

September '22

GOING WITH THE GOSHORNS

MISSIONARY FAMILY SERVING IN PERU



A TRIP TO LIMA

While we have done many things this month, one very important task we completed was our first trip to Lima for our visas. We made a trip to the Interpol office and submitted the rest of our documents to our lawyer. Thankfully, the entire trip went as smoothly as possible. Now we wait to hear from the immigrations office for our next appointment. According to our lawyer we should only have two more trips to make to Lima before the process is complete. Please pray that our documents are accepted without issue and that things move as quickly as possible. There are several things we will need our visas for that will make life a little easier here- such as opening a bank account, buying a car, obtaining a drivers license, etc.

MINISTRY UPDATE

We thought we would update you all on the individuals we have mentioned in previous posts. We have continued meeting with our regular Sunday crowd. We have a pretty consistent crowd of 12, sometimes more, sometimes less. There are a few Peruvians in our group, but the majority are Venezuelan. Edi and Bryan each come to our house every week for individual Bible study addition to our group studies, and we have several more couples who are asking to come to our home on a regular basis as well. Please pray for these folks that they will continue to hunger for the Word of God and will become obedient to it.



DIASPORA PEOPLES

Considering the large group of Venezuelans we have been getting to know, we thought it would be pertinent to provide some context to the situation many of the Venezuelans face.

Not long ago, Venezuela was considered a very successful state with a prosperous economy and high standard of living. After the death of their long-time president, Hugo Chavez, conditions quickly deteriorated and tens of thousands of citizens fled the country due to lack of basic necessities (food, medicine, etc.) and widespread violence perpetrated by the State.

Peru has granted refugee status to thousands of Venezuelans, and we have gotten to know many of their stories. Many of these diaspora people were formerly very successful in their respective careers, and almost overnight they were forced to flee their homes with whatever they could carry on their backs. They left on foot or hiding in the backs of trucks, many of them with young children in tow. We have heard stories of many whose elderly parents begged them to leave them behind in Venezuela so that their children and grandchildren would have a chance to survive elsewhere. Several have told us they walked for weeks at a time to get to Columbia and other Central and South American countries searching for a place where they could find work, food, and shelter. Almost all of the Venezuelans we have met have already tried to survive in 2-3 other countries before Peru, continuously searching for something better. (Cont'd on page 3)

These Venezuelan families here in Huancayo consistently have difficulty finding work with employers that will pay them. If they are able to find a job and get paid consistently, it is typically less than \$0.50 per hour working 12+ hours per day, 6-7 days per week. This can hardly be considered a viable work situation, and many end up on the streets trying to sell candy or anything else to get by.

This is the plight of tens of thousands of Venezuelans. I can't help but think about the tens of thousands of Afghan and Ukrainian refugees, and the countless more from other war zones and places of disaster around the world. Audrey and I try to help where possible, but the humanitarian task is simply untenable. Jesus said the poor would always be with us (Mt. 26:11), but despite this we are still called to practice mercy on those in need by feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, caring for the foreigner, and visiting the sick and imprisoned (Mt. 25:31-46). As followers of Jesus, we are all called to this task of helping those in need because that is Biblical faith (James 2:14-20).

Although this task of helping the poor seems impossible, we have hope. We have a hope that goes beyond anything physical. I can't help but think about how hopeless humanity would seem if we were only focused on the temporal. If we were simply humanitarian aid workers trying to provide food and shelter to all who might need it I think we would end up going insane at the impossibility of the task. However, we have the Gospel. We have that which goes far beyond anything physical and provides hope that will last much longer than this world. That is our primary task here in Huancayo, Peru. We will help with food, clothing, housing, and medicine whenever we can, but far beyond that we are here to preach the eternal message of the hope of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all who will listen. This diaspora people of Venezuela are in dire need of the hope only Jesus can provide, and we pray God will open more doors to present that message to all.



HOW TO CONTACT US:



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CURRENT NEEDS AND PRAYER REQUESTS:



- Continued prayers for health and safety
- Pray that our visa process goes smoothly
- Pray for the hearts of the people here that they be open to the Gospel
- Pray for the numerous individuals meeting with us for Bible study, that the Gospel may transform their hearts
- Prayers for family and friends we have left behind
- Prayers for our children as they continue to go through transition
- Prayers for continued language learning
- Prayers for continued financial support

HOW TO PARTNER WITH US

Prayer

Scripture teaches that God hears the words of His children. Just as Paul coveted the prayers of the early Christians, we too covet the prayers of the believers. As a missionary family living outside the United States, we deeply covet your prayers on our behalf. Please pray for our health and safety, for wisdom and endurance, and that doors may be opened to share the Gospel with the lost.

Visit Us

This work is certainly a rewarding work, but that does not mean it is without its struggles. Leaving our family, friends, and lives in the United States brings its share of difficulties. Having visitors from the States come and experience our daily life with us is both encouraging and rejuvenating. Having teams or individuals come to work alongside us can be a great help to all involved.

Give Financially

Cross-cultural ministry is a partnership, and without financial partners this work cannot happen. Paul had partners in the first century who supported him so the Gospel could be taken to the lost. Likewise, we seek to take the Gospel to the lost and we cannot accomplish this mission without monthly financial support. The Flatwoods church of Christ is our overseeing eldership, and all funds may be mailed directly to the church and made out to "**Flatwoods church of Christ**" with "**Goshorn Mission**" on the memo line. If you would prefer to do direct electronic account transfers, please contact us by phone or email and we can provide that information.

**CHECKS MAY BE MAILED TO
2100 ARGILLITE ROAD
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