



Holding Hands & Reaching Hearts God's Work in Lima, Peru

Prayer Letter Update of Becca Bennett

March 2007

So Where are we in the Health Promoter Ministry?

After a year and a half in Peru, I still have constant reminders that things don't always happen as fast as they might in the states, or as fast as I would like them to. The health promoter training has been slightly postponed for a few good reasons that we believe are from the Lord's hand. The primary reason is that in order for the church to back up this ministry and have true ownership, it first needs to be backed up by the session at the mother church in Huaycan. We have the support of the pastor, but as I am doing a lot of the training, we wanted it to be further backed up by the pastor *and* the session members, in order for it to be really seen as the church's health ministry, not Becca's. Due to Mark Berry and my being out of town, and a lot of items on the docket for the session, it looks like I will be presenting the ministry to the elders in Huaycan in the next week or so. There has also been a delay of some of the training materials due to problems with my computer. God willing I should be finishing the biggest part of the training materials preparation within the next few weeks.

Pray with me for: the meeting with the elders, for the ministry to be supported and owned for their church and other church plants; for God to raise up health promoters from each church plant; for completing the materials; for the healing of my much needed computer or a reasonable fix.

What is the Health Promoter Ministry Looking Like?

What our hope is in establishing this diaconal ministry is to train lay-workers to be health promoters within the church plants. These promoters will eventually be able to train others as well. They will assist in teaching health "charlas" or chats each month (like I have been doing), they will visit families in the church teaching them of much needed health practices, as well as visiting the sick or bed-ridden in the churches. They will be trained in first aid, taking vital signs, basic examinations, weighing and measuring children, special care of the sick, nutrition, and a lot more. Most importantly, is that we would like them to take the Evangelism Explosion course, so that in their home visits, and in their daily lives, they will be able to use this helpful tool in sharing their faith. They will be sharing a spiritual application with each health lesson they teach as well. The idea is that this ministry is more "wholistic", addressing the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of each person, community, and church.



VBS Health "Charlas"

January was full of vacation bible schools in 3 of our church plants. They all had the same theme, going through the story of Peter. It was a fun week, full of the normal VBS stuff: songs, bible stories, crafts, and games. A side part was some health talks on toothcare and basic hygiene. It was fun for me, and I could feel some of my camp counselor days come back. The kids chanted with me about how to brush their teeth, and they really got excited about it! I also acted out in a skit (below) of being really dirty, and I "learned" why that is not a healthy thing to do, and that I should use soap and shampoo to be clean.

None of the kids wanted to hug me!! I don't know why!!!!



Elizabeth

In mid-January, a dear sister-in-Christ from the Huaycan church was hit by an oil truck, breaking her left leg in several places. I visited her the day she arrived home from the hospital. The whole story is sad but encouraging. Sad because last year her husband left her with their 5 kids, she had recently gotten a more steady job, sadder because her husband came back around, only to leave her once again, but this time leaving her pregnant. Then she was hit by the truck. I have visited her several times since then, giving her different exercises to do, teaching her how to do her own wound care (she now has an external fixation device in place), and praying with her. The encouraging part of the story is hearing her faith in each visit. She is so firm in her faith, and has mentioned on each occasion that her time with the Lord has been so sweet. (Her bible is either in her bed with her, or on a table nearby). It is encouraging as well to see how the church is coming up around her during this time. Most of her children are in the diaconal project at the church receiving meals and help there, and many people are bringing her and her family food.

Please pray for Elizabeth: for her healing, for her children, her pregnancy, and continued spiritual growth.

(For the fuller story of Elizabeth go to my blogsite)

Other Prayer Requests and Praises

- *The arrival of Jeremy and Amanda Ross to Lima, prayer for their development of a street child ministry*
- *The arrival of Michael and Laura Salvatierra to Peru, prayer for their time in language school in Arequipa.*
- *We currently do not have a location for the Sunday school in Salamanca and are meeting with the kids in a public park. Please pray with us for a location to open up.*
- *Pray for the discipleship bible study at Kike and Martha's place on Thursday evenings. There is an average of 15 people each week. There are some new believers in the group too.*
- *Discipleship with Romina and Gianella Matamoros, as well as with Raquel Mauro.*
- *For the spiritual revitalization in our church plants.*
- *For the salvation of Hernan Matamoros.*
- *For Lea, Irene, Isabel, Jackie, and Melissa- some of the women interested in being health promoters.*
- *For my health, as I have separately battled both E.Coli and a stomach virus in the past 4 weeks.*

Thank you for your prayers and support for God's work here in Lima. It is hard to believe how much God has done and I couldn't be here without you! I have noticed a slight drop in my support in these few months, if you are unable to continue support for my last 11 months, please let me know. I truly appreciate all you have done for me! May our Lord bless you greatly!



Becca Bennett

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