



# News from Bill & Jean in Peru

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Hello from Peru! Well here we are, settling to the joys and stresses of living in Lima. first week in the SIM guest house while our cleaned, our e.mail set up and a new number was obtained. We have been busy, with many warm welcomes, a good conference and lots of visitors. Thank you We hope the following will give you an idea have been up to:-

**La Campiña:**-Eulalia, who looked after the were away, came to report and then invited home. She and her 3 grown sons have sold the shanty town to rent in a better area that streets & much less dust! They now live workshop they have set up to make clothes. Abner, the eldest son has experience and has taken out a 2 year bank loan with a friend. The friend now wants to back out after just four months, so they were seeking advice. We have looked into setting up a small business before and know it is fraught with problems. We spent time going over the difficulties - and put him in touch with those who know more about it. We also saw Joseph, her younger son, whom we are helping to study. Eulalia is eager to continue helping and told us some mums have accepted the Lord.



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Another day, Benedicta (Beni), a main committee member, suddenly arrived at our house with her new baby. She proudly announced that her son had gained first place at school, due, she felt, to the educational activities in the project. She also said, "The local clinic has told me that health in the area has improved, especially since we built the extra toilets and gave hygiene teaching." She is keen to supervise building more toilets, which we were planning to do anyway. Later we met with the other committee members, including Maria who is due to give birth soon. By the time this letter arrives the project will probably be in full swing again. The small church where we are based continues. We are talking to the leaders of the mother church about how to encourage growth.

**Huaycan:**- Meanwhile Florencio and then Miriam visited to report that all had gone well. However we were discouraged to hear that the church still has no water or drainage although more in the community now do. Then Tatiana's husband sent us an e.mail to say she had been praying about it early each morning because an important official was going to look into it. We await news, so keep praying! It seems it has to do with the church being an evangelical one.

Miriam's sister wanted to visit us. With tears she asked advice about getting a visa to enter the UK to work. Like many she cannot get a decently paid job and thinks going abroad will help. Sometimes we just need is listen, ask questions and try to help them to see what they can do. It is difficult. Peru's economy is said to be improving, but there is little evidence at ground level. Then Rosa, another stalwart helper, rang and invited herself to lunch - by bringing it with her! We had already been told that her 16 year old daughter was pregnant. "Monica and the 18 year old father, Geremias, want to complete their last year at school," she said tearfully. "When Monica told me I sent her to the father's house because we cannot afford to feed extra mouths, but they ill-treated her and Geremias brought her back." They are now both living together on Rosa's roof, but won't get married yet because of the cost. It has just been discovered that Geremias has TB and has to have 2 months complete rest! The baby is due April/May.



Yanessa

Meanwhile, Yanessa, aged 19, always cheerful and enthusiastic, came to tell us she is still studying at the university and has classes during the holidays because there was a long strike before. She is looking forward to helping us again with handicraft classes for the adolescents. What she didn't tell us, but someone else did later, is that her parents refuse to help her economically because she goes to

the evangelical church and also helps in Sunday School etc. They are Roman Catholics. On another day Patty, who helps us rather like a social worker, came to tell us that Marina, the widow who needs regular dialysis, is mistreating her children. The eldest daughter wants to take them to live with her. We are sad, because Marina made a profession of faith that we thought was genuine. Sandy, aged 17, who now has a baby and partner of her own, went to the local child protection agent to complain. We await the outcome. We have yet to visit Marina, whom we continue to help medically with Patty's supervision. Patty also tells us that Florencio had taken his wife and daughter for tests as they both have a history of serious stomach pains. They may need operations. Meantime Florencio continues to try and get a pension due to him from working 6 years in the mines. Then it was Norma, Patty's sister's turn. She has an excellent way with the children and can bring the best out of some of the naughty ones. We asked if she can continue with us and take on more responsibility. She is willing, but restricted by having to return home promptly so someone is always in their house, otherwise it gets burgled!



"Brother Bill, Brother Bill!" shouted the children. "When is the outing?" For many this is the only day out of the whole year. Four buses took those from the project and others who wanted to pay, to a country park with a swimming pool and grassy fields. It is always before school starts again in March and Miriam organizes it. There were over 200 of us. We rang Candy and her family as they live farther away and wouldn't know. Candy burst into tears on hearing our voices. Praise the Lord she has recovered well from her operation.

We are also responding to requests from young people who want to work with us. Dorothee, aged 20 from Germany, got in touch from Argentina where her placement wasn't going well. She joined us in March for 2½ months, along with Kelsey, also 20, from the US, who stays until July. Both speak good Spanish. Meeka 18, from South Africa has also arrived and stays until December, but she has to learn some Spanish. Others are due to come later in the year.

**PRAYER FOR LA CAMPIÑA:-** Eulalia, who will be taking more responsibility. Her son **Abner** and his business. Committee **Beni, Maria & Elsa**. Since two will have small babies we need another capable person too. The **mothers**, that they will grasp God's word and grow spiritually. The **Toilet Project**, which Beni will supervise. The local **church** – that it may grow and be a good place for the new Christians.

**PRAYER FOR HUAYCAN:-** Miriam, Rosa, Norma, Nilda, Florencio & other helpers. For the **teenager group** restarting after the summer break and for able helpers, especially someone with musical skills. For spiritual growth amongst **children, teenagers, helpers** and **parents**. The **water** and **drainage** supply, **Monica & Geremias** as the baby arrives, the health of **Victoria**, Florencio's wife and **Elizabeth** his daughter, **Marina** and her **children** - and many of the others.

**SHORT TERMERS:-** Dorothee, Kelsey & Meeka that they will get on well and be a blessing.

**TRAINING:-** Some continue, others are applying. Pray for wisdom in advising them & that they do well.

**VISAS:-** SIM, along with other missionary societies in Peru, is having a problem getting their visas' paperwork attended to. It is mainly an administration problem, but could cause problems so please pray it can be sorted out soon.

**PERSONAL:-** Pray we can arrange our **timetable** to give us less pressure, so we have time to do more spiritual & social things. Pray for **Bill** who takes up the Co-ordinator role again. We both also hold official positions on the Mission's legal body. It doesn't involve much work but is an extra responsibility. We are also attending a new church as ours closed down when we left in July, not because they missed us but it was the right time to close.

Many, many thanks for your continued prayer and fellowship. May God also be with you in a real way throughout this year.

With our love, *Bill & Jean.*

Don't forget you can see our 25 min. DVD from Mrs. Aylin. You can also go on the internet for a 4 min. video:-  
YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JLX4mEysAZw>