

## *PERU REPORT 2005*



In early August I had the privilege of traveling to Lima, Peru in order to work with two congregations in evangelistic campaigns. Although the month was August, it was winter in Lima, and the temperatures were in the 50's and 60's most of the time. Peru is located in South America bordered by the Pacific Ocean on the west, Ecuador and Columbia on the north, Brazil and Bolivia to the east, and Chile to the south. Lima has a very dry climate being in a mountain dessert area, like the Rocky Mountain west of the United States.

The work began immediately upon leaving the airport in Lima where brother Rodolfo Espinoza picked me up at 7:30 a.m. We traveled across town where the brethren of the San Juan de Miraflores congregation, along with various preachers who had arrived to help with the campaign work, welcomed me. We ate a Peruvian breakfast together and began the day's work.

There were about forty-five Christians present for the door-to-door work of inviting residents to the Gospel Meeting in the evening, and to set up a Bible study with them. The custom in Lima is to ask the people if they have time right then to study the Bible. I did not understand this at first and tried to set up time with people for a Bible study later in the week, but I soon realized that people would study the Bible right at their door. There were a total of 288 studies with 352 different people in two days in the area around the San Juan de Miraflores congregation. Once I realized how they did it I was able to teach many people about the establishment of the church and the plan of salvation, and then answer whatever question they might have had. My partners for knocking the doors were Guiermo and Catty.



Brethren from Miraflores



Rodolfo and Eliana Espinoza (preacher)

The last part of my time in Lima was spent with the Los Olivos congregation. Rodolfo Espinoza is the preacher for both the Miraflores congregation and the Los Olivos congregations. There are services in San Juan de Miraflores on Sunday morning and Wednesday evening, and then in Los Olivos on Sunday evening and Thursday evening. In addition to preaching for these congregations brother Rodolfo goes every fifteen days to teach at the Santa Anita congregation. Rodolfo is well respected by the brethren of both congregations as well as preachers in the outlying areas of Lima and throughout Peru. He is training the boys and young men to take their leadership role in the local congregations, as well as training some to preach. At Los Olivos we went knocking doors in the day and were able to have about 100 Bible studies. It was amazing to see some of the houses people lived in. The houses were literally on the side of a rock mountain where the rock is the floor of their houses.



Wayne in Lima, Peru



Lazaro & a sister evangelizing



Members of the church Los Olivos

I preached both Gospel Meetings in Spanish at San Juan de Miraflores and at Los Olivos. There were visitors at every preaching service, usually between 8-12. At Los Olivos they place two large loud speakers outside the church building in order that the neighbors and people in the streets could hear the worship services.

The most commonly asked question by the members of the church in Peru, from the youngest to the oldest was, “how long have you been a Christian?” Although some have been Christians for several years, most of the people have only been members of the church for a few years. Many of those working in the door-to-door work had only been Christians from a few months to three or four years. Although most had been Christians a short time, I saw them use their Bibles very well in Bible studies. One of the other most used phrases by the Christians was, “don’t forget us, come back and stay longer.”

While Peru is a Latin American nation with that Latin culture, there are influences from the Incas as well as Europeans. There were some things about the way they functioned that seemed European. It was a pleasure to meet and work with preachers like Rodolfo Espinoza of Lima, Israel Yarleque Taboada from Piura, Miguel Alata from Chorrillos, Juan Nima of the Los Rosales congregation, Andrez Nuñez from Villa Maria, as well as Moises Quispe who is training to preach at Santa Anita. All of these men appeared to be grounded in the faith and sound preachers of the gospel.



Rodolfo Espinoza, Israel Yarleque, Juan Nima Preachers in Peru



Luna & Moises (Moses) Quispe Moises is studying with Rodolfo to be a preacher



Luis, Miguel Alata, Israel, Israel Yarleque, Juan Nima

Present a few evenings at the Gospel Meeting were Angelo Marzi and his wife Maria. Angelo is from Rome, Italy and Maria is from Peru. They are Christians, married and live in Rome. Angelo speaks Italian and a very little English, but we were able to communicate. I have a standing invitation to visit them and the congregation that he is a member of in Rome, Italy.

The food in Peru was varied, but usually had rice as a base, although a typical breakfast was some type of bread, sometimes with a local tea-type drink and at other times with nothing to drink.

Jim O'Connor was to have gone on the trip to Peru and preach as well, but due to health problems was unable to go. The brethren in Lima send their greetings and well wishes to Jim that he may some day be able to work with them.

The Hispanic work that I am involved in has permitted me to preach the word of God in places like Arkansas, New York City, Kentucky, Costa Rica, Texas and Peru within the last eight months. There are now doors opening up to do work in Ciudad Victoria, Tamaulipas, Mexico (possibly in January 2006). In October I will be traveling to Riga, Latvia to participate in their annual evangelistic campaign and lectureship of teaching and preaching the word of God.

I want to express my appreciation to you for your continually supporting the Hispanic work at Mabelvale, and for the support received to make the various evangelistic mission trips to other countries. May God bless the seed that has been sown and the effort of the brethren in Peru.

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