



News from Bill & Jean in Peru

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Problems, Praises and Prayers! Life is full of them. As we all know God permits them in order to strengthen and teach us, and then He says, 'Cast all your care on Him, for He cares for you.' 1 Peter 5:7 We need to learn to do more of that so value your prayers as we continue here in Lima.

Praises

- Hener was in our feeding programme and came to Adolescents, but at 16 he wandered away. A year later how delighted we are to learn from his mum that he is now enthusiastically attending church.
- Meanwhile, Bill met Sarah and her family in La Campiña. We spent some months two years ago witnessing to them, with no result. Yet now she tells us, the whole family is attending church.
- Yanessa & Elvis, who have been baptised, continue to help in Adolescents. Others also show good signs of coming to the Lord.
- We continue to fund the 18 people at present receiving help with further education, as well as the projects, where all our helpers are busy.
- Patty is doing a great job helping with medical needs and pictured here are Martin & Susana, Mateo, Nathaniel & Katarina from Switzerland, who are settling in, so there is plenty to thank the Lord for. We also had a few relaxing days away during the winter break here.



Prayers – here is a typical week:-

Monday - prayer & preparation. We try to start the week with prayer together, but this week our director wants to talk to us about our SIM workers – at present we have Meeka, here till December, Sarah, here for 2 years, but studying Spanish full time until Oct/November and Clare due to arrive at the beginning of September for 9 months as well as long term missionaries Martin & Susana. After our chat we spend the day doing preparation and Bill also goes to the bank. We take a break after lunch to pray, and then carry on. In the evening we relax and watch TV.

Tuesday - La Campiña Mother and toddler feeding/education programme. First a bumpy 40 minute journey in a taxi, partly over non-asphalted roads. This week the devotional is outside with all 50 mums and their 100+ children. Eulalia, our Peruvian helper, does a good job with action choruses and a memory verse. The group then splits up. Jean does a follow up to the devotional and an educational talk, while short term Meeka and some mothers do painting with the children. Bill meantime visits Saturnino, the paralysed man who lives up the hill nearby. While everyone is getting ready for lunch a mum, who is thinking of leaving her alcoholic husband, asks Jean for

advice and Bill talks to the 16 year old mum whose roof is collapsing. Another mum pays off a small loan we gave her, whilst another comes to thank us for helping her with medical needs. After an enjoyable lunch a rota of mums wash up. Meeka organises their children with construction toys, Bill chats to another mum who wants some help, while Jean deals with a mum who wants to enrol in the project. Once everyone has gone we get together with the committee of four to sort out any outstanding matters. Finally we review Benedicta's supervision of the current toilet project and make our way home – another bumpy journey, this time on two buses which take over an hour.





Wednesday - Huaycan Homework/feeding programme with a hundred 5-12 year olds.

First early this morning Patty comes to our house to report on her work – getting blood donors for Saturnino and Victorina, both of whom need operations, sorting out Marina who is on permanent kidney dialysis, deciding what to do about Olga who has a thyroid problem etc. Then it is off to Huaycan. Today we are to show slides of parasite infections instead of the usual Christian devotional. First we have lunch and then a brief meeting of all the ten or so workers while the children play outside. After the slides we split into groups to do homework.

Before we leave the husband of one helper comes to ask advice about his wedding, another explains why she hasn't brought a receipt yet and a mum comes in to show us her new baby. The journey home is over an hour, but thankfully on smoother roads.

Thursday - SIM prayer meeting, shopping and banking. Every week we all meet for the morning to pray together. Bill, as Lima Team coordinator has a number of responsibilities including the rotas. Then Jean goes to shop and Bill to sort out the many money things involved in running 3 projects and a home. This Thursday we are invited out for a meal; sometimes we invite someone or go to the cinema or have coffee with a few friends.

Friday - prayer followed by Bill to Huaycan, Jean preparation. We meet with Martin and Meeka to pray in detail for our work. They then go to Huaycan with Bill while Jean does preparation. In the evening we go to a small Bible study with friends outside SIM and once a month we help with an SIM evangelistic film night for Peruvian students learning English.

Saturday - Adolescents in Huaycan. We do correspondence and prepare for the evening before setting off at 4.30 for a 5.30 start. Teenagers and helpers arrive and activities begin - crafts, learning the guitar, embroidery and playing games. At 6.30 we go downstairs into the church for the devotional. This week, after singing, we talk about obeying parents and do a small sketch, after which we split into age groups to study the Bible. Then there is a sandwich and hot drink. Since over 60 have turned up we are busy ensuring everyone gets their share. Miriam calls out the names of those who have to wash or sweep up and two of the helpers supervise that it is done. A few children come to ask for a daily devotional they are doing and we distribute the following week's lesson to the helpers, and then set off home on the hour long journey – tired, but satisfied!



Sunday - church/day off. At present we attend an English speaking church, after which Bill plays football or we lunch with friends. This week we come straight home as we have friends for tea.

Thank you so much for your prayers. We are always pleased to hear from you too. May the Lord bless and encourage you also as you serve the Lord.

With our love, *Bill & Jean.*

If you have email but only receive our letter by post:- DO let us know if you would prefer it via email.

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