

Sun, 30 Jan 2011

Hola mis amigos!

Day 5 in Peru and i think we may have just about acclimatized! We had a save journey with no hiccups which was a blessing and arrived in Lima on Thursday to be met by Anthony, the pastor in Arequipa. He showed us around the city and made sure we got on the correct connecting flight to Arequipa the next day. It was good to hear from him the work already done within the church in Arequipa and the stories of some of the congregation before we arrived.

The people we are staying with are lovely and we are getting by ok in terms of communication! We have a good shower with hot water and a comfy(ish) bed which I'm very grateful for!!!

The sermon in church this morning was very hard to follow but i think i grasped most of it! He spoke on Matthew 7 v 3-5. As far as i could gather he was saying that Jesus came to make us all clean and that we should help each other and unite as a church and not judge others about the speck of dust in their eye when we have a plank in our own. - I think!!! Its a good lesson to take away with you even if it wasn't what the pastor was saying!! hehe! They like to sing as well during the service and it was good to hear familiar songs that i could sing in English when the Spanish got too much! We sang Here is love vast as the ocean and As the dear pants for the water! love it!

Anyway so far we have been incredibly blessed as a group. We get on well and considering its rainy season it hasn't been too bad so far! We had the opportunity to visit an orphanage yesterday which was incredibly humbling. An American couple upstairs were recruiting volunteers to play with the kids on a Saturday afternoon and after we had agreed we found out that it is the same orphanage we will be working with throughout our stay! The children are lovely they kneel each morning and pray for an hour on concrete floors, they recite the catechism together and each evening have Bible study with Papa Jose! Each child is either a true orphan or has been rescued from sexually abusive backgrounds yet they are all so happy! The orphanage is privately run therefore survives on donations, meaning they can go through periods of little food etc.. Despite this God always provides for their needs, for example, before the American couple came the children's hands were severely chapped and broken from hand washing their clothes and little hygiene but treatments were too expensive. Antibiotics and creams have now been bought with the Americans help so most of them have healed. It is things like this that they rely on the providence of God for so prayer for the ongoing work of this orphanage would be appreciated. The house is called El Amor de Dios - the love of God.

We are off to language school tomorrow which will be a bit of a challenge for us all! In fact getting there by bus may be just as much of a challenge in itself!

All in all everything is fab out here!! Thank you for your continued prayers. I will try to email every Sunday afternoon God willing.

Joanna

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