

Report No. 10 from Alto Cayma - 10 Sep 17

Medical Campaigns

My week got off to a flying start when I walked into the office on Monday morning and Luz told me that Dr. Valero from the Catholic University had just called to offer us a medical campaign in Mujeres con Esperanza. The catch was the date - we had thought this opportunity was going to present itself sometime next year, with a slight possibility that something might open up for October of this year, but thanks to a last minute cancellation, they were offering us the date of Sunday, September 17, which was just under 2 weeks away!

On Tuesday afternoon, we went to the university for a meeting with Dr. César Sapaico del Castillo, who will be in charge of the university's part



in the campaign. The purpose of the meeting was to identify what would be required from us to support the university medical team, and the answer turned out to be.....a lot, and the job is complicated by the fact that we are choosing to carry out this campaign in rather primitive territory, where we're still in the process of getting established. The things they need from us would include:

- Printing and distributing 2,000 flyers advertising the campaign.

- Providing 10 private examining rooms for the 10 medical specialties the university will bring. (Normally they conduct these campaigns in schools, which have lots of classrooms, but there is no school yet in Mujeres con Esperanza, so we're having to adapt our building and the community's Social Center for this purpose.)

- Providing desks, chairs and examining tables for each of the 10 examining rooms. (We don't have this much furniture, so we'll have to scrounge to supplement what we've got.)

- Help in directing the anticipated 500 patients who will be seen by the various specialties over a 5-hour period.

- A midmorning snack for the approximately 40 medical personnel who will be working, plus the helpers.

- Lunch for the 40 medical personnel.

I had my doubts about our ability to organize and execute such an effort on such short notice, but Briza assured me that she has experience with such campaigns, and that this one will be doable even with this late notice, so I decided to give her the opportunity.

On Wednesday evening we met with the Junta Directiva (Board of Directors) of the Mujeres con Esperanza settlement to coordinate the support we would need from them, and Briza spent a good part of the rest of the week visiting other places to line up support and attend to details. (In addition to the medical attention, a barber college will be providing free haircuts, and the National Police may put on some activities as well.) I'll wait until next week, when I can include photos, to show you what a large-scale exercise like this looks like when it's carried out in a location like Mujeres con Esperanza.

Oh, and by the way, as we're preparing during this coming week for the big medical campaign in Mujeres con Esperanza next weekend, on Wednesday we'll also be hosting a mobile testing unit from the Cancer League to do cancer screening tests on around 50 of the people in our sponsorship program, just to keep time from hanging heavy on our hands.

New Offices

On Tuesday, the contractor finally got started on the project to divide what had been the computer lab on the second floor of our building into two



new offices for Victor and Briza. I wanted those two, plus Lidia, to be in the same area to promote good communication among them. However, to prevent "overcommunication", we're stuffing the walls with fiberglass insulation for



sound deadening, especially since Victor and Briza both deal with cases involving sensitive personal problems of individuals and families.

Acercádonos Elderly Meeting

On Saturday, we had the monthly meeting with the elderly in our Acercádonos sponsorship program. We welcomed one new "ahijado", David



Navarro, into the program. (Since David serves as the sexton in another church, he was able to help us get the sound system working for our meeting, which was an all-time first for a new "ahijado". :-)

John delivered a very upbeat devotional message, drawing on combined resources that spanned 2 millenia in time (from Pixar animations back to the Holy Bible, with translations into the language of the ancient Incas provided by Lurdes), and at the end of the meeting the ladies served a



snack in a belated celebration of the Day of the Elderly, which actually fell on



August 26.

Rotaract "Adobos"

A popular Sunday breakfast meal very typical of Arequipa is the "adobo", which is like a pork cutlet cooked in a light barbecue sauce. When a



family or a group needs money for a special purpose, they often put on an "adobada", or sale of homemade adobo, to raise the needed funds. Our Rotaract club typically puts on an adobada once a year to raise money for their service projects, and since Joseph, their current president, is a graduate of a culinary school who has his own secret recipe which is highly regarded by his clientele, they always do well (selling approximately 150 adobos). We always buy 10 adobos to give to 10 of our elderly who wouldn't otherwise be able to afford to partake, and that adds a little extra touch of "seasoning" to the event for us. The 10 selected elderly are brought to our office after church



on Sunday morning to receive their adobos. (That way we don't provoke a riot among the elderly who didn't get selected this time.) Each one is very happy



to receive this unanticipated treat, and then, with a clatter of canes, they're



off for their houses.

Ladies Luncheon

Another significant activity on Sunday was the first-ever Ladies Luncheon hosted by Carol in the Church of the Good Shepard. It was very well attended, with some 25 or so ladies present, some of whom came from unexpected places, which would indicate that the word is spreading to neighboring barrios about this new church. The lunch itself was delicious and



ample, as Peruvian lunches tend to be, and afterwards Carol conducted a



Bible study on the theme of Women of Faith. All in all, the event was quite successful, especially for a first-time offering.

Rotaract

I finished Sunday off by visiting the Rotaract club meeting. They talked about a couple of very interesting service projects they're planning.



One is to give vocational orientation talks to the students in the schools in our area, drawing on their knowledge of the career fields they're studying in the university or in institutes. The other was a very imaginative project to share their lives for a weekend with families more needy than their own (and the Rotaract members are far from rich themselves, believe me). They would go in pairs and stay with the families for the weekend, getting to know them and understand the challenges they face, participating in their activities, lending them a helping hand with improvement projects around the house, and perhaps taking them out for a treat like rotisserie chicken which the family wouldn't otherwise be able to afford. It sounds like a great program to benefit the Rotaractors in their personal development as well as to benefit the selected families, and Victor and the ladies in our Association can certainly serve up the families in need.

Victor's Recovery

Speaking of Victor, you know that Victor had his sinuses operated on a week and a half ago (Thursday, August 31). He was totally miserable for the first few days after the operation (sleeping a total of 4 hours combined in the first three nights at home). He improved significantly when they removed the packing from his nose on Tuesday, allowing him to breathe normally. He still suffered from headaches and a feeling of pressure inside his head, however, until he performed a rinse procedure on Thursday night which relieved those symptoms. On Friday, he felt so much better that he dropped by the office for



a few minutes just to say hello, but don't worry, that was a one-time thing. The rest of the time, he's stayed at home, in accordance with the doctor's strict orders. He's currently on convalescent leave until Monday, September 18th, and we're going to enforce those doctor's orders as needed.

"Love God, Serve Neighbor/Serving Alto Cayma",

Jim