

## Report No. 8 from Alto Cayma – 27 Aug 17

### An Opportunity Lost

I sometimes miss out on things because I spend so much time in Peru. For example, I missed the opportunity to see the total eclipse of the sun which took place just an hour or so from my home in North Carolina this past Monday. At least I can say I was “represented” at the event, however, as it was witnessed by my son, Robert, and his faithful furry companion, Chico.



## **Moving Up the Hill**

We continue installing resources in our new building up in Mujeres con Esperanza. This week we relocated our computer lab, which now occupies the room



closest to the front door of the new building. Moving this furniture and equipment out of the second floor of our building in ENACE opens up room to convert that area into two spacious offices for Briza and Victor to occupy. We've already moved some



furniture from our house down to the building to make those offices more comfortable. The next step will be to have a contractor come in and install drywall partitions to divide the space into two equal parts and enclose the two offices.

### **Student Interviews**

Lidia and I are continuing to interview students in the aftermath of the recent entrance exam for the National University. Here's a photo of Karina Enriquez, the



only one of our students who passed the exam and gained admission this go-around. Karina is going to study Accounting, and she took 18<sup>th</sup> place among the 30 students who gained admission to study that particular major.

### **Acercádonos Sponsorship Program Waiting List**

We continue to discover many potential new candidates, both children and elderly, for the waiting list of our Acercádonos program. We don't just casually put someone on the list who, at first glance, appears to have need. Instead, we make a number of visits to be sure we've learned everything we need to know before making a decision concerning sponsorship. Part of the process now is to write a formal Work Plan for each family, to document our decisions as to how we can help, not just with a possible sponsorship, but with other services we can offer as well.

This week, John and I made 3 final visits, accompanied by Briza and Giuliana, to possible elderly candidates for the waiting list. The visits confirmed that 2 of the 3



will now go on the waiting list. The 3<sup>rd</sup> possible candidate has 2 grown sons living at home, and they need to work a little harder to help their mother. We don't have



enough sponsorships to cover everybody, so our priority has to be those candidates who have no other recourse.

## **Wheels**

While my Chinese motorcycle is in the shop, recuperating from yet another breakdown, Victor and I have begun looking at the possibility of replacing it with a new one. We visited one shop that had a number of jazzy-looking dirt bikes at very



affordable prices. However, that's because these bikes are also Chinese. But at least this brand appears to be made of a better grade of potmetal than that of the bike I've got now.

### **The Pied Piper**

John's activities for kids are continuing to gain traction. In his English classes, he's consistently drawing 30 or more kids to the Thursday class up in Mujeres con Esperanza, and with his assistant, Gabriel, he's now drawing 15-20 for his Friday



classes down in ENACE. His Kids' Club in his church, where he's assisted by Victor Anchante and his wife, Alimar, is also consistently drawing 15-20 kids every



Saturday morning. It does bring to mind the story of the Pied Piper, but this story will have a happier ending!

### **Día del Adulto Mayor**

Saturday, 26 August, was “el Día del Adulto Mayor” (the Day of the Elderly, or, as my son-in-law, John, would say in my case, Old Goat’s Day) in Peru. On the 4<sup>th</sup>



Saturday of every month, we always put on some kind of special event up in Mujeres con Esperanza, so this month we used the opportunity to celebrate with the elderly of that new settlement, with the costs of the event being underwritten by the Adventurers group of empty-nesters from Advent Lutheran Church back in Charlotte.

The program began with John delivering a biblical message of encouragement to the elderly, with Lurdes providing a translation into Quechua.



Then Briza and Giuliana put on a very imaginative and humorous skit regarding proper treatment of the elderly. Briza was made up to play the part of a 95-year old





“abuelita” (granny) being taken care of by her daughter, Giuliana (or Rebecca, as the



forgetful “abuelita” Briza kept calling her). The message was that the elderly need to be treated with consideration, respect and patience, all of which commodities are often in short supply in this culture where the working-age people have to work long and hard hours just in order to make enough for their families to even survive. Briza and Giuliana also made up a tri-fold brochure on the subject of care for the



elderly which we can hand out to caregivers.

After the skit, a lunch of Aji de Gallina with potatoes, prepared by the ladies



from the Acercándonos office, was served. A number of door prizes were then raffled off, and the people went home happy.

### **Academy Scholars**

Our students who are preparing in academies to compete for entrance to the National University are considered part of our Salir Adelante educational sponsorship program. However, they can't make the regular monthly Salir Adelante meetings on the morning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month because they're in classes at that time. Instead, they've been coming to see Lidia individually. To give these students the benefit of the group dynamics that occur when a group meets, Lidia and Sabina have just instituted a monthly meeting, just for these students, in the afternoon on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month. We had the first such meeting on



Saturday of this week. This was mostly just an introductory meeting, but as time goes on, the students will be coached to emulate the activities that go on during the meetings of the more mature group of university students in the Salir Adelante program. These activities will be very beneficial to the development of these students as future professionals.

### **Victor's Health**

We are all currently very concerned, as Victor Galdos is scheduled to undergo



surgery this Thursday morning to remove a massive collection of polyps which have developed in his sinus cavities, impeding his ability to breathe properly. Please keep Victor and his family in your prayers this week.

“Love God, Serve Neighbor/Serving Alto Cayma”,

Jim