



Last month we had the opportunity to visit the Mission to the World team working in Cusco, Peru. There were two purposes for this trip: 1) To learn about the work there and see what part of that work would be applicable to our ministry in Arequipa. 2) To participate in the newly formed field council that is providing leadership and accountability over all of Peru.

The Ministry in Cusco

The ministry in Cusco is made up of two parts; the church planting side and the medical and dental ministry side.



The Josephine House

Church Planting in Cusco

The church planting side of the ministry in Cusco has been underway for over 15 years and has planted several churches within the city of Cusco as well as many more in surrounding Quechua-speaking villages. It was exciting to see the churches underway in Cusco as well as to travel the narrow mountainous roads to the many Quechua villages surrounding Cusco. It was encouraging to see the fruits of the Cusco team's many years of ministry as we begin our own arduous task of beginning the Lord's work in Arequipa.

In addition to the church planting work, the team in Cusco started a ministry to children born into difficult situations such as alcohol and substance abuse, extreme poverty, or abandonment, called the Josephine House. We had a chance to tour the Josephine House and were encouraged to hold these troubled children, many with severe handicaps and disabilities, and see the hope in their eyes where there once was none.

Medical/Dental Mission in Cusco

The medical/dental ministry in Cusco has been underway for a number of years, but in recent years it has seen measured growth due to the arrival of five new medical/dental families. These five families hail from one church in the States and have been serving together in medical/dental campus ministry for a number of years. Their vision in Cusco is to work through the already existing clinic to reach medical and dental students in the local universities in order to reach the next generation of Cusqueños. Many of the healthcare professionals in Cusco get very little hands on training during their time in med school and the opportunities afforded them at the MTW clinic (La Fuente) are invaluable to their preparation. These internships through the clinic are accompanied by mandatory daily Bible studies and constant interaction with healthcare professionals who



Medical & Dental Clinic in Cusco



The Operation Room

pray with their patients and demonstrate strong biblical integrity in their practice. In addition to these internship requirements many of the students begin attending voluntary Bible studies in the homes of these five missionary families. The Lord has opened amazing doors into the universities in Cusco as well as into the lives of many future healthcare professionals in Cusco. Their team's desire would be to see this work duplicated by sending one MTW healthcare professional with one Peruvian healthcare professional to a nearby city in order to start the same work there. We began talks with them concerning this next stage taking place here in Arequipa. We are not only excited about the work the Lord has begun in Cusco, but also about its future expansion in to Arequipa, Lord willing.

The Field Council

MTW Latin America has recently implemented a redesign over all of Latin America. The fruit of that redesign was to provide structures for better accountability and connectedness between individual fields in the same region/country. This was the first meeting of the field council over Peru and we began the process of setting vision for how to provide better accountability and encouragement for our missionaries on the ground in all of Peru. Please pray for this process as we seek to provide the kind of oversight and encouragement that will allow our teams in Peru to flourish. Too many times on the field the enemy has used the stresses of cross-cultural ministry and life, team dynamics, and distance from what is familiar and comfortable to undermine the ministry. Our hope is that this council will provide the opportunity to support our missionaries on the field with the tools, resources, and relationships necessary to avoid these setbacks.



Luz de Vida - Eye Clinic

Pray for Simeon Gutierrez

The Gutierrez family is in the U.S. for the surgery of their 10 month old son Simeon. The surgery is a very delicate and intrusive surgery to correct the shape of Simeon's skull, and the process that is usually spread over a three-month span is being accommodated to fit their needs as missionaries living overseas. Praise the Lord for answered prayers and the generosity of the doctors at Seattle Children's in accommodating their needs.

Due to the delicate nature of this surgery, Simeon needs to be completely healthy. Unfortunately at this time he has a cold which could seriously complicate the date of surgery. May 2nd is his CT scan, and May 9th is the surgery which was scheduled months ago. Please pray for young Simeon and for Nathaniel and Alicia as they have some trying days ahead of them. Please pray that the whole family would be healthy and that Simeon would be able to have this surgery on the scheduled dates. Pray also for quick recovery and endurance for the family as the Gutierrezes other two children will need to stay with extended family during the week of recovery following the surgery.