



Collique: A Closer Look

Here's a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many? John 6:9

The Lion King

February 2010

Prayer Requests

We ask our Partners to be in prayer with us regarding:

When the *combis* (mini vans) used for public transportation go up and down the main road in Collique they need a way to disperse themselves over the route to share passengers. Every few kilometers there is an entrepreneur who stands on a busy corner and writes down the times they pass and tells the drivers. Jackson Hilasaca is one of those entrepreneurs. For 12 years he has stood in the elements on the corner down the hill from OSA, earning \$5 to \$7 a day telling the *combi* drivers how far apart they are. It's a thankless job. I've seen drivers throw a 10 cent coin out the window at Jackson as they pass, and sometimes nothing at all. All day Jackson inhales fumes and dodges moving masses of metal. He was recently hit for the first time. He had run onto the median to avoid a car which then rode up on the median and hit him anyway. In reflection he says, "I don't feel any different out there, but I am always careful." Careful does not describe Jackson

though. At a young age he wanted to be a wrestler. He trained for 3 years as the *Rey León*, the Lion King. Eventually, he couldn't afford to train and it was time to join the workforce to support his 4 siblings and single mother. It was hard in the beginning. The corner he selected was a hang-out for local druggies. One day they came to beat him up but a friend intervened and they fended off the attackers. Shortly after beginning to work in the street, a friend insisted he go to church with her. Jackson decided to give it a shot, and within a few months he gave his life to Christ. He began to share the Gospel with the transportation workers that he saw daily. Jackson spoke about a young man working on a *combi* with whom he shared frequently. The man accepted Jackson's invitation to his cell group and is now a leader about to start a new cell.

Life isn't easy, though. Jackson is always working. In his time off, he puts in

hours in his appliance repair workshop at his house. He'll also help out at his mother's *ceviche* restaurant on the weekends. Soon the government is implementing a new transportation mandate which will eliminate most *combis*, and the need for someone like Jackson. He's confident God will provide though. Despite the work conditions he endures daily, Jackson is the most positive and joyous person I know in Peru. He's always giving us Bible verses upon which to reflect. Even Joshua calls out his name from a distance when he recognizes him. Jackson shared with me, "It seems like many times God permits the circumstances, why?, to work on you." God has done an amazing work on Jackson and it's evident in his attitude and where his heart is. The Lion of the tribe of Judah has a faithful servant in this *Rey León*.

- Joshua's attitude toward school
- Diego's health
- Jessica's mother and her trip to Peru at the end of March
- Peruvian children beginning a new school year
- Magali and Rosita



A Day in the Life

When a new student and their family apply for the OSA program there is a process through which they pass. First, they meet with the social worker who explains the program and our beliefs, and who makes a home visit. We try to accept the poorest of the poor, so home visits and questions about the family situation are necessary, but must be delicately handled. Charo does a great job of this. Next, the prospective student is interviewed by the OSA psychologist, Petry. He also gives the child a short academic exam to get an idea of their current level. Next, Meche speaks with the parents and explains the expectations we have of them. Parents take a turn in the kitchen preparing lunch for the children twice a month. The fathers attend a monthly workshop, the mothers a weekly one. They also contribute two small items such as toilet paper or dish soap, totaling about \$2 a month. OSA students all study in

local schools in the morning and arrive at OSA for lunch at 1pm. Then they have a break/recess time before 3 hours of reinforcement classes. It can be grueling, especially when they have reading, math and personal development all in the same day.

Recently, a young girl named Rosita entered the program. You've heard of her mother, Magali, who was recently run over, from previous prayer requests. A typical day for Rosita begins early when she gets ready without running water or a private bathroom. She attends school from 8-12:30 and arrives to OSA at 1pm. After leaving us at 6pm, this 11 year old travels alone to where her mother works on a very busy street selling soft drinks to traffic at the stoplight. Rosita helps her mother, who can't read or write, sell the drinks and also watches the inventory on the side of the road. Rosita has no father or place to stay after leaving OSA, so she's on the street.

Our goal is to get Rosita off the streets. Rosita is working hard in school, she was in advanced preparation classes this summer, and is adjusting well to the high expectations at OSA. She shouldn't have to hit the streets in the evening to work even more. She's just like any 11 year old who wants to play with friends, hang out and finish her homework before the next day. Please pray with us as we seek out solutions to this situation.

February's Thought

Come to me, all
who labor and are
heavy laden, and I
will give you rest.
Matthew 11:28

Partners in Ministry:

Operación San Andrés

www.operacionsanandres.org

South Main Baptist Church

www.smbc.org

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www.tallowood.org

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

www.thefellowship.info

Buckner International

www.buckner.org

Contact Information:

journeywithHim.wordpress.com

jcr146@msn.com

281-584-9647

Yunza

We had the privilege of observing first hand a traditional celebration from the sierra region of Peru. Our neighbors hosted a *yunza* the last week in February. They planted a large post in the middle of our street, hung small gifts of clothing and kitchen items on it, then threw a party. Part of the custom is to dance around the tree and take turns chopping at it with a machete. The family who chops it down hosts the party the following year. We opted not to take a whack at it. Thankfully no one was hurt and many received new washing tubs.

