



**CROSS**  
**COLLABORATION**  
MTW MISSIONARIES TO PERU

AUGUST 2016

## MISSIONS NEWSLETTER

### PLANTING CHURCHES IN AREQUIPA, PERU

### WILL YOU PARTNER WITH US?

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### READ THIS LETTER AND PRAY!



Having to face the daily grind is true for any occupation, and serving in the foreign mission field is no exception. It is easy to get caught up in that daily grind and lose sight of the big picture. Every once in while, the Lord is gracious enough to give us a glimpse of that big picture and remind us why we are here. Here are just two examples of that...

### THE TRUTH... — [THE SIMPLICITY OF THE GOSPEL]

Fighting back the tears in her eyes, she said to her daughter, “Yes, God did make everything and he made it perfectly. You are not a mistake.” It was an honor to witness these words coming from a mother to her daughter. Elsa\*, a lady in the later years of her life, has been caring for her daughter, Gianna\*, who is in her fifties and has lived with significant special needs for all of her life.

In June, we started our Sunday School back up. This was the first time that this congregation had ever used a Christ-centered Bible curriculum that was more than just a few Bible stories attached to some moral principles. The children are learning who God is and what he has done for us through Jesus Christ. Gianna, due to her level of comprehension, joins the children’s class each Sunday. In the years past, she had been an observer in the back of the classroom, but with our new focus on more intentional children’s ministry, Gianna excitedly participates and has become an important part of the class.

Each Sunday, according to her mother, she wakes up at 5:00am and is ready to go to Sunday School. Her mother has to remind her that Sunday School will not start for another four hours and that she must be patient. When it is finally time, she comes to class ready to learn, engage in the craft of the day, and attempt her memory verse of the week. As the class comes to a close, she eagerly asks for her “Parent Information Page” so that she and her mother can review and practice the memory work during the upcoming week.

On this particular Sunday, as Gianna ran to her mother after class as she does most weeks, she was bursting at the seams to share what she had learned—that God is the Creator of all things and he has made them perfectly. Although Elsa had been impressed with how much her daughter had been learning each week, this week seemed to be much more powerful. In a culture where people with special needs—those made in the image of God—are hidden away from the stares and thoughts of others, Elsa was touched by the simple reminder of God’s power and compassion. Gianna was hearing this confirmed by other people, but more importantly, she was hearing this directly from God’s Word. For us, it was a simple reminder of the simplicity of the Gospel. God, our creator, is also the one who loves us and has redeemed us through Jesus Christ. It is so easy to lose sight of this as the challenges of the day distract us from this beautiful reality.

## ...AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH — [THE SUFFICIENCY OF THE GOSPEL]

Apparently it is the year of the “Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy.” Well, at least that is what the sign said as we entered the doors of the massive cathedral. Like we typically do when we have visitors in Arequipa, we visited the beautiful downtown square where Arequipa’s largest cathedral majestically breaks the sky line. As we approached the doors, we saw this sign as well as a row of confession booths. Reading the sign, it was absolutely heart-breaking to see the lists of arbitrary requirements that were necessary in order to receive “mercy” from God.

You must pass through the “Door of Mercy” (the main Cathedral door) in a state of grace. Once you pass through the doors, you have 20 days to make confession to a priest. Within a few days of passing through this magical door, you must participate in the sacrament of communion. You can only receive this “plenary indulgence” once per day, and you can do it for yourself or someone who has “faithfully departed.” These are just a few of the examples to biblically baseless requirements that can be found on this sign (the rest of the rituals can be found in the picture on the right).

It is experiences like this that remind us of the need of the gospel here in Arequipa—the simple gospel, the sufficient gospel—the gospel that says that Christ is enough. We are saved by Christ alone. The silly rituals we create are in vain. We are good at trying to make God in our image—at creating false and arbitrary additions to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Please pray with us that the Holy Spirit would bring revival and reformation to the city of Arequipa and all across Peru.

*\*Names changed to protect privacy.*

## THE GUTIERREZ FAMILY ON HOME MISSIONARY ASSIGNMENT



This September, the Gutierrez family will be headed back to the U.S. until the end of January for “Home Ministry Assignment” (HMA). This is an opportunity to share what the Lord has done through your support and prayers here in Arequipa and to share our team’s vision for the next phase of ministry. It is also a time to raise support to compensate for donations that have dropped over the past 4 years. We are working hard to plan our time in the U.S. so that we can visit supporting churches (in the four corners of the U.S.) that we have been unable to visit in these past four years. Please pray for the scheduling of our visits to

work out, for our time to be profitable, and pray for us to be able to fit in time to rest as a family in-between visits! Our first 4 weeks will be spent visiting supporting churches in California and speaking at MTW’s LINK Conference for people interested in missions in Escondido, CA. Please join the MTW event if you are at all curious about the idea of serving the Lord in missions, and join us as we visit these areas:

**Sept. 8-11 — New Life (La Mesa, CA)**

**Sept. 15-18 — New Life/MTW LINK (Esco., CA)**

**Sept. 25 — Mision Vida Nueva (Escondido, CA)**

**Sept. 30-Oct. 3 — First CRC (Ripon, CA)**

**Oct. 8-13 — 1st Presbyterian (Chattanooga, TN)**

## OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTNER

*\*More dates upcoming!*

Everything in this newsletter and in all of our newsletters for the past four years could not have happened without the generous financial support of our ministry partners—both individuals and churches. We intentionally do not speak often or specifically about our financial needs so that when we do mention it, you will know that our need is genuine and urgent. With that being said, we want to give you the opportunity to partner with us in what the Lord is doing in Arequipa, Peru. Over the past few years, several ministry partners have had to end their financial support of the Gutierrez family due to the regular ups and downs of life. We are asking you to consider supporting the Gutierrez family by regular monthly support. In this, you have a ROI (“Return on Investment”) that is guaranteed by Christ himself (Matthew 16:18; Matthew 6:19-21). If you would like to become a ministry partner of the Gutierrez family, please visit:

<https://www.mtw.org/missionaries/details/nathaniel-and-alicia-gutierrez>

