

Report No. 13 from Alto Cayma - 1 Oct 17

The Last Report

This is the last report in this series, as I'm starting to write it in Lima on my way home this fine Sunday evening. John and Carol will put out a few interim reports from now until my return to Alto Cayma, which is currently planned for mid-February 2018. (That sounds so far off!)

Letters

I finally got the last of the Mar 17 letters from the "ahijados" (sponsees) out of translation in the Cultural Center, plus some of the current (Aug 17) letters. My plan is to scan and e-mail the Mar 17 translations to the "padrinos" (sponsors) when I get home, and mail the Aug 17 letters as they get translated by Mercedes Aragon and myself.

Expanded Psychological Screening

We've made an arrangement with Jhon, our psychologist, to hold an interview with all members of every new family that applies for a



sponsorship. The idea is that with even a short interview, Jhon should be able to detect if there are psychological problems (which there so often are with these highly-stressed families) which we need to deal with in our Work

Plan for helping that family. As time goes by, we are trying to be ever more professional in the quality of the integrated services we offer our benefitting families, and this is just one more step in that direction.

Center for Reconciliation

As you know from reading these reports, the parents in many of the families we sponsor in Alto Cayma are separated. If they had access to good counseling, perhaps some of these separations could be avoided. At this point in the story, enter Edith Benique (shown in the center of this photo that was taken the day that she and Lidia joined the Arequipa Ciudad Blanca Rotary



Club). Edith went through Law School with a Salir Adelante sponsorship from Jenny Day, of Charlotte, NC. She and two of her classmates have now set up their own fledgling law practice and are struggling to get it off the ground, but at the same time, Edith has such a strong service ethic (gained from her experience as President of our Rotaract Club) that she wants to do something immediately to serve others through her profession. Edith has a younger sister who is currently in Law School and has studied Reconciliation as a specialty. The two of them have opened a Reconciliation Center with an open door policy, where their services will be discounted as necessary, or even offered pro bono, if the clients are unable to pay the normal rate. Edith will make these services known to the families with children in our Acercádonos program at next Saturday's monthly meeting. Needless to say, we are enormously proud of Edith!

Cooking Classes

The cooking classes being offered in our building down the hill continue to be successful. Soon we'll be equipping the kitchen in our new building in Mujeres con



Esperanza so we can offer the same classes up the hill. If the turnout for everything else we've offered up in Mujeres con Esperanza is any indication, the cooking classes should be a stellar hit in that community.

Works in Progress

This photo shows 2 works in progress. We had a meeting in Briza's future office (one work in progress) with Professor Dante and Jennifer (another work in



progress) to continue developing a plan under which we could support Jennifer's formal study of music. (You'll hear more about that when the plan is fully developed.)

Meanwhile, right next door, and in the finest Peruvian tradition, Carol was



painting Victor's future office, with John providing sage technical advice.

Lurdes' House

We always love to see our own people get ahead. Lurdes, from our Acercádonos program office, just finished a project to stucco the inside walls of the



first floor of her house, and it really looks nice. The kitchen still wasn't done as of the



time I had to leave Alto Cayma, but hopefully will be finished soon as well. Congratulations, Lurdes!

A New Order

Something happened just before I left Alto Cayma that made me remember these historic words from John F. Kennedy's Inaugural Address: "Let the word go forth from this time and place, to friend and foe alike, that the torch has been passed to a new generation....." We were going to have a meeting to discuss our student sponsorship programs with Lidia and Sabina. I dropped my things off in the meeting room, and stepped out for a minute. When I returned, I found that Lidia had "taken charge". Not only that, but



she was also announcing a complete overhaul of all the rules for everything.



Even funnier than these photos themselves was John's reaction when he first saw them. He had been so "into" whatever he was doing on his smartphone that he asked, "When were *those* taken?!" That's all right, John. You'll be OK when the sun comes up. :-)

God, I hate to leave this place!

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

Jim