

THE PERÚ CORNER

Arbeit Macht Frei

It's been a long time now since I visited an Auschwitz death camp. It is surreal, looking back. So much horror and evil took place on that small plot of land in Germany. There still stand buildings designed for nothing more than mass murder. When you are there on tour, as sobering as the truth of the place is, when surrounded by well dressed tourists from around the



world a part of the reality is lost on us. As you enter the gate there is a sign that says "Arbeit Macht Frei". The Nazis forced skilled metalworkers who were prisoners in the camp to make it. Arbeit macht frei is German for work makes free. Some might say that there is no comparison and perhaps it is a cold misguided thought, but I have to think about this world and our souls. This big chunk of dirt we call Earth was once a beautiful garden, but has been taken over by the enemy of good. So many of us prisoners of evil pass through life thinking works will make us free, but the end is death. Arbeit macht frei!

Freedom, however, only has one source and it is not earned. A foreign army, must fight the battle, in our case, the victory is already won, Jesus came to liberate us. Unlike the prisoners of the Nazi regime, however, all too many of us are oblivious to what traps us.

Arbeit macht frei is a bold faced lie of the devil. He wants you to think your works will set you free. Only Jesus' grace and truth can set us free. You will find people enslaved to works in religious systems as well as atheists (without God). People think they can

somehow earn something better for themselves by acting some part or doing what is perceived as good. The truth is that even the very best people still only deserve a quick death at most; we are all selfish and egotistical at the root until we receive a change of heart that can only come from outside ourselves. Work does not make us free, but the Truth can! Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. I'd like to change that Nazi phrase to something more accurate, "Jesus Arbeit macht frei." There is only one work that can make us free, it is the work of Jesus!

Chris

PROGRAM UPDATES

Growth

So much has been happening lately; we started in January with a six week training intensive for young adults from the jungle between the



ages of 18 and 35. Pastor Rosendo and a variety of other pastors and missionaries kept the group busy learning and experiencing new blessings in both their personal devotional life and personal and public evangelism. We had a total of 15 graduates from this program and a total of 10 baptisms, including the wives of two of the trainees and one man's son (we



made it very clear at the start that if they wanted to take part in the training and were living together unmarried, that they had to come ready to get married, and if they had a family,

that the entire family needed to come and take part.). The rest of the baptisms were from the evangelism and reaping series that the students held as part of their training. They are back in the villages sharing the good news and living an example of God's faithfulness and love.

Immediately after this training we had a week of leadership training for the leadership of the churches all over our district. It is so encouraging to see all of these young adults along with the more seasoned believers excited about what they can do for their families and neighbors through Christ.

Toward the end of the trainings, we were blessed to have a fun group of high school sen-



iors come and help with construction in the school building as well as renovation of the chapel. It was a small group, but they accomplished much. They are the graduating class from Harbert Hills Academy in Tennessee. It was truly an international group with 3 students from Indonesia, two students from Korea, and a student from Australia. Their teacher, who is also a friend from Outpost Centers International (OCI), and his daughter filled out the group. They were able to fix up the chapel

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on the base and as you can see, it's looking very nice, changing out old rotten and termite eaten wood for new stained hardwood. They also put a lot of effort into scraping all the old paint off and replacing it with new. They were able to get a good start on the renovation of the old school building here on the base, as well, which will be our new health evangelism training center. They built two storage rooms in what will be the bakery and kitchen as well as opening up a large hole in the wall for serving between the kitchen and dining room. Here too they were able to install beautiful hardwood where they had removed the remains of a softer wood that had been almost entirely eaten out by termites.

We have a lot in the works here in dealing with the Peruvian government, as well. We just recently re-imported the Cessna and are awaiting renewal of our Peruvian operating permit which we plan to change all over to our Peruvian Association. Meanwhile, thankfully, we have a flight permit to continue flying. We have also done a lot more work on the runway, widening a few areas in preparation to formally authorize it as a private runway. We are very grateful to our new friend Earl who has taken a lot of time to work with Chris in creating an AutoCAD drawing of the runway here on the base.

The learning curve has been steep and difficult as far as our legal preparations for importing the tractor and container. We pray that we are getting very close to being able to finally ship. There is much to be done with all that is in that container and we have two groups awaiting a call saying that the container has arrived so that they can come down and begin construction of our dormitories and other structures for our new campus.

This year we now have four Colombian missionaries from Vida Sana - REdenSion who are our new health team. The name is a beautiful narrative of the health work we hope to do. Eden is the same in Spanish and English, the garden of God from Genesis in the Bible, Sion is Spanish for Zion, the mountain of God and the new Jerusalem, symbol of Heaven. The word in itself, "redension" is Spanish for redemption, God's act of Salvation. They are working hard to get this new program started.



We are excited as we are already receiving requests from potential students

to know when the program will begin and from local churches to receive cooking classes and health seminars. As part of the preparation process, they have been very busy with preparing and planting a very nice garden and mini plantation. We have quite a variety planted, from tomatoes, carrots, corn, squash, peanuts, radishes, lettuce, cabbage, and cucumbers (some of which locals thought couldn't be grown here) to watermelon, papaya, and four varieties of bananas, manioc, etc... the list continues with quite a few other fruits and vegetables growing where they recently cleaned up overgrown jungle between the houses and the school. These gardens will serve several functions. We will have model gardens so that the locals can see what they can do to improve

their own diets, provide food for students and staff, and provide valuable work study opportunities for students. They have also recently finished mapping out, cutting, and preparing a beautiful nature hiking trail that will come in handy for both students and wellness guests once the health evangelism program gets into full swing.

STAFF NEWS



I've already mentioned our new missionaries from Colombia, but to give you faces and names, we have Robinson and Paola, a married couple who had been leaders at Redension and will be carrying on those roles now as leaders of the health evangelism program of Peru Projects.

Oscar is a recent graduate of the program at Redension and has a passion for teaching God's plan for a healthy life and producing tasty bread. He has been a Christian just two years, but has a true missionary spirit!



Heinhsen (pronounced Ay-sen) will be with us until July. He is also a former graduate of Redension and has spent almost all of his life in agriculture in the jungle of Colombia and has been a valuable asset in preparing the agriculture portion of the program here.

Our friend and fellow missionary, Rosario, has moved back to the Puno area to be closer to family and her fiancé. To take her place, we have invited a close family friend of Rosario's, Marisol, who just graduated from the Peruvian Adventist University in Juliaca with a degree in accounting. She has been with us over a month now and we are very pleased with her enthusiasm to serve and her patience with numbers.



This year we are blessed to again have two "Thousand Missionary Movement" volunteers working with us. They are working in the village of Iparia assisting our regular Bible worker Eli in this growing village and its growing church.

We also have two new teams working in their respective zones, Job and Jeferson are working in the Bolognesi district (Shahuaya and the Sheshea river) and Ismael and his partner Alfredo are working in Masiea and Padre Marquez districts. Please pray for them as they are settling into the work in these areas, gaining the people's confidence and leading them to their loving Savior.

UP COMING EVENTS

June 6—10 Pastoral visit to Purus
12—15 Pastoral visit to Nueva Italia
July 25—30 Campmeeting on the base.

FINANCIAL NEEDS

\$500 Sponsor a District discipleship training
\$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
\$ 12 each Bibles for evangelism work
Unknown Costs involved to import the tractor and shipping container

PRAYER PARTNERS

With God all things are possible , and with God prayers are answered. We praise the Lord for all He is doing here, and for the growth in our ministry. Please pray with us as we continue to follow God's leading and continue to share Him with the people of Peru.

Current Prayer Needs & Praises

- For the character of Christ to dwell in each one of us
- For God's guidance as we begin a health evangelism training program
- Safety and God's guidance for the pastor and the missionaries as they travel and minister.
- Container importation and documentation
- Runway restrictions

Join us in pray by visiting our online [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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