



January & February should have been quiet as it is summer here, but we have been extremely busy. We celebrated with Sarvia, our 2nd student to qualify as a teacher with help from the Training Project, whilst Luzmila qualified as a nurse. Then we had a 4 day break followed by a great SIM missionaries' conference. Next came a medical campaign, a goodbye to Meeka, a major computer problem, spring cleaning, dentist visits, a wedding, visitors, health problems, and restarting the projects – no wonder we have been busy!

The wedding: - Beni, our committee member in La Campiña has matured as a Christian, so she wanted to officially marry her partner of 12 years. We agreed to be a witness. Sixty two couples were to get married - the cheapest way to do it in Peru. Beni was no.17. At 7.30 pm all the couples entered an enclosure in the park, while all the guests stood outside. When it was Beni's turn Bill was allowed in to sign and then we all trooped off to Beni's house in the shanty town some miles away for the festivities. To our embarrassment we and the other witness were seated at a table covered in a white cloth, whilst everyone else sat round on benches in their barn-like

house. A whole chicken and huge mutton joint on a big plate were placed before us. The other witness received the same. No one else appeared to have anything. At last everyone did receive a meal and a drink which we enjoyed whilst wafting off a multitude of flies. (Someone finally brought a tea towel to cover the chicken, which we were pleased to hear we were expected to take home!) There is no transport in the shanty town at midnight, so our faithful taxi driver had waited. Finally we left the other guests to their festivities and on arriving home donated the chicken to the taxi driver, with strict instructions to heat it up well before eating!



Training Project visitors: - **Miguel**, (abandoned by his family, studying accountancy & living with an uncle), came to say he could no longer stay there as they wanted the room. He had gone to live with his sister, who has a small child. (She has 2 other children, one living with her mother and one with another man!) Then his 14 year old brother turned up from the distant town where mum is living with someone else. (His own father is in prison.) 'He is hitting me too much,' says **Wilfredo** about his stepfather, 'so I want to live with you.' Miguel, who works all weekend to provide for himself wonders how he is going to manage. He decided to visit his mother, whom he has not seen since she left him. We await news. Meanwhile **Rosana** called, (also abandoned by her parents & studying linguistics). She has just been told she cannot continue to live with her aunt. What should she do? **Rider**, studying to become a chef, arrived to say he failed a part of the course, so needs to repeat it, and **Eli**. came wanting to know if she could change courses. These are a few of the 20 young people being helped. Each needs guidance, prayer and finance. We are pleased that **Dámaris**, the Mission secretary, has agreed to assist us as she has experience in the area of training and is very capable.

Health problems and more: - After the SIM conference several of us, including Jean, developed health problems, which took a while to sort out. Meanwhile **Patty**, our assistant social worker, has been doing a great job. Flora and Olga had their operations, Maira finally got the papers through, so she can receive free medical help and Victorina got her first tooth extractions done. Patty wondered if we could pay for treatment for a mum living on her own with 4 children, one of whom has severe disabilities. She also wanted to buy them another bed, since they only had one. She helped someone with cancer who could not afford the treatment. Then she met Isobel, a mum who still owes us part of a small loan we had given her. Patty got part of the payment, at the same time giving suggestions as to how the family could improve their finances. Then we referred **Milton**, a 20 year old man, to her. Jean met him selling sweets near our house. He looked so forlorn she felt impelled to speak to him. He is totally blind and had come from the Highlands to see if he could get treatment. He went blind when he was 8, but had never received proper attention. We are not too hopeful, but tests are being done.



Patty in fun vogue wearing a wig

In February we met with Patty and Sarah (our nurse short term) to pray and plan medical talks at La Campiña on Tuesdays, following up on Friday afternoons. Patty has a great gift of combining help and evangelism, so we are excited to see how this will develop. About 6 of our La Campiña mums are now attending the small church and there are also over 30 adolescents in a group Patty is running on Sat. evenings with the help of someone from the church.

Restarting the feeding/educational projects:- 'The kitchen door is broken as well as the water tank cover.' 'The lock on the furniture store won't open.' 'We need to renew the plastic covering on the patio.' These were just some of the comments as we started our committee meeting in La Campiña after the summer break. The small church where we are

based doesn't worry about such things, but for the feeding/education project to restart they all need to be fixed. In Huaycan it was kitchen beams full of woodworm that needed replacing so that the food can be hygienically prepared. Martin Wieland, the Swiss missionary who has come to help us, is taking over that part of the project. Meanwhile our Adolescent group has continued informally, run by the young people, but now we need have a meeting to plan the new programme. Clare will help after she returns from Arequipa where she has been working in the camps.

Administration:- With so much going on and more people involved (**Martin and Susana, the short termers, Patty, Dámaris, the committees, the trainees** etc.), we spend more time on consultation, administration, prayer and correspondence with supporters. Jean does as much as she can while Bill does all the finances and photo work. Our team here in Lima is also growing, (now 9 couples + children and 8 singles), so Bill, as Lima coordinator, is kept busy. He now also has an assistant in Mae, an American missionary. There are the weekly SIM meetings to arrange plus trips to the airport, property matters, health care and much more.



Some of our trainees, short termers & helpers.

Here is a brief resume of what we do and when which may help:-

Helping Lima's Children Feeding/Educational project:- Huaycan Wed. & Fri. 100+ 5-12 year olds. (Martin & Susana now run this part. Bill and the short termers attend.) We run the Adolescent meetings on Sat, with 50+ attending, and give help each month on Mondays for the parents' meeting.

Reaching Lima's Families Feeding/Educational project:- La Campiña Tues. & Thurs. for 45+ mums & their 0-5 year olds, plus siblings up to 9 years & orphans up to 12 years. (Friday evening talks by Sarah & Patty).

Training Lima's Young People project now helping 20 youngsters, meets once a month on a Sunday.

Medical & Social Help from our Personal Fund for those with special needs in our projects. We pay Patty a small allowance from each project which we may supplement from our Ministry Fund. We meet Patty regularly to consult and pray.

Friday nights once a month we help with Movie night, when Peruvians practice English and hear the gospel.

Your fellowship in this work is vital and we really appreciate it. These last months have been difficult, but we rejoice that God IS working. We rest in the knowledge that, 'His divine power has given all we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of Him who called us...' 2 Peter 1:3. Please remember us in prayer when you can. We are also very pleased to receive your news and prayer needs. May God bless and encourage us all as we serve Him.

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