



THE PERUVIAN JOURNAL

We have a new president! Each of those words has special meaning. Although the results of the elections were very close (51% Humala to 48% Keiko) and there is not an overwhelming majority, still there is a sense that “we” chose a new president, a new style, and a new model. And so, the importance of “new”.

The television coverage in Huaripampa is limited to one news channel, and that is of the present government. So we have been hearing these last few months all that Garcia has done and what he is still doing before the 28th of July when the changeover takes place. But definitely Humala’s style is “new,” somewhat more humble, somewhat more simple, somewhat more “let’s take a look,” rather than the “look and see what I have done,” of the present administration, exalting accomplishments out of

proportion and taking credit for all the changes in the last five years.

Humala’s platform was initially more radical than the final program he presented in the weeks before the elections. He realized, it seems, that too far left, too far socialist in tone, too radical would not be to his benefit. On the same side of the argument were the threats from the big banks and business

that were already investing in Peru, that too far against the neo-liberal model and they would pull out. That was a threat he could not withstand.

But the one piece of Humala’s platform that remains, and probably the one that got him elected, was that of “social and economic inclusion.” Even though the statistics show remarkable economic growth and a



Sr. Yuli and her students take a field trip.

lessening of poverty in the last ten years, it is a well-known fact that the wealth has not filtered down to the really poor.

During the time of Garcia, the mines (not only the one in our area of Huancayo that we have written about, but across the country), have provided employment, a certain income, some improvements in roads, electricity etc., but have at the same time impoverished the earth, polluted the waters and the surrounding land, and contaminated the air. The increase in the wealth that has been reported has come from the mines at the tremendous cost not only to the environment but especially to the cultures of the indigenous peoples whose lands are directly affected.

It is the Aymara culture in the south central area of the country that has risen in protest against mines coming into their area. The Aymara people are a very strong and united group of people. They are the only ones so far that have been able to resist the entrance of the mines. Their belief is that the “pachamama” (mother earth) will be desecrated by the mining companies, and the fate of the people will be disastrous. Dialogue is going on right now among the leaders of the Aymara community and



**Peru’s new president
Ollanta Humala
(photo from Google images)**

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the government. We can only wonder how long the "little people" can resist the imperialism of the mining companies.

Even the organizations of big business are recognizing that unless the wealth filters down to the people who have been so abandoned by previous governments, the future of Peru is not one of optimism.

We have dedicated a good part of the Peruvian Journal to the election results because it is what we have been breathing, seeing, hearing, for the past several months, and we have felt the support of your prayers during this process.

Callao

Pilar, our associate visiting from San Miguel has returned home at least for a couple of weeks. Our prayers go with her, that her recovery be genuine and continuous.

San Miguel

Kathy spent a week in Huaripampa while Sue was away so as to accompany Yuli and reconnect with friends from Muquiyauyo.

Huaripampa

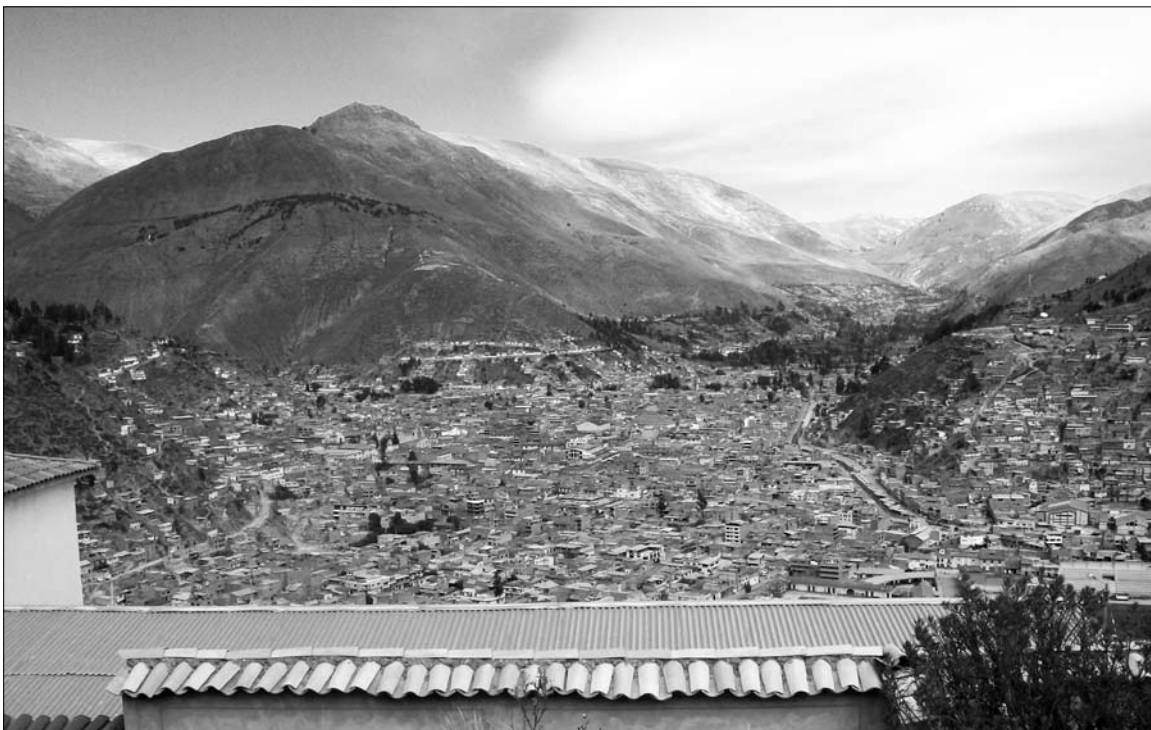
The children's workshop continues and is growing. We are now meeting with the parents so as to keep the communication flowing with the families. And we are beginning the "school for parents" in coordination with the pre-schools, elementary and secondary schools in the three areas we serve.

We are anticipating with joy our visitors at the end of this month, Catholic Worker, Casa Latina, and Maria and Fernanda Scharfenberger.

We trust that summer there brings some relaxation and renewal for all of you!

With love,

Kathy, Yuli, Carol, Sue



A view of mountain tops and city in Peru.