



Operación
SAN ANDRÉS
...five barley loaves and two fishes,
but what are they among so many?
John 6:9

HEARTBEAT

Collique

News and Happenings at Operación San Andrés – Collique, Lima, Peru

December, 2012

¡Feliz Navidad y Prospero Año Nuevo!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Operación San Andrés in Collique, Peru to all of our friends, supporters, and prayer partners!

In this season we celebrate the birth of Jesus, son of God, who came to this world to die for all of us; men and women, child and adult, rich and poor, Peruvian and American. If we celebrate Christmas for this very reason we are blessed. This is the message OSA brings to the people of Collique via the after school program, lunch program, medical campaigns, construction, donations of clothing, Bible studies, etc.

Please, continue to pray for OSA, especially for the points mentioned on the next page.

As 2013 is coming to an end, we look back on a year which we started with a change in our Living Water after school program. While we continued with the first graders of 2011, we welcomed back the children who graduated from our program in 2011 and 2012. Since March, we have been running a schedule with morning and afternoon classes with these middle school students.

Working with them has been challenging at times, but we know we are helping a group of teenagers during critical years in their lives. We are thankful for the positive reports on their improvement we received from the teachers.

This gives hope for next year, as we continue to serve the precious people of this part of Lima.



End of the year

November 30th was the last day of our after school program, to give the staff time to finish all their reports and work on the planning and program for next year.

The staff also prepared for the final events of the year, mentioned in this newsletter.

Mothers and children still walked in with questions and needs.

Our annual Christmas celebration and closing ceremony was held on Tuesday, December 11.

A youth group of Bible Centered Ministries came to OSA to perform a Christmas show with theater, puppets, songs, clowns, and the Christmas story complete with a small group reflection.

The group did a great job animating the children and mothers. They managed to bring the Christmas story, 'The Perfect Gift,' wrapped in games, songs, and theater.

After the group finished their show, there was time to award children and mothers for their hard work and progress. The child of each class with the highest grades received

a special present and one of the mothers was recognized for her faithful attendance and servant heart.

All children and mothers received a gift bag with shoes, clothes and a special Christmas gift.

Then it was time for Panetón (fruitcake) and hot chocolate. This, so called 'Chocolatada,' was the end of the event.

All went home happy with their gifts and thankful for the supporters of OSA who make the after school program and events like this possible.



Christmas celebration in the community

On Saturday, December 8, OSA hosted a Christmas Celebration for 50 children in a community center of one of the neighborhoods higher up the hill from the OSA house.

Also in this event we had games, songs, and, as clowns are part of many events in Peru, a Christian clown was invited to entertain the children.



Bible verse of the month

"They are not of the world, even as I am not of it."

John 17:16

Review and plan

Thursday, December 6, Dr. Luis Campos and his wife, Ruth, were in Collique to meet with the OSA staff.

All staff members were invited to share their accomplishments in the past year and their frustrations, difficulties and ideas for improvement.

The staff and Dr. Campos acknowledge that the communication between them really improved since the retreat they had in March of this year.

During this meeting the equipment for conference calls over the internet was tested and the staff and board look forward to use this in the coming year.

Dr. Campos shared his appreciation for the service of the OSA staff to the people of Collique.

When the October brides heard that Dr. Campos and Ruth were in Lima, they prepared a special lunch for them in appreciation for this great event and the love they show towards them and their families.

Two OSA middle school students were asked as assistants of the clown. They did a fantastic job. It is great for OSA to see teenagers like these girls, who have been in the program for six years already serving their community.

A Christmas event in Peru is not complete without Panetón and hot chocolate, so they all received this treat.

At the end of the event, all children received a Christmas gift bag complete with a pair of Toms shoes, which were donated by PAMS (Peruvian American Medical Society).

Kees said, "It's a blessing to do events like this and to share from the donations we receive from the US, because we know that these events and gifts are treasured."

The OSA staff felt privileged with this opportunity to give to these precious children living in difficult circumstances.



Upcoming Events

December 16 – January 1

- Christmas break OSA staff

January 7

- Start lunch program

January 11

- Day of prayer and fasting

January 14

- Start summer classes

January 21-25

- VBS for children of the community

February 4-9

- Camp for middle school students

February 8

- Field trip for 3rd grade students

Devotionals

Each week the children in the after school program have two sessions of Bible classes. This year, Mauro taught these classes to the 2nd graders and Elizabett to the middle school students.

As extra curriculum, the middle school students received a slip of paper each week with a passage from the book of John and some questions to help them meditate and reflect on the passage.

The ones who turned in all their reflections were rewarded with a day trip to the zoo. They all were asked to bring their Bible and their favorite passage. After the lunch, Elizabett and Kees led the group in a moment of Bible study and sharing in the middle of the zoo.

Elizabett said that she thanks God for the growth she recognizes in these young people.



Please, PRAY with us for

- The plans for 2013
- A safe and happy Christmas season for those in a community where alcoholism is a big problem
- A restful Christmas break for the OSA staff
- More children for the 3rd grade
- A blessed new year for all



Visit our Facebook page for more pictures of the events.

<https://www.facebook.com/operacion-sanandres>

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