

THE PERUVIAN JOURNAL

“And Jesus sent his disciples two by two” (Luke 10, 1)

Our archbishop, Monseñor Pedro Barreto Jimenez participated in the V Conference of Latin American Bishops in the town of Aparecida, Brazil, in May of 2007. In this conference the bishops initiated “The Great Continental Mission” in which the laity would assume their role as missionaries and evangelizers of Jesus’ Word. Monseñor Pedro returned from this encounter very animated to start this mission in our Archdiocese of Huancayo.

Our Zone, the Fourth Deanery of Huancayo, planned a small part of this mission to be carried out on Friday, September 11th and Saturday, September 12th in two parishes of our Deanery: Sincos (with its smaller towns of Pacamarca, Santa Cruz, San Juan de Miraflores and Cruz Pampa, and Llocllapampa (with its smaller towns of Matachico, Acaya, Quinchis, Pachacayo, San Juan, San Francisco and Rosario).

Twenty six lay volunteers from the seven parishes of our Zone volunteered to be sent “two by two” in a special Mass at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, September 11, in the main parish in Jauja.

“Tula” (a committed parishioner of Llocllapampa) and I were sent to Pacamarca. It was our first time to visit this beautiful town. “Catalina,” the sacristan of the small chapel there, greeted us warmly upon our arrival. Soon other members of the Chapel Committee were there. “Lucila” offered us breakfast. “Mercedes” offered us lunch. And Jesús and Ana offered us supper and a room in their home for the night.

That morning, we visited the teacher and her 12 students in their only school. They enthusiastically told us that they would be present in the Celebration of the Word that we would have together that evening in the chapel.

In the afternoon we visited the homes, but most of the families were working in their fields. At 6:00 p.m. a small boy came to ring the chapel bells for the service;

then the rains began to come. Due to the downpour, only 12 people joined us for the prayers. After the service, the family came to take us to their home for the night. This young couple and their three boys get up at 5:00 a.m. each morning to milk the cows, feed the animals, do their chores and go to school or the fields.

Tula and I stayed till 3:00 p.m., when we caught the bus to return to our homes. It was a memorable visit, and we promised to return at another time. Our host family promised to visit us in Muquiyauyo when they could do so.

This coming Thursday we will have an evaluation of the mission. One thing I am sure that happened this weekend is that our Christian community has grown because of new friendships formed and many Christian values shared.

While I was on the mission, Yuli was teaching her class in the town of Huasquicha and Sue accompanied Rocio Barreda, the young teacher who is with us this year in Muquiyauyo. Rocio was returning from her classes in the small town of Masma, when she fell walking down the mountain and broke her ankle. The doctor told us that a cast would not help her and that she had to have surgery. Rocio was hospitalized, and now is home recuperating nicely. Rocio’s mother came from Callao to be with her for a few days. We are relieved to know that she is doing well and that she will soon be back teaching her classes. Some of the teachers and students of her school came to visit her, which caused her usually bright smile to be even more beautiful.



We continue to hold each of you in our prayers. Thank you for remembering us too.

Enjoy the beauty of the autumn season!

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