



# CROSS COLLABORATION

MTW MISSIONARIES TO PERU

SEPTEMBER 2016

## MISSIONS NEWSLETTER

PLANTING CHURCHES  
IN AREQUIPA, PERU

WILL YOU PARTNER  
WITH US?

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READ THIS LETTER  
AND PRAY!



### BUILDING COMMUNITY IN OUR COMMUNITY - COOKOUT



*Patiently waiting for someone to come.*

We weren't too nervous, yet. It was only 6:30. Being thirty minutes late is nothing by any Peruvian standard. But we were still thinking, "if just one neighbor would come outside, maybe the rest would follow." It was the first time we had thrown an open-invitation party for all of our new neighbors in our small neighborhood.

We didn't know what to expect—or if anyone would show up, for that matter. Eventually, one door opened. The older couple slowly (probably nervously) made their way across the street and into the small park where we had set up tables, games, food and music. One by one, neighbors started trickling into the park. I think they had a bit more confidence when they saw others coming to the neighborhood party thrown by the new "gringos." What started as small talk soon grew into laughter and loud conversations.

"Are you new to the neighborhood?" one neighbor asked. If they had been asking us, it would have been a perfectly valid question. We had just moved into this neighborhood a couple of months ago and were still getting settled. Unfortunately, they were asking another neighbor who replied, "Umm, no. We have lived here for seven years." That was not the only time we heard the same line of questions and answers that night. Arequipeños are notoriously "closed" people—it takes a lot to build trust even on a cordial level. Being invited to a party by a complete stranger meant, in their eyes, that we were up to something.

By the end of the night, huge strides were made in building trust among our neighbors. We heard repeated echoes of, "We would do this more often. Why don't we all play volleyball in the park tomorrow?" Selfishly, we were also able to quench some fears that we'd had. "No, we LOVE to finally see kids running around and playing outside," they responded when we self-consciously apologized for the rowdiness of our three little superheroes who are always fighting "Darth Vader and the dark side" around the the neighborhood. They thought that our three little guys brought life to the neighborhood and also brought some of the neighbor kids outside, as well.

Midnight came and went, and we were



*And they came. And stayed... until the late hours of the night.*

still all bundled up around heaters in the park. Finally, in typical Peruvian fashion, one family finally got up from their seats to announce that they had to go. According to the unspoken rule, the other families followed suit. It was neat to watch—what took two families a couple hours to set up was taken down in minutes by a number of families working together. We were truly thankful since we had to be at the church in less than seven hours.

Please pray for us as we try to reach our neighbors—a highly closed and suspicious people. Pray that this community party broke down some barriers and will give us the chance to know them better—one on one. Pray that the Lord would give us courage to continue in these relationships that have just begun.

## BUILDING COMMUNITY IN THE CHURCH - PASTORS' RETREAT

A few weeks ago, we hosted our first local Pastoral Leadership Retreat. Pastors, elders and leaders of churches from various cities up to 14 hours away drove into Arequipa to spend three days relearning the basics of leadership. Our primary study focus was that, as leaders, we must seek to lead with humility, repentance and submission to God's calling. During the days we spent together, our group joined together to sing, pray, be reminded of the good news of the gospel, and repent from our sins.

In a culture that hides weakness and sin deep into the recesses of life, the concept of repenting from sin and letting others help you with your weaknesses was a difficult one to tackle. However, by the conference's end, we sensed that the Lord had brought some genuine conviction and hope into the hearts and lives of these leaders and their many different ministries throughout southern Peru. Please pray with us, that God would use us and these brothers for his glory, and that we would learn to turn from ourselves and to cling to Jesus as we lead many others to his feet.



## THE GUTIERREZ FAMILY ON HOME MISSIONARY ASSIGNMENT

We, the Gutierrez family, are in 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 in Escondido, CA for people interested in missions. 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. 13 - Westminster Sem. CA Luncheon**

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

**Sept. 25 - Misión Vida Nueva (Esco., CA)**

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

**Oct. 3-6 - Gospel Pres. Church (Utah)**

**Oct. 8-13 - First Presbyterian (Chattanooga, TN)**