

From: Mark Eisold [mailto:transformedbychrist@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, November 24, 2011 1:38 PM
To: Sandi and Mark Eisold
Subject: Happy Thanksgiving

Dear Friends in Christ,

Happy Thanksgiving! We are so thankful to be celebrating our first Thanksgiving here in Peru. We look forward to enjoying a traditional Thanksgiving dinner including turkey, mashed potatoes, and pies with the Peru mission team this afternoon. Who knows? We may be celebrating Thanksgiving the same time that you do! We will be gathering at 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time, which is Lima's time zone between November & March.

We pray that you are praising our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ with thankful hearts this day also! Even in times of hardship, frustration, and trouble, the Lord is blessing us in powerful ways - and He always provides for our every need. As the Levites proclaimed in Nehemiah 9, *"Blessed be your glorious name, and may it be exalted above all blessing and praise."*⁶ *You alone are the LORD. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you."* Yes, indeed. Blessed be the name of the Lord!!

We praise God for your continual prayers, encouragement, and financial support. We praise God for all the doors He has opened for us to reach His people here in Peru. Our team is building relationships with the dear people here in our everyday lives, from exercise classes and swim team practice to schools and shopping. We praise God for the ability He has given us to communicate with the people here. We have more Spanish to learn, but we have come so far. We praise God for the people of Lunahuana and San Borja, the two main places where the Lord had established active and growing ministries through us.

We praise God for a team trip to Arequipa where we will go tomorrow. We are going there to research and learn about that area in order to prepare for the production of a movie to be made there in February 2012. A fellow missionary on our Latin American team, James Neuendorf, is writing and directing a great, short movie for outreach in Peru. Imagine having a movie

about "Abraham & Isaac", which points to Christ, and is made in Peru with Peruvians!! What a great way to reach these wonderful people and to share the Good News of Salvation through Christ's sacrifice, God's grace, love, forgiveness, and blessings to those who are His by faith!! (Yes, I am fired-up about this for sure!!)

We praise God for the congregational partners we have, including teams from the United States who are currently making plans to send teams down to assist with Vacation Bible Schools and outreach. Blessed be the name of the Lord!! Keep us in your prayers with the Visa process and getting the LCMS registered in Peru. We just completed some major steps in each process over the past two weeks, and now must wait to hear for results between 30 and 40 days from now. Pray also for our travels, and our ambitious plans to reach the people living in spiritual darkness in Peru. The Lord has already done so much, and is delivering newer and bigger blessings through our work every day!

God bless you in Christ Jesus, our Risen Savior and King!! We pray that you have a great, safe, and relaxing weekend in His grace, His mercy, and His peace!!

Your Partners in Christ's Mission,
Pastor Mark, Sandi, Annalise, and Erik Eisold

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Tu Hermano en Cristo,

Pastor Mark

Pastor Mark Eisold

Desarrollador Estratégico Misión

LCMS World Mission

Lima, PERU

"Yo te pongo ahora como luz para las naciones, a fin de que lleves mi salvación hasta los confines de la tierra." Isaías 49:6

("I will also make you a light to the gentiles that you may take my salvation to the ends of the earth." Isaiah 49:6)

Support Christ's Mission in Peru today at www.lcms.org/eisold, or send a check made out to "Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod World Mission" with "Eisold" written in the memo line to **Mission Central 40718 Highway E16, Mapleton, IA 50134-7105**. This will be forwarded on to LCMS World Mission.

View our blog at: www.whereintheworldisbear.blogspot.com

Pioneers in Peru

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6

Mark, Sandi, Annalise & Erik Eisold

May-June 2011



We hope and pray that each of you is doing well in every way! The past four months in Peru have been amazing! By “amazing”, I mean: challenging, enriching, fulfilling, and inspiring. Though there is still much more work, study, and preparation before beginning full-time Spanish worship services, the Good News of salvation in Jesus is being proclaimed by our Team every day. We are fired-up for our Strategic Vision Plan; and were blessed by our week of strategy meetings with our Regional Director, Pastor Ted Krey, Pastor Dan McMiller, and Pastor Martin Teigen.

Everyone on the Team contributed to the final Strategy,

and we are now ready to move forward, reaching Peruvian unbelievers with the salvation of Jesus Christ, and working with them to develop a Peruvian Lutheran Church. Our Plan builds upon ministries we began in Lunahuana in February & March, while simultaneously bringing our Team together in Lima where we will begin our primary task of gathering Peruvians from the middle-class to start a National Lutheran Church.

Our goal for accomplishing this in Lima will focus on **Mass Communication, Evangelism & Outreach, Mercy Ministry, Follow-up, and Gathering Peruvians for Word & Sacrament Ministry.** As we gather God’s people, we want to connect them to a weekly worship service. We also want to equip them as members of the body of Christ for partnership with us in the areas of outreach, human care, leading, & teaching. After all, we are here to work with them to start *their church*, not ours. We will have many aspects of further training beyond the basic “*Welcome to the Family*” New Member course in order to offer a natural ascent for those who both desire and show an aptitude for greater roles of service and Church leadership. This, of course, builds to the point where we will be sending men whom we have equipped to the best of our abilities to a Lutheran Seminary in Latin America.

The Lord led us to a great district (“*distrito*”) in the middle of Lima to do this work of equipping the emerging middle-class. In San Borja, the opportunities are endless for sharing Christ’s love & salvation, and for starting a Peruvian-led national Lutheran Church. San Borja has 100,000 residents in a 3.25 x 3.25 mile area; 70 named parks; free, outdoor fitness facilities; we have 5 universities within a 15 minute combi (minibus) ride of the our apartment; and the new, national electric train runs through the center of the city and is set to open in July.

The middle-class places a big value on education, on family, and on learning English. Within our Team of missionaries, Jamie, Katie, & Bruce are trained and experienced teachers; Anthony is a certified DCE, Sandi and Sarah Wall (Bruce’s wife) are also teachers. There is a big emphasis on fitness here as well. San Borja has a green beltway, which encompasses the large national military headquarters (the “*pentagonito*”) and about a third of the community. There are sidewalks for walking and bicycling on either side and up the middle of the beltway. Streets around the *pentagonito* (little pentagon) are blocked off every Sunday morning through 1:00 p.m. for runners, bicyclists, and roller-bladers.

Every day we have been reaching people for Jesus and building relationships in this big & busy community. Even so, everyone on the Team has a specific area of focus plus a new outreach opportunity to investigate. We have a lot of paperwork and meetings with our Team over the next couple of months as we get the LCMS registered in Peru as an NGO (non governmental organization) and then as we apply



for resident visas. We also must begin worship in Lunahuana while also transitioning our Team Worship services to full Spanish worship by July.

We are grateful to all of our supporters, churches, and our families who love us, pray for us, and support us in every way. We are blessed by God through your prayers; and we could not be here without you. We have been praying for many dear friends over the past few months as tragedies and struggles have become known to us. We keep up with the news and the weather in the U.S. as well, and are praying for peace in your hearts while the Lord carries out His Plan for the United States.

Personal Thoughts:

For the first time we are feeling “settled” and “at home”. After moving to Peru and enrolling in Language School, we still had to locate, rent, furnish, and move into our permanent apartment. The Lord blessed us with a nice apartment in a very quiet, safe, family-oriented town called San Borja. After seven months of travel for support-raising in the USA, moving to Peru, and moving again since arriving in Lima, we hope to stay in one place for a while.

Sandi is an amazing woman! She has always worked vigorously as the wife & support-network for this Mission Developer. My time and energy would be cut in half if she were to take a full-time job out of the house. International mission work is much the same. I could not do it alone, and nobody can imagine the active role she plays. Sandi established and regularly updates a blog – which you will probably receive before this Newsletter. It can be found at “www.whereintheworldisbear.blogspot.com”. Once I am actually done with editing and re-editing a Newsletter, she organizes it and sends it to you all as well. Sandi is the coordinator of our list of supporters, and maintains an active Facebook page – unlike me... yet. Sandi is homeschooling Annalise and Erik and is now playing “catch-up” after losing nearly 5 months due to our support-raising travels.

Annalise & Erik are involved with swimming again! This is a great blessing for all of us! Swimming was an important part of our life with competition for the kids, fitness for Sandi & me, and recreation for all of us. It has been a long ten months without being part of a regular swim program. There are many good programs in Lima, and Annalise & Erik swim with the Academia de Natacion de Tater Ledgard. Tater Ledgard represented Peru as a swimmer at the 1964 Olympics, as his father had done in Berlin in 1936. His son was a bicyclist at the 1992 Olympics, and together they run the swim academy. They are a very nice and professional family.

I am happy to have a solid “GO” for our Strategic Plan, and look forward to getting all of the groundwork laid for starting public, Spanish worship services by this Fall.



Meetings in May



Latin American Team missionaries during the week of Strategy

Interesting Facts about Peru:

1. Peru is in the western hemisphere with the United States. Lima is only a six-hour flight directly south from Miami, FL. Peru does not have “daylight savings time”, so our time is the same as the Eastern Time Zone over winter, and in the Central Time Zone during spring, summer, and fall.
2. This means that every Sunday morning when we are worshipping at 10:00 a.m., we are celebrating the resurrection of Jesus at nearly the *same time* as our brothers and sisters in Christ in the USA. It also means that while you all are praying for us, we are simultaneously praying for you!

Prayer Requests:

Growth and development in the Spanish language
Finding an office and locating a facility for worship in San Borja
Safe travels for our Peru mission team with various upcoming trips

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or

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, 1333 S. Kirkwood Road, St. Louis, MO 63122

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