

Report No. 10 from Alto Cayma - 7 Oct 18

Calling All Sponsors

I didn't issue a specific call for letters before I traveled down to Peru this time, and very few sponsors have written. If you would like to write to your "ahijado" (sponsoree), please do so and e-mail me the letter. I'll get it translated and delivered to your ahijado, who will be very happy to receive it.

Happy Birthday, Maribel

Monday was Maribel's birthday, and as usual, we celebrated with a birthday cake. The custom here is that after blowing out the candle, the



birthday celebrant is invited to take the first bite right out of the cake. Being an old hand at this, Maribel was keeping a wary eye on Luz, lest Luz should shove the whole cake into her face, but Lurdes blindsided her by lunging out from behind Luz and giving the underside of the platter a mighty whack. I'll



have to say that it was about the best cake-in-the-face job I've ever seen.

Christmas in October

Christmas seems far away, but one of the suppliers of the foodstuffs we give out in our food pantry made us an offer we couldn't refuse. He gave us such a good deal on "panetones", the Italian-style fruitcakes we include in our Christmas foodbaskets, that we bought 300 of them. With so many people to



serve, everything we buy has the potential to become a storage issue.

Class of 2018

Lidia and I are meeting with the kids, and their parents, from the Acercádonos program who are finishing high school in December of this year, getting ready to transition them into our Salir Adelante and Bridge to Opportunity educational sponsorship programs next year. The idea is to form a team, to get behind the student and all do our part to help him or her succeed. Sometimes these meetings bring back old memories, as when Jimmy



Aquize and his father, Ricardo, came in this week. I remember many years ago we had some bicycles to give away, donated by the Southwest Cabarras County Rotary Club. We held an essay contest for our kids in the Acercádonos program to write why their father or their mother deserved to receive a bicycle. Jimmy, who was just a little kid at the time, won the contest by writing about how his father struggled against the handicap of illiteracy to provide for his family as best he could. It was a very inspiring story, but when we presented the bicycle, Jimmy was quick to advise his father to enjoy the bicycle while he could, before Jimmy himself became old enough to ride it.

A Scouting Trip

Victor had heard about a new area that had been developed beside the Chili River, just below Alto Cayma, which might be suitable as a place to take our young people on their next camping trip. He and Briza went to check it out, and found it so agreeable that we're going to take all our elderly people



there on an outing two weeks from Tuesday, when we have some visitors here.

Elections

Today (Sunday) is Election Day in Arequipa. During this final week leading up to the elections, annoying campaign activities, such as these caravans of vehicles snaking through the neighborhoods blaring their inane



campaign jingles and mindless campaign songs at 120 decibels, reached a peak. This was also the week for "Bread and Circuses", as the candidates put



on free community events to show the public what great guys they are. Today someone will be elected, and then we probably won't see hide nor hair of them again until the next elections.

Somebody Call the Cops!

On Saturday afternoon, we held an illegal assembly. It was our monthly Acercádonos meeting for the kids in our program. Normally, this



wouldn't be an illegal assembly, but this month it was, because of the "Ley Seca" (Dry Law). This law says that from Friday night until Sunday night on election weekend, there is to be no alcohol sold, nor any public gatherings, in order to help assure orderly and peaceful elections. Fortunately, nobody ratted us out.

At Saturday's meeting, we had a talk by a young woman named Maya, whom we met through the Rotary club downtown. Her topic was "Raising



Children with Respect", and it had to do with the need to raise the current generation of boys and girls with the same privileges, responsibilities and expectations in order to phase out the kind of gender inequality that has been so prevalent in Peru, and which, at its worst, gives rise to the kind of domestic violence we unfortunately see so much of here, and which keeps Nataly, our lawyer, so busily occupied.

We also announced another series of talks which will be given, by a member of the staff of Father Alex' Family Center, to our kids in the last 2 years of high school and their parents. This will be a series of 5 talks, on 5 successive Saturdays, under the heading of "Learning to Love", delving into all the subjects with which teenagers struggle in their formative years.

Construction in Mujeres con Esperanza

The bricks continue to fly in Mujeres con Esperanza. As the walls of the second floor rise into the sky, they make the one-story building below



appear small.

On the second floor, over half the space will be dedicated to one huge room, from where I'm standing all the way to the end wall. This room should



accommodate the large groups of people who attend some of our events, and still leave room for dynamic activities.

The computer lab will go up front on the second floor.



The roof has been poured over the first floor bathrooms and storeroom



in the side yard. This is how a poured concrete roof is supported until the



concrete cures to its full strength. Pretty rustic, but practical.

The big doors are now hung on the entrance to the side yard.



When we're finished, that prefab building will be gone and this entire



side yard will be covered with synthetic grass for the children in our future Daycare Center to play on. How exciting!

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

Jim