

Marcés Mailing

May 2010



Marco's graduation from Seminary

Oasis – receiving school materials



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Letter sent by: Mrs P Everness (Penny's Mum), 339 Green Lane,
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Dear Friends



“Blossom where you are planted”

Spring may lead to thoughts of flowers. Here it is changing summer-winter but we have been learning a lot from our garden! What does this have to do with ministry here? - getting out weeds which have a bulb relatively deep down has reminded us of how hard it is to get rid of some of the sins in our lives; the continual need to water and weed reminds us of God’s patience and perseverance with us....

We left Peru just before Christmas having been told a week before we travelled that we would definitely NOT be returning to Jesus El Salvador. On our return we would work in the Cathedral Church of the Good Shepherd where we understood that Juan Carlos would be an assistant in the (tiny) Spanish-speaking congregation. For some this is not news – but rereading the letter written at the beginning of Dec, I realise some of you had no idea of this; apologies. Returning to Peru we discovered that the English-speaking congregation was ALSO expecting us – news to you and also to us! Easier for Penny than JC to ***blossom*** here – but having got used to the idea we see that God may use this to help unite the two congregations. Both congregations are tiny but both have people who want to grow. A mid-week Bible study and an adult Sunday School in English began during Lent; as a result there is now a (small) group near where we live; the attendance of a Peruvian whose English is not fluent means that we now hold it in Spanish. John, Dean in charge of the Good Shepherd, is away until mid July; things may change when he gets back



Meanwhile in the Spanish speaking congregation Daniel, Jorge and Juan Carlos are learning to work as a team. On Friday evenings there is a music practice (fun!) followed by a brief Bible study on the passages for the following Sunday.

Please pray for us working out how to divide the time between the two groups. Since the Spanish service begins very shortly after the English service finishes, we don’t have the opportunity to talk to the English speakers over coffee; not helpful when trying to get to know them.

We have left Jesus El Salvador but have been back – to say hello, and for other reasons eg the death of one of the members. Please continue to pray for them; pray for Marco Gomez (the lay minister in charge) – he finds the responsibility a great challenge- may he *blossom* .

As for activities which have NOT changed, we continue to go to San Andrés en Oasis and were encouraged to find that the Saturday children´s meetings have remained stable. However, we still all only go once a week which is too little; pray for wisdom in when else to go.



Juan Carlos continues with responsibilities in Alpha and is looking into the possibility of beginning an Alpha course in the women´s prison. The first group will be from the mothers in the prison whose (under 3s) children are also in the prison (in a different part)

Penny continues in AMA. She spent several weeks, firstly with Susan and then alone, sorting out the accounts. What rejoicing on finishing the accounts for 2008! Activities planned for 2010 include celebrating Mothers´Day (9th May here) on 15th May; the main activity is a retreat from 8th – 10th Oct for which the ladies need to start paying in money now.... In the Cathedral we will start a joint monthly AMA group with a film or presentation and discussion; may we all learn to *blossom*.

As for the family, Rebeca and Lizi survived a month without parents. Lizi works very hard for her International Baccalaureate (exams in Nov); Jonny has a less obvious perfectionist streak and therefore doesn´t find it necessary to stay up all night to finish a piece of work. Becky can´t decide which speciality to study and is having this semester off; she works in a bookshop earning about £1 an hour. Hopefully by the time next semester starts she will have decided!

The house extension is a blessing. We have had a stream of visitors – for Synod, Seminary graduation, and friends – and it has been great for them to have some independence, and for the family to still have their privacy. In Lima, transport projects continue. The electric train tracks are being laid very quickly; needless to say our local council has decided to resurface the road designed to be the diversion route.... Chaos!



Praise

- Penny celebrating 25 years in Peru
- JC & Penny celebrating 20th wedding anniversary in May
- Marco, Vanessa, Rosa and María in Oasis
- house extension being put to good use
- Others wanting to see the Cathedral congregations grow

Please Pray...

Church

- working relationships between Daniel, Jorge and Juan Carlos
- Possibility of starting a Sun eve youth worship on Sun eves
- Thurs Bible study (Penny)
- work in Oasis – for more adults to show an interest
- time to visit Oasis more often
- adult Sunday school
- children´s work in the Cathedral
- Marco Gomez in Jesus El Salvador; David, Lizbeth
- The Lord´s Treasures in Jesús El Salvador; Martha, tutors & children
- Work with women (AMA) in Cathedral & Oasis

Other

- Becky deciding what to specialize in
- Lizi & Jonny at school
- Our neighbour Alfredo Calderón who has terminal cancer

Special dates

16 May-celebration for Penny´s 25 years in Peru, together with the installations of Daniel, Jorge and Juan Calros in the Cathedral

Thank you for your support. May the Lord help you also to “blossom where you are planted”

With our love and thanks, Juan Carlos, Penny, Rebeca, Lizi & Jonatan