

Dear Sponsoring Congregations, Friends and Family,

January 18, 2012

Greetings from Peru! I am so excited to tell you that our congregation “Cristo Rey” has a new address.... or at least a new “punto de referencia”. If someone in Lima asks us where our church is, and how to get there... we can now say, “Two blocks from the ‘Jorge Chavez’ station of the new electric train!” Yes! The train is up and running, and it makes a stop right near our little lutheran church. This is truly wonderful. Journeys around the city that normally take one or two hours on crowded city buses in heavy traffic now take about half the time. It is so good, especially for the people (vast majority of Lima residents) who live in the densely populated outlying districts of the city. For this first month that the train is open (after some 20 years of stop-and-go construction) – it is free to the public! They won’t start charging for tickets until mid-February, so that the people of Lima can freely become comfortable with it, get to know how it works, test out its routes... This should help the traffic in Lima considerably. And for the millions of folks who work 10 or 12 hour shifts, cutting a couple hours of transportation time means a little more time at home with their families.

We are going on an adventure to Huancayo! This weekend my family and a handful of our brothers and sisters from church will drive a full day through the Andes mountains to get to a small lutheran church called “Ciudad Refugio”. (City of Refuge). It is the only church of the ILEP that I have not yet visited! The people of Cristo Rey here in Lima have a tradition of sending clothes to their “hermanos y hermanas” (brothers and sisters) in Huancayo for Christmas each year. This is the first year that the missionary Pastor Fredrico (of Hermansburg Germany -OMEL) is not here to drive through the sierra to deliver the clothes with his truck. So Tom my husband offered to go! We are making a family/congregational adventure out of it. We will drive through the 16,000 foot overpass, (which we haven’t done since 2008), and will stop to drink coca-leaf tea to help our bodies adjust to the altitude. The kids drink it with sugar. The deeper question is... how to make projects and exchanges like these more sustainable, and not rely on foreign missionary vehicles and money for gas. I



Clothes Cristo Rey collected for Huancayo – with lay leader (and seminarian) Roberto and our daughter Tana

Alto a La Violencia - Stop the Violence workshop



am very excited to get to Huancayo and see my brother Hector, who was an intern in Cristo Rey for a year... and will soon be called and ordained to serve in the Peruvian church. When we arrive this Sunday evening Hector and I will lead a joint service together.

Domestic Violence is a serious issue all over the world as we know. Peru, where there is a lot of machismo, is no exception. I am thrilled to have found an excellent program to prevent and stop domestic violence in Peru. It is called “Alto a la Violencia” (Stop the Violence). In

ILEP we have hosted so far three of these trainings. The photo below is a small group that gathered in Cristo Rey for a workshop. The tall woman in the center of the photo (next to me) survived an incident of her boyfriend pouring a huge pan of boiling water over her face and body when she was sleeping. Now that she has recovered and healed, she is speaking out, teaching others in Lima what to do if they are in violent relationships, how to get help, how to be safe, how to seek justice and protection, and know their rights as human beings. In St. Paul, Minnesota, before I went to seminary I worked for a time as an advocate in the Latina organization "Casa de Esperanza" in their domestic violence shelter. I am passionate about ending domestic violence in the world and grateful that God has called me here to Peru to continue this struggle in a small way. God bless the people of the "Alto a la Violencia" project

Seminary faculty at the Universidad Biblica Latinoamericana

as they carry on their important work! They do such good and effective trainings that there is talk of replicating the

project in other South American countries.



I finished my first semester at the UBL seminary (Universidad Biblica Latinoamericana). I really enjoyed teaching "preaching." Now in Cristo Rey I am having more students preach (two Sundays each month) so I can continue to mentor them, so that the ILEP will have more and more trained Peruvian leaders, teachers, preachers, pastors, missionaries. This new year 2012 I am focusing

more on strengthening local leadership, and eventually hopefully "working myself out of a job." There are several congregations right now which do not have pastors. So we run around a bit filling in so that the gathered communities can have Holy Communion once a month or so. (See the photo of the one-story light-blue painted church "Cristo Salvador" (Christ the Savior). I had seminary students lead worship and preach at Cristo Rey one Sunday and I went to this church to fill in, and we will do this until they get a pastor.

Cristo Salvador congregation, Lima



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Have a wonderful new year! Que Dios les bendiga mucho. Thank you for your prayers and support.

Paz,
Pastora Dana