



*Merry
Christmas!*

Merry Christmas and summer time greetings from Peru!

It still seems strange for us to eat mango and watermelon near Christmas time, but such is the custom here.

It is rare for families to have Christmas trees, many decorations, and lots of gifts, but most do gather with their loved ones for a late night meal. We try to continue practicing our family's own traditions pretty much like back home, but thankfully without the strong influence of materialism attached to the celebrations.

We had a real nice Thanksgiving day with two other young families of missionaries who braved a long and difficult trip over the continental divide of South America at elevations over 16,000 feet. The Christians here admire the concept of having a special day each year to give thanks to God.

As God continues to bless the work here, we always remember the generosity of many, who send and support us so that we may continue serving Him. Thank you!

Thankfully, having the privilege of suffering for His glory in such a needy place is how we are called to worship Him. Here, most live in adobe huts with dirt floors, and often without water or electricity. The majority of their time and strength is directed to just surviving through subsistence farming. But, there is also a spiritual darkness which continues to blind so many who's only eternal hope is new life in Jesus Christ. Just like everywhere, precious people's souls are destined to eternal hell—unless God's forgiveness through Jesus Christ's death on the cross is given to them by grace and through faith in Him.

As God uses us to bring light to the darkness, we see how He confronts ancient mysticism ingrained in the culture. Many find it difficult to repent of these customs and false beliefs and must suffer persecution from friends and family. Satanic witch doctors or "curanderos" are often consulted when a loved one is sick. One of the "fruits" of these sins is a deep confusion of what actually causes sickness, disease, emotional, and relationship problems. Even though convinced that sin and spiritual power have their effects, their animistic perspectives leave them deceived and hopeless after they spend precious few resources on mystic cures. Please pray with us, for the Lord of Lords to set many more families free from spiritual blindness so that they too may know the Truth.

For His Glory,

Brad, Gina, Cassandra, Janelle Shaw