

PERU PROJECTS

Taking the gospel to the jungle



December 2012



THE PERÚ CORNER

Christmas: what is the true meaning?

The twenty-fifth of December is no more likely the anniversary of the birth of our Lord Jesus than New Year's Day is the first of August. Most likely His birth was in the fall of the year. But that doesn't change the simple fact that this time of year has become special. It is a time when families come together, the only time when many will go to church, and a unique time of opportunity to talk about the Good News of Jesus' coming that is so precious to many of us. It is a time when hearts are touched and a time that the Holy Spirit may just have a little more advantage to reach a soul for salvation.

For Joseph, it must have been a time of perplexity and mixed emotions as he pondered what Mary, his betrothed wife, told him about her pregnancy and all that the angel had told her. But he wasn't left to wonder for long.

"But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS, for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and



It's all about Jesus! The Christ in Christmas.

took unto him his wife and knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son and he called his name JESUS." (Matt 1:20-25)

What a relief it must have been for Joseph to hear from the angel himself that this was God's doing and part of His amazing plan to save us. And what wonderful news it is! God loves us so much that He came to be with us, indeed to become one of us, in order to save us from slavery to sin and to restore our connection with Him that was lost in Eden; that ultimately we can live with Him forever. Let's take advantage of this special time to share this hope we have with those around us. After all, angel means messenger and you might just be the angel God wants to send to someone you know in a time of perplexity and mixed emotions...

- Chris

PROGRAM UPDATES

Praise the Lord it's been a busy end of the year, God is answering our prayers and blessing the efforts of the Bible Workers! Here's a brief rundown of the last month and a half:

Nov 11-13 Masisea District – Inauguration of the Charasmana Church

Nov 17-18 Shahuaya District – 41 Baptisms and district wide services in Nuevo Paraiso

Nov 24 Amaquiria District – Mass wedding; 8 couples married and 21 baptisms in Amaquiria

Nov 30 – Dec 2 Puinahua District – Dedication of the Bretana Church

Dec 5-10 Puerto Breu District – Inauguration of the Coshereni Church and 2 baptisms

Dec 15-16 Padre Marquez District – 14 Baptisms in Tiruntan

Dec 22 Amaquiria District - 8 baptisms in Roya

REPORTS FROM THE FRONTLINE

Running from Conviction

My name is Fidencio and I am 39 years old. I used to keep Sunday as the Lord's Sabbath and my whole family is evangelical.

I live in the village of San Carlos in the Puinahua district. Some Adventist missionaries arrived there in May of 2012 and began to visit the homes. On one beautiful afternoon as I was returning from the field, I ran into those missionaries and they invited me to study the Bible with them, so I gave them directions to my house. They told me that they would visit me the next day. Very early they were at my house. They showed me a booklet that contained twenty Bible Studies, titled "The Faith of Jesus". That very day we studied the first lesson: The Holy Bible. The days passed and we continued studying, but the missionaries didn't know about the pressure I was receiving from my family members. My parents and my aunts and uncles told me not to receive the missionaries and to stop studying with them. We were on lesson twelve: God's Plan to Sustain the Church. The following day we were to study lesson thirteen: Baptism. Then the unexpected happened; when I saw the missionaries some fifty meters from my house I ran into the brush to hide myself.



Dec 22 . 8 baptisms in Roya

It was about to rain as I reached the jungle. The wind picked up, it began to thunder and pour down rain. I spent three hours shivering in the cold downpour as the missionaries waited in my house for the storm to pass. The following day I had a cold, a fever, and a headache. When the missionaries came to visit me to study I invented all kinds of excuses. They kept visiting me, but no longer mentioned anything about the studies. They returned to Pucallpa at the end of June and in the month of September they arrived again in Bretaña, an hour from San Carlos, to perform a wedding that they had previously arranged with the mayor in Bretaña. At that time they visited me but I was laid up because of an accident.

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They encouraged me. When the day arrived for the wedding and baptism, I went to Breña with the brothers from the Adventist church in San Carlos because the missionaries had asked them to invite me.

After the civil wedding was performed by the mayor, the missionaries asked God's blessing on the newly married couples. Then they made a call to baptism for all who desired to be a part of God's family; it was a very touching call. I remember well the Bible text: Acts 22: 16. I felt something happen inside me. I was not well; I couldn't walk because my left leg was badly injured. In that moment I was struggling. The people who had made the decision to be baptized walked toward the front of the church. How I wanted to step forward, but I couldn't. There was one thing that stopped me. I suffer from baldness. I never remove the cap from my head. That was the reason. The baptism was conducted and I remained un-baptized. After all the events of the day had passed I approached the preacher who had conducted the baptism and I explained to him the reason that I had not come forward. He told me that the following day they would be in San Carlos where there would be another baptism the next Sabbath. So I asked him if he would baptize me on the condition that he not require me to remove my cap because I



am bald. He gladly accepted my proposal, and the following Sabbath I surrendered myself to Christ. Now I am part of God's family. Since that day I have not felt any pain; miraculously the leg that had been injured was healed.

My parents continue to worship on Sunday; I ask all my brothers in Jesus to help me with your prayers so that my parents will walk in God's path.

*Fidencio Rimachi Tuanama
Church member in San Carlos*

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 10— Dr. Edward Prodanovic will be arriving to join us in medical outreach and help the peoples in our districts. He will stay until July. Praise God!

February 4—23 Bible worker training and 2 village church leadership training congresses. One here on the base followed by one in Iquitos.

FINANCIAL NEEDS

\$350	Sponsor Bible work in a district for a month
\$300	Donate a medical emergency flight
\$ 60	Sponsor a wedding so that a couple can be baptized
\$750	Support the construction of a new chapel
\$ 60	Sponsor one pastoral visit into the remote jungle
Unknown	Costs involved to import the tractor and shipping container

PRAYER PARTNERS

We are excited for the many changes and opportunities coming up here in the new year. We'll be welcoming a few new people to take part in medical/health evangelism, we'll be providing training for Bible workers and village church leaders, and we should be facing the wonderful dilemma of figuring out how to get a container filled with many items including a tractor off of a semi truck. There will be some challenges that come with all this, no doubt, but we look forward to seeing how God will work His purposes out in these things.

Meanwhile, we are continually inspired by our dedicated Bible workers. They sacrifice much to live in the jungle, constantly praying, watching, and working for opportunities to share the Good News with those who have never heard. Please join us in praying for them, their families, their safety, and their ministry.

Let's keep our eyes open for the opportunities God is opening up to us. It may not always be easy, but there will always be blessings that come from following His lead.

Current Prayer Needs & Praises

- For the character of Christ to dwell in each one of us
- God's provision for more Bible worker teams to be able to go into the field
- That we have wisdom and guidance as we plan for the coming year
- Health evangelism in the jungle and the couple coming from Columbia
- Tractor importation and preparations
- Runway restrictions
- Volunteers: aircraft mechanic is still needed, etc.

If you sense God calling you to this prayer ministry, please visit our website for our continually updated [prayer list](#).



Romans 10:14-15 How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent?

ON THE WEB:

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