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Saying goodbyes. As I am writing this, I have about three more weeks in Peru. We all know how difficult it is to say goodbye. I have formed relationships with many people, and I have walked through life with them, in the common events, the celebrations and the sadness. I am cleaning house, selling and distributing my possessions, and wondering what my life will be like without the people and land that have won my heart. Please pray for me in this transition.

One of the hardest goodbyes will be at the prison. It is one of my greatest joys to be with the women of the prison weekly. It is hard to imagine them as criminals. They have made mistakes, this is true. But I see them turning their lives around, seek-

ing a new beginning through Bible study and prayer, and are so grateful for our presence. As we are studying *The Five Love Languages*, by Dr. Gary Chapman, they openly talk about how they have been loved in various ways. They see how the lessons can be applied in real life. Our last lesson was on gifts as an expression of love. We talked about the value of the gift not being as important as being thought of by the giver. We read the stories in the Bible of the widow who gave the two coins in the offering box, and of the woman who anointed Jesus with costly perfume. Those gifts were coming from the heart, and the cost didn't matter. One woman mentioned that her son brought her *caramelos*, pieces of candy, when he visited her, and that it meant a lot to her. Another form of gift is physical presence, just being with the person, giving the gift of time. It is especially important in times of crisis. One of the women said to the four of us, "We appreciate the gift you are giving us every week in just being here." Have you given a gift of time lately? There is someone in your life who would appreciate just being with you.

When we go to the prison, we are often greeted by a little girl named Luz. Her name means "light". She is petite, around two years old, and she comes hopping over to us with a smile on her face. She loves to sit on our laps during the study time, and she enjoys the hugs and attention. Luz will have to leave the prison when she reaches the age of three. She will go to a family member's home or to an orphanage. During my time with the women, I watched as a baby named David grew to the age of his leaving. When he became three, he went to an orphanage, as his father is dead, but the father's relatives didn't want to accept him. Jennifer and Tim Goshorn go to this orphanage weekly in their ministry and see David. Soledad, a prisoner, is the mother of David and knows that Jennifer (one of our prison ministry team) sees her son on a regular basis, however, Soledad doesn't ask about him. I suppose it is too painful.

My future. I can't imagine living my life without doing ministry for God. Everywhere we live, there are people who need the love of God and salvation through Jesus. Personal testimony and Bible study will continue to be part of my daily living. My Spanish language skills will be useful in reaching out to Hispanics. I invite you to find where God is calling you. Make your prayer, "please put in my path someone you want me to speak to." God will faithfully answer this prayer.

Blessings in my future. As I left for my life in Peru, my inspiration passage was Genesis 12 where God called Abram to leave his homeland, "and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you," was the promise. When we are blessed by God, we are expected to pass that blessing on to others. I was called to Peru to bless others, and I received an unbelievable blessing from God in following his calling.

I am happy to share that I will continue to be blessed, and my missionary work is not completely done. **I will continue to work with the Mission Society as a part of a Member Care Team.** This team of persons visits other missionaries in the world, to encourage them, listen to them, and be a presence in their lives. The missionary life can be very lonely and discouraging, and often there are not people close by to give spiritual and emotional support. This is the role of the Member Care Team: missionaries caring for missionaries. It will involve traveling to various parts of the world several times a year, although my home base will be in my hometown of Pratt, Kansas. I will share more about this as I learn more.

Kuyay Talpuy news. The meaning of Kuyay Talpuy in Quechua is “Planting seeds with the love of God.” This has been an apt name, for the Kuyay team planted the seeds of faith among the children and families of the mountains. Like the parable of the sower in the Bible, as we planted, we didn’t know what the results would be. The new faith may sprout quickly but be damaged by the cares of the world; or temptations or doubts will come and steal what little faith was there; or the “deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things” (Mark 4:19) will cause the faith to bear little fruit. Our purpose in Kuyay Talpuy has been to fulfill the calling of God and plant the seeds. Our prayers are that the seeds sown in the mountain communities will sprout, grow, and produce much fruit.

I explained in the last newsletter about the difficulties and challenges Kuyay had when it started, facing resistance and opposition from the community. Now seven years later, the parents want the program and the question is, “Will you have Kuyay when classes start again in March?” Sadly, this year the answer is “no.” The apostle Paul spent very little time with each church he started in the Mediterranean region. When he left, he expected them to continue to grow in their new faith. This is the time that the parents need to take personal responsibility for their own faith and the growth of faith in their children. It is our prayer that the seeds planted will continue to mature.

The teachers of Kuyay held *vacaciones utiles* in January and February. This is like summer school with some academics and teaching the Bible. We ended the summer school session with a *paseo*, a field trip to a recreational area. Parents joined the children in this venture, and they were able to swim, ride in a swan boat, play games and picnic.

The Kuyay teachers are making their future plans. **Milagros Nunez** is seeking a job as a teacher in the public school system. If she decides to go to the jungle or to a remote mountain community which have many difficulties and challenges, she will receive more pay. **Rosio Carbajal** is going to the city of Oroya for a month to work in a church. She will come back to Huancayo and look for a job and continue in the prison ministry. She eventually hopes to study in a mission school in Lima. **Tania Nunez**, sister to Milagros, is returning to Lima where her parents are. She has lived in Huancayo for eleven years, so it is a transition to the big city life again. She plans to work in her church, complete a program in counseling and learn English. **Nelida Gamero** will remain in the prison ministry, and she will spend more time in her business, where she rents tents for special events. She also has plans to marry in the near future.

Please pray for these young women as they transfer to a new life. They need to have income, and it is a time of uncertainty for almost all of them. They will be “missionaries” wherever they go, and they realize they can still have an impact on the people around them. Their hearts are for God’s mission.



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