that trip.

Now John oversees the Bible College, where he serves with Pilar, his wife of 17 years, and their children: Michelle (15), Jason (12), and Joshua (10). He and his family are also involved in local evangelism.

Ministry opportunities range from far-reaching to daily one-on-one encounters. At the Bible College, a group is working to translate Chuck Smith's complete "Through the Bible" series into Spanish for broadcast throughout Latin America.

While the CC Orlando team was visiting Lima, Pastor John and his son, Joshua, were sharing the Gospel with a boy Joshua's age. Later, Joshua approached the boy and asked

him if he would like to pray and accept Jesus as his Savior. After a positive response, both boys bowed their heads in prayer. The boy introduced Joshua to three other friends; Joshua shared the Gospel with them, and they also accepted Christ.

Upon returning to the church that evening, Joshua elatedly proclaimed to everyone that he now had four new brothers in the Lord.

Telephone: (011-51-1) 422-2898
johnbonner@calvarychapel.org
http://www.calvarychapel.com/ccbcperu/

Support & Mailing Address:
Calvary Chapel Lake Arrowhead
P.O. Box 646
Twin Peaks, CA 92391