



News from Bill & Jean

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Summer 2006

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Just another Wednesday in Huaycan – The bus shudders to a halt at the lights. Two small boys leap up and begin juggling and turning somersaults in front of the traffic. They hope that some passengers will give them a tip. We harden our hearts. It's dangerous and we don't want to encourage them. The journey continues, music blaring, as our bus weaves in and out of the traffic at speed. We hold on tight, our knees squashed into the tiny space provided, praying until we alight. The sun beats down as we pick our way through the scattered rubbish and flies to arrive at the Huaycan church. Mums are busy sweeping the dusty hall and putting out bowls of water for hand washing. The smell of good food wafts through. Gradually the children arrive, laden with homework. They enjoy reading books while they wait, especially if someone has time to listen or read to them. Helpers are also arriving and soon meals are being served to the 100 children in the project. One child asks, "Can I pay later?" Mum hasn't come home yet and had no money earlier. Another family comes in free, because they have no mum and little money.

After the meal the children go out to play while we clean up and prepare for the devotional. It's part of the life of Jesus so some of us dress up to act out the story. Afterwards each helper takes their group upstairs for homework. One room is set up with books and a simple worksheet for those who have none or who want to stay on after they have finished. It's a busy time, with lots of questions or homework we cannot decipher. (Miriam usually knows what is required fortunately). Richard arrives crying, but won't say why, David cannot find his rucksack, someone else has forgotten his book, but eventually everyone settles down. Slowly but surely homework is completed. In the background we hear the clattering of dishes and laughter as the cooks clear up the dishes. Bill starts to empty the waste water bucket by bucket into a nearby pit toilet before it spills over into the street from its container. We still have no laid on water or drainage.

Meanwhile helpers **Elizabeth S, Eliz Q & Alicia** leave early. They have begun a one year course to become classroom assistants. They are so pleased to have this opportunity through the help given by many of you. **Yanessa**, who managed to get into university, has also come today, so that helps. As their groups finish **Miriam, Florencio, Vicky, Ayda, Wiebke & Ulrike** help us clear up, put the benches back on the tables and leave things ready for Friday. A mum comes in with a gift of food to say thank you.



Another comes to explain why she did not come to the monthly parents' meeting and another is looking for her son who hasn't yet arrived home.

Nélida arrives. A single mum with 2 children, she has cancer and is now too ill to work. We provide bus fare to the hospital and something for food each week. (Another group helps with her treatment). **Candy**, an abandoned mother of 5 children under 13 years of age, asks our advice. She has been researching possibilities and is now ready to start selling – as with most of our parents, she will walk the streets and markets offering her goods to anyone she can. **Martha**, mother of 5, needs to visit the prison. Her husband has been in a fight. He has to pay £18 or be put in solitary confinement as a punishment. We pray with each of these women as

they struggle with the problems of daily survival. Finally we set off for home - for a shower, change of clothes, to sort out work for next day, and then to eat and relax – or fall asleep!

Adolescents galore in Huaycan! – It's Saturday night again. We agreed we could not take more than 50, but it is so hard to turn someone away – so now we have 56! Fortunately they don't all always come. Some are learning to play traditional musical instruments. Others play table tennis or games, and some just chat. The devotional is followed by a sandwich and drink, and then the older ones may stay on for the young people's group. It's exciting to see how some have grown, spiritually as well as in knowledge of the Bible.

La Campiña – Tuesdays & Thursdays continue much as usual, even though some are not coming at present because they are clearing rocks in a community project, for which the government pays them about £8 a week. Committee member Martha has decided to leave so we are looking for a replacement. The mothers are pleased to participate in the **Savings Programme**, but struggle at this time of year as they have so many school things to buy. They enjoy the devotional and learn the memory verses enthusiastically. They are even beginning to believe that purifying water by a simple solar method actually works!

Meanwhile, the children love the painting, plasticine and other educational activities. After the washing up and committee meeting it's nearly 4 pm and the adolescents start to arrive for their meeting. **Ulrike** and **Wiebke** are doing a great job, so we leave them all happily singing.



Ulrike & Wiebke will be missed.

FOR PRAISE & PRAYER:-

- In Huaycan the helpers are being more responsible. Pray for those named earlier.
- We are assisting **eight young people** obtain professional qualifications. (If anyone would like to help sponsor someone for a year please let us know).
- Pray for **Rosa, Segundo** and those listed earlier who have health or economic problems.
- A **new president** will have been elected by the time you receive this. Most of us are not very optimistic about the choices. Pray God will surprise us.
- **Ulrike & Wiebke** leave at the end of June, which means extra work for us. Two new girls may come in September. Pray God will provide.
- Pray God will guide **Patty**, a Peruvian friend we are hoping will help us in the work.
- We have both had some health problems lately, partly related to overwork, so now we are making sure we take time out. Last Thursday we went for a massage (only £5 each), and then lunch. We have found a small English Bible study, which we are enjoying, but most such things will close down from June till September, so please pray for other openings.
- We have been unable to recommence the two Ladies' Bible studies due to needing time for ourselves. Pray for wisdom about this.



Some of La Campiña's babies!

'Though the mountains be shaken and the hills removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken, nor my covenant of love removed says the Lord, who has compassion on you.' Is. 54:10. We praise God for His love and care for us. We enjoy our work and count it a privilege to be here with your faithful support and prayers. May you too know the assurance and joy of His love.

With our love, **Bill & Jean.**

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