

Report No. 9 from Alto Cayma - 29 Apr 18

On My Way

I'm writing this while stranded in the Lima airport due to a thunderstorm in Buenos Aires. Is that what they mean by "globalization"?

A Dedication

Tuesday was the 10th anniversary of the death (of cancer, at age 30), of Jessica Hodgkins Dovi, in whose honor our Service Center in Mujeres con Esperanza is named. Last year her parents, David & Donna Hodgkins, of Charlotte, NC, gave us a generous donation with which to equip our kitchen classroom in Mujeres con Esperanza. A dedication event was held this week with the ladies who are studying in the current class. As the event was reported by Victor:

"Yesterday we visited the kitchen in Mujeres con Esperanza for the purpose of officially dedicating the cooking class in the name of Jessica Hodgkins, at which time, as we can see in the photos, we delivered Jessica's photo. We also delivered a



uniform to each of the ladies in the class, consisting of a cap and apron. There is a lot of interest in the cooking classes in Mujeres con Esperanza, but the people don't have sufficient resources to be able to pay the expenses. Seeing this was the case, a study was made and it was agreed that we would subsidize the students with 50% of the cost of each class. This news pleased all the ladies very, very much. Finally, we



drank a toast to the Hodgkins family with soda and crackers, that God may bless them always. Our eternal gratitude for all their support."

A Brother and Sister Act

Elvis and Madeley Lllacachi are two kids we knew for years in the Aldea (orphanage), until each one "aged out" of that institution. We have been supporting Elvis' studies in an institute to become an auto mechanic, and he came this week to give us an update on his progress. (This also gave him an opportunity to visit with



Sabina, who had been a contemporary of his in the Aldea. I'm shocked to realize that both are 23 years old now, and that Elvis has a wife and baby!)

While we were talking, Elvis mentioned that Madeley, his youngest sister, is also finishing a course in dressmaking, and she would like to work independently at that trade, but for that she would need a sewing machine of her own, and she didn't have the capital to buy one. I asked Elvis to send Madeley to see Victor and I before I had to travel, and she came as requested. We talked about her plan, and told her that



when she is ready, she can get an interest-free loan to buy her sewing machine. I'm hoping this leads to a stable and prosperous economic future for Madeley. (As you can see in the photo, a career in the WNBA isn't an option for her. :-)

A Farewell

On Friday, the staff and my family held a farewell luncheon for me. That was



April 27, the 5th anniversary of Gloria's death, which we all remembered vividly.

"Renacer" (Rebirth)

And last, but certainly not least, I have something new to announce. By way of background, many of the families we serve have one or more family members with drinking problems which hinder our efforts to help them in other ways. We've always wanted to make the program of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) available to them, preferably with a group meeting right here in Alto Cayma, but I needed local expertise to be able to do that, and I didn't have anyone who was qualified. Then, last year, I discovered that a fellow named Mario, who had been my neighbor two doors up the street for 11 years, was active in AA and is about to celebrate 40 years of continuous sobriety.

I talked to Mario about starting a new group, and he was very enthusiastic. I was able to offer the use of our Pumpkin House as a meeting place, and that's the big



surprise I've been hinting at for the past couple of weeks, as we prepared the house as a meeting place. We call the new group "Renacer", which appropriately means



Rebirth.

The group meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 7:00 to 8:30, and we



held the first 3 meetings this week. This group is open to men and women, young



and old. Victor has been sitting in on meetings to learn more about the program so as to be able to explain it to new prospects he encounters in his work in our Acercádonos sponsorship program.

Mario is already showing a talent for quickly establishing rapport with the



new people we're bringing to the program. I'm hoping to find the program thriving and growing when I return to Alto Cayma in 3 months, at the beginning of August.

Coming Attractions

The ladies in the Acercádonos office have already started building the food baskets that 277 families will get on Mother's Day. Also, on Saturday afternoon, just



after I left, Victor and Briza took the kids in our New Horizons Youth Group on a tour of the Cathedral, in the Plaza de Armas downtown. In my absence, the staff will be sending reports on these and many other events which will take place during the 3 months I'm out of the country.

And with that, my list and my self are simultaneously exhausted. See you in August!

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

Jim