

Prayer Requests

This month we ask our Partners to be in prayer with us regarding:

- **Agustin and Julio who want to quit using drugs**
- **The physical health of our community as cold and wet weather sets in**
- **Our team as we begin the second half of the school year**
- **Charo's contribution to the Lord's work in Collique**
- **Drug abusers in the community that gather in the adjacent lot**
- **Praise God that our family and friends have been healthy so far this winter**



Transforming Power

Last week I met with a friend and some neighbors for a Bible study in a community kitchen. It was the first meeting and we're still discussing where and when to meet regularly. The amazing thing was that it just kind of popped up out of nowhere. One day we were talking in the kitchen about the idea, then the next we were praying together and discussing the Bible. A local man named Tomas, who has graduated from an evangelical seminary and pastors a church in another part of the city with his brother, shared the first day. He has a powerful testimony, and many in Collique knew of him before he was a Christian. Those same people have seen the transformation in his life. He shared a little with us and I considered myself blessed to serve a God who can do such great things.

Afterwards, Tomas and I went to a place where he used to buy drugs and talked with a user named Julio. As Julio shared his pain with us Tomas nodded his head, understanding at a level that I never would what Julio was going through. I could see the pain visible in his face as he listened to Julio's descriptions of his trials and failures regarding breaking his addiction. It hurt Tomas to hear the names of others that he knew who were still throwing their lives away with addictions. We invited Julio to come to the next meeting and searched out his brother, Agustin, who had told us he was going to be there that morning.

Agustin was really the one who started this whole process. He let us know that he wanted to quit drugs, come clean, and turn his life around. He said he had gone to church before, knew how transforming following Jesus could be, and needed help to overcome the temptation of living across the street from the drug user lot and next to the drug dealer. When we found him he told us he had worked all night until 6am and was asleep at the hour that we had gathered. We made sure he knew about the next planned time. Please pray for Agustin and his brother Julio. We're praying for their salvation and a change in their lives. Agustin has taken deliberate steps to try to get out of his situation. Julio talks like he wants to, but he carries a lot of hate and anger inside which drives him to use. Please pray for Tomas. He is searching for God's will regarding his work with the drug users and is willing to do whatever it takes. Please join us in these petitions. *(Picture below is of vacant lot where addicts gather)*



August's Thought...

Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you.

James 4:7b-8a

Upcoming Events

August 10th

- Classes resume at OSA and schools open in Peru

August 15th (tentative)

- Ruth & Betsy to visit Collique and encourage our team

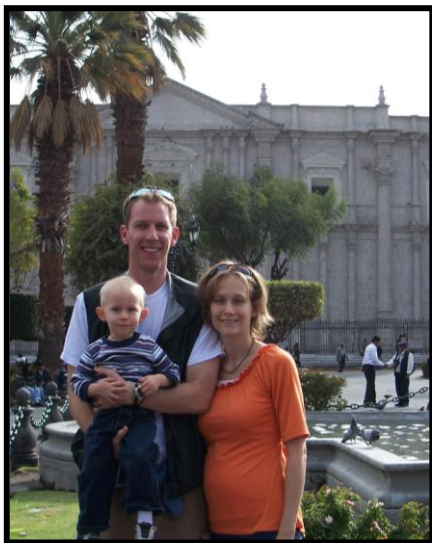
August 18th

- Student Award Store

August 28th

- July and August birthday celebrations

Rose Family in Arequipa



Partners in Ministry:

- Operación San Andrés
www.operacionsanandres.org
- South Main Baptist Church
www.smbc.org
- Tallowood Baptist Church
www.tallowood.org
- Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
www.thefellowship.info
- Buckner International
www.buckner.org

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Swine Flu Prevention - The Peruvian government closed schools on July 15th, three days earlier than planned for winter break. The idea was to help control the spread of the swine flu and prevent children from gathering in large groups where the flu could spread more rapidly. It was recommended that children stay at home during the break and that everyone take care of their health. To collaborate with the government's attempt to control the outbreak, OSA decided to close its doors as well. As a result, we had to postpone our Student Award Store and the July birthday celebrations until August. All meetings and classes were suspended until further notice. During the break, the government extended winter vacation from August 3rd to August 10th. Even though we will not have classes or family meetings of any kind until then, the staff will return to work on the 3rd. Please pray that this effort by the government has helped minimize the spread of the swine flu. Also pray for the health of our team as we come together next week in prayer for our community and the Lord's work here.

We are now halfway through my pregnancy! We had our 20-week ultrasound a couple of weeks ago and passed up knowing the sex of the baby. Sorry! The baby is the right size, healthy and very busy! We are very excited and starting to prepare for our new arrival in December.



God's Will and Transitions

Last month our new social worker joined us here at OSA. It was sad to see Magda go, but she found another position more suitable to her career path. Charo has stepped right in and we are impressed with her desire to work with the families in the program. She is very understanding and realizes that it will take time for the families to accept her after all the good things and progress Magda had made.

With the life and job experiences Charo has had, she will be a great addition to our team and to OSA as an institution. She has been very helpful to me in my times of "distress" brought on by this change. It has been difficult for me with Magda leaving, and Charo has been very understanding and helpful in my healing as well. I am very blessed that the Lord has crossed our paths as she helps me with this transition. She is helping me see things that I did not see before in my work such as where as a Christian I need to grow in my own spiritual life. One of the difficulties for me is not letting my emotions and personal relationships cloud the judgments I have to make on a daily basis with the work I do with our families and in the community. How did our Lord Jesus do it so well? Our enemy uses this tool to offset us in our continued spiritual growth and walk with the Lord. It is up to us to put on the full armor of God so that we can take our stand against the devil's schemes as we are instructed to in Ephesians 6.

Even though it has been a strange month (with all the days off), we look forward to seeing what the Lord will do with Charo here at OSA. She has been active in our prayer time and we are excited to grow spiritually alongside her. We're thankful that God has chosen her for this position and that she is seeking His will for her life. She seems to fit in well with our team. We are very optimistic about this next half of the year here at OSA as our new team works to do the Lord's will in Collique.

