

VISION TRIP TO AREQUIPA, PERU

The purpose of the trip was to verify the spiritual needs of the Quechua speakers in that state, especially in the Colca Canyon and equip Anglican Church leaders with DVD players and DVDs of the Luke and Genesis videos and Bibles in Quechua of Cusco. At the request of the Anglican Bishop of Peru, William Godfrey, two men from St. Margaret's church in Charlotte, NC, and I, arrived there on the 15th of May and were warmly received by the local, dynamic young priest, Juan Carlos.

This man not only is a pastor of the main Anglican Church in the city but also has nine mission stations outside the city, mainly among the thousands of Quechua speakers from Cusco, Puno and Juliaca. As we visited some of these mission stations and talked with the people, Juan Carlos was deeply impressed with what could be done with the video players and Bibles that we brought. He requested that we train some of his men to show the videos, evangelize and promote the use of the Quechua Scriptures.

The next day he drove us down the Colca Canyon for nine hours to Cabanaconde at the end of the road. Everyone we talked to was surprised to know that the Bible was translated into their language and requested copies, even the school teachers. In Cabanaconde we met with the Anglican priest, Alejandro Mesco, a native Quechua speaker. He was thrilled to see us and to receive the Bibles and video players. The next day he showed us the little mission station and retreat center he was constructing. People wanted us to come and tell them about the Bible and show the videos, even in the public schools. Later, looking out at the isolated villages scattered across the immense mountain sides, we prayed for all those people who have yet to hear.

That night, the mayor let us use his meeting hall to show the Jesus video. At six pm., Alejandro and Juan Carlos rounded up some 50 Quechua speakers from the plaza and we showed the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus. You could have heard a pin drop in the silence during that hour except for the crying and sobs of the listeners. The video was touching and changing hearts as they heard the truth of the gospel message for the first time in their language. At the end, Alejandro gave an invitation in Quechua and Spanish to receive Christ as their Savior and Lord and they all invited Jesus into their lives. As we showed the Quechua Bibles, they were amazed and many wanted to buy them.

So, we have a wide open door in Arequipa to promote the use of the Scriptures in that area through the Anglican Church. This means that we have an opportunity to bring Bibles from Cusco, the neighboring state, and teach the people to read the Scriptures and evangelize the people through Biblical videos. We really appreciate your prayers for this trip and would greatly value your prayers as to how we should proceed to promote the use of the Quechua Scriptures in this vast and needy area of Peru.

May God bless you so much for your prayers for this trip. The Lord did more than we even expected. On the way down the Canyon's hairpin turns, the breaks went out and we had to turn off the road and up onto the rocks. After thanking the Lord for his salvation, other vehicles stopped and the passengers got out and just lifted our van off the rocks and placed it back on the road. After checking everything and letting the breaks cool down, we went the rest of the way down without another mishap. Thanks again for praying.

Al and Barb