

WHAT'S NEW *In* Peru

WORLD WIDE NEW TESTAMENT BAPTIST MISSIONS

Worthy of Praise



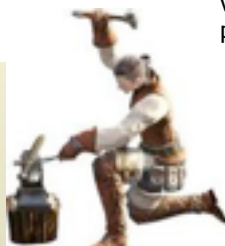
Kris & Rose Marie Blumer

God alone is worthy of the praise we give Him. Not only now (Heb.13:15), but for the eternal praise of His glory. (Ps. 52:9)



Nationwide the reports are not all in, the devastation is not fully realized.

Isaiah 43:2
**When thou
passest**



I would like for you to read Titus 3:1-8.

I would print it here but my space is limited. As the recent events unfolded, beginning March 17, no one was prepared for what was about to transpire. In the evening of March 16th, we noticed that our laundry room was accumulating water, an odd thing since we live in a desert. Reports from families and friends became concerting as the normal flow of traffic from the extended areas surrounding Lima began to ebb and then cease. By nightfall, communication to the affected areas failed and the advancement of the rainfall waters filled the riverbanks and began bursting over. I phoned the director of the public school I assist in Espiritu Santo to inquire what help the village needs might be. She replied that the students would need school supplies and basic needs of anyone going to school. It struck me odd that she did not ask for any relief or donations of food or water. Later, I learned that she was in Lima and was not aware at the time of my phone call that disaster had struck. Power and phones also were cut. There was no way she could have known. The day following (Friday, March 19), I began driving to Antioquia laden with basic supplies I had at home. I was stopped 30 minutes into the trip at the first town of Cieneguilla. The river Lurin passes through the township, and roads were flooded making most vehicles incapable of going further. I crept up to an officer who was posted at the barricade. After explaining that I was bringing supplies and that my vehicle was a 4x4, he hesitantly allowed me to pass. I was able to drive only for another 45 minutes through to the next village of Chantay until the roads were completely wiped out. I would need to come back. Chantay had lost several homes along the bank and had set-up a community kitchen and shelters. I delivered my goods to a swarm of outstretched arms which received not only water, but a personal copy of the Living Word of God.

through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow



As I write, one distant cry of gladness returns ringing in my memory as I see a child waving the Bible in the air, "Mamma, Mamma, mi Biblia, es mi Biblia!"

The following day I scoured the area for additional supplies and began contacting other missionaries to inquire where I could get tents and more water. Donations had not begun to come in from the churches in the US. Every resource was activated and exhausted our reserves. People were in a state of shock as photos and video clips began to pour in. No one dreamed of the vast scope of the flooding. Before the weekend was over, every school in Peru was closed for an undetermined amount of time. We at LMCS had begun classes just two weeks earlier, now everything was postponed and we began repairing our lesson plans, adjusting syllabi and the schedules the best we could. God spared each and every missionary we know from a direct hit. Using the downtime we all had at our disposal, we all knew spiritual hope would be linked to the physical needs of the thousands of people affected. In His wisdom and grace, the Lord freed-up seven days for us to minister love and compassion, which opened doors that had not been tapped until now. Thank God, the roads into their lives had already been established long before the roads to their villages were destroyed.



My weekly focus is to travel into the rural areas. Initially, we needed to build trust to minister. The people were by now accustomed to seeing us come; this is why we are gratefully being received because they know we did everything we could for them by being there during a difficult time.

After the first five days, relief efforts slowly reaching the remote areas were unaware that hoarding was beginning to take place. Even while donations of food, water and clothing were being unloaded, I witnessed villagers dragging cartloads away, only to come back to the plaza and wait for the next relief wagons to bring in another shipment. It grieved me that so many donation centers, which were set-up in all of the un-affected areas, were unknowingly enabling unethical practices. It manifested a problem planted in the recesses of the sinful nature of man. Only Christ Jesus can break the chain of selfish bondage they were instinctively producing. (Other than purchasing Bibles, we are not asking for financial donations at this time. If you have already, or plan to give to other ministries, please understand that I am not speaking for them. Now that I have visited the villages, especially in the area I am familiar with, and seen the real needs for myself, I am turning my attention to clean-up and organization. (It does not take a lot of money to do that.)

Our water was shut off for five days, and we were put on a rotation schedule. Any food delivery that was interrupted by damaged roads is at this time being cleared; prices were skyrocketing. For fear of mob-rushes and uncontrolled distribution, certain zones in Lima went under Marshal Law. Local churches and charities were not allowed in to some affected areas without law enforcement backup.

The first Friday after the flood, we had to turn back because the roads were blocked by heavy equipment making them impassable. Each day they got a little further clearing a little more. We assembled relief packages Sunday morning during Sunday School that included a New Testament and a gospel tract. Upon arriving in the villages and setting up, we seized the moment by first offering a prayer for them, and then preaching a salvation message. Our team included Willie Quincho Ruiz, his son Gonzalo, and Mrs. Conde de Gomez.



As we traveled, the road abruptly ended because it washed away, so we continued on foot. The friends and families I have been contacting were looking for me to return and help during their crisis. Thankfully, vans and busses which were trapped on the other side were still making runs where the road was usable; (which shortened the distance and the amount of carrying we had to do.) Because delivery trucks still could not get through, a helicopter began dropping food, starting with the closest villages and moving deeper into the Andes Mountains. Communities had been isolated because roads, phones, and power had been out for a complete week.



We have experienced God's faithfulness in many situations. We were spared the effects because we are living in an area that is not near a waterway. I have liberty to go out and give aid to those trapped and afraid. One special praise: After a long difficult day maneuvering through adverse conditions all day, I returned home to rest about 7 pm. By 10 pm, I had my house in order, and I was ready to go to bed. Unexpectedly, I received a text from Marc Rocca (someone I have mentioned and been praying for, for 4 years) He and I talked until 2 am. He gave his heart and life to Christ! He confessed his sins and tenderly asked God for forgiveness!



No way did I expect that. He had been turning God away for so long. The following days gave him opportunity to share his new-found faith. While he and I shoveled sand, we talked about the peace and protection God gave to him. I have so much Scripture I want to share with him. Near the end of the day, I explained that we would sit the family down and share the gospel with them. Marc wanted to read the Bible verses I was going to preach from. Since that day, he has been expressing his desire to go into full-time ministry as a pastor. He is asking me what steps he needs to take to be prepared. God is great and His mercies past finding out!

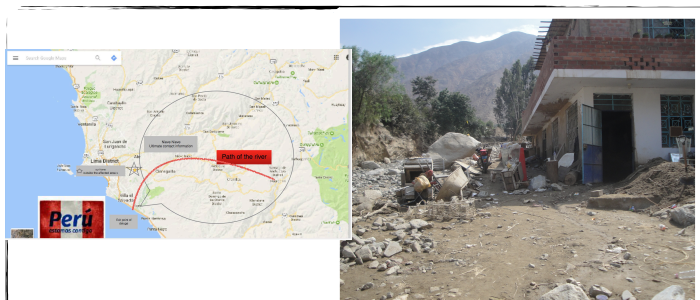
The first week of April, I had secured most of the five villages and saw that things were looking good! Those that had lost their homes had moved in with family or are renting something in town. I had to tell the people I would not be able to return for a few weeks because I had to go be a guest speaker at a Christian school retreat.



April 12th I surveyed a flood-hit area called Chosica with Pastor Sanchez, whom I had not met prior to this trip but had references through another Baptist pastor in a different village. Saturday on the 22nd, I took 13 of my Bible students with me. Some of the parents did not let their children go due to safety concerns, although I was not going to take them to any of the buildings that had been condemned or were unsafe. The team worked from inside the church and tried to pass-out donations in an orderly fashion, first to church members and their immediate families, then we took what we had remaining to a tent-city on the outskirts of town. After dispensing all that had been unloaded, three families came from the other side of the tent city. They were not part of the community and begged for anything, just anything! I tried to make them



understand that it was difficult for us to prepare enough for the families in the church and that this was the leftovers from another location. One of the chaperoning teachers stepped off the bus holding several boxes. Between the rows of the bus seats, they gathered enough supplies to give to these families who thought they had been turned away! How can I express the joy realized at the end of that trip, unless I remind you of Matthew 14:16. God has used this tragedy to show His love! Chosica is still without water, and homes that were displaced are still living in tents set up by the government. I need to return with more pillows and water. We passed out Bibles and tracts and were able to conduct four meetings. We saw decisions made and have passed them on to Pastor Sanchez for discipleship. Praise God!



In May, another group of volunteers went up with me into Antioquia to finish clearing out the Garmara home. This home was protected during the second onslaught of rainwater by a huge boulder that diverted the rushing water away from the house. This family was spared, but several others in the village lost everything they owned. There is a team coming in a few weeks. I am using them to help erect two or three dwellings in Nieve Nieve which is in the district of Antioquia. We also have a young man from Greenville, SC coming in Sunday night (6/11). He will be living with us for the next three weeks helping me in LMCS, the church-plant in Jesús María and of course, the work in Antioquia.

Please pray as I return each week to the heart of the flooding in Peru. Antioquia has been my goal and passion for several years. Perhaps God will use this crisis to bring others to Him who were hard and resistant. They are vulnerable, afraid, and losing hope. May God's grace be sufficient and may it start with His grace to pardon all those who ask for forgiveness. Pray that we have safe travels. Pray for the students and teachers trying to catch-up. It has taken a full semester for me to recoup the classes I missed teaching. El Nino is expected to return in August with greater temperature variations. This time we will stock-up and be better prepared.

We desperately need God's wisdom and protection. The roads are still in disrepair. Pray earnestly for an organized delivery of the living quarters to Nieve Nieve on June 22.

PRAY FOR:

- Discipleship: Marc Roca
- LMCS class adjustments
- Mission teams visiting
- Iglesia Gracia Bautista
- Safety going to and from Antioquia
- The Word of God planted
- Salvation needs: Luis, Santiago, Sonja's husband

