

Report No. 12 from Alto Cayma - 21 Oct 18

Kaizen Consulting Group

This week our entire staff, from myself on downward, all went to Kaizen for interviews to talk about the work of ourselves and those around us. The idea was to find out if any of us are unsuited for our jobs. This morning (Sunday), the 3 Directors and I went to Kaizen to receive an executive-level briefing of the results of their evaluation. We were all relieved



to learn that Kaizen would not recommend terminating any of the 4 of us.

Childcare Center

I have earlier reported that we are planning to implement a childcare center in Mujeres con Esperanza when our current construction project is completed. We had heard that the community members had also been working on a similar initiative, so we arranged a meeting with President



Yudy (3rd from the left) and some of the members of her Board of Directors to discuss how we can unite our efforts to provide a service superior to what either of us could do working alone. We agreed in principle that we (ASAC) could provide the facility and equipment while they could mobilize the community to collaborate with us, but we have a lot of work ahead of us to put that agreement-in-principle into specific, actionable terms.

English Classes

I visited John's English class in Mujeres con Esperanza on Thursday afternoon, and again came away marveling that John and the ladies from our Acercádonos office can manage to obtain a productive result from such a



crowd of young kids. Of course it helps that Briza takes the youngest ones (whom she calls the "Leoncitos", or Little Lions) into a separate room to



watch videos on very basic English.

Visitor Activities, or "Let 'em Eat Cake!"

Dan & Kathy Dunn arrived Friday noon, just in time for John's office



birthday party. (He had turned 51 on Monday.)

On Friday afternoon, we had the monthly birthday party in the Aldea



(orphanage), which is an initiative the Dunns have long supported.

On Saturday morning, we had the monthly Salir Adelante meeting, which included a birthday celebration, and on Saturday afternoon we had the monthly Acercándonos program birthday party. (See stories on both events below.)

After 4 birthday parties in just a little over 24 hours, the visitors would have been justified in asking if all we do around here is eat cake. The answer, of course, is no - sometimes we eat candies too. After the last birthday party,



Kathy dropped in on the Rotaract club's work session where they were making chocolate candies to sell as a fundraiser. She was impressed with the kids' industry, and will be interested to hear how they will use the money they raise to help those less fortunate.

Against All Odds - the Dilbert Torres Story

Last week I told the story of Dilbert Torres, the 17-year old boy who has struggled all his life to get an education so that he can help the rest of his

family, including educating his younger siblings. I was hoping (praying) that someone would want to sponsor Dilbert for his studies in the SENATI technical institute, and the day after my report was published, Donnell Horton, the daughter of one of the founding members of my church back home, stepped forward, saying, "God has put it on my heart to help." I really appreciated her response, as I did the positive responses I received from 4 other readers during the course of this week. We called Dilbert in to receive the good news while Dan & Kathy Dunn were in the office. What Donnell's



sponsorship will mean to the future lives of Dilbert and his 2 younger siblings is not just the concentric waves of a pebble in the water, but rather those of a rock.....kerplunk!

Salir Adelante

At the monthly meeting of the students in the Salir Adelante program on Saturday morning, Marco Coyto gave a presentation about his field of



study, Industrial Electrotechnology. His talk was very "illuminating", and sometimes even "shocking", especially when he showed many pictures of people who had been electrocuted because they had not taken prudent safety precautions around high tension wires.

There was also a celebration for those of the group who had birthdays in September or October, and since Dan and I both were born in October, we



were invited to join in the celebration. We soon had reason to believe that we



should have known better.

Also in conjunction with this meeting, Dan & Kathy had individual interviews with the 5 students whose education they are sponsoring, such as



Elizabeth, who is about to get her degree in Civil Engineering.

Acercádonos Birthday Party

When we walked into the room for Saturday afternoon's Acercádonos program birthday party, we were surprised to discover that Briza and the ladies had gone above and beyond, and had decorated the room on a



Halloween theme.

I captured some interesting expressions on the kids' faces during the game of musical chairs. Jessica, the determined-looking little girl in the lower



right, made sure throughout the party that everyone knew she is now 5.

Dan & Kathy enjoyed giving out the presents at the party, and were impressed that the elderly were able to heft their heavy food baskets and



carry them home.

A Message for our Youth

On Saturday evening, Rosa Maria Lupa, a member of the staff of Father Alex' Family Center, gave our older kids in the Acercándonos



sponsorship program (those in the last 2 years of high school) a nice talk about the proper progression of relationships, and how to keep things in perspective. The kids would be well advised to follow all of Rosa Maria's advice, but unfortunately some of them will have to learn through trial and error in the school of hard knocks.

Construction in Mujeres con Esperanza

We are getting ready to put the roof on the new 2nd floor of our



building in Mujeres con Esperanza.

The temporary roof over the 1st floor in one corner of the building has now been removed to prepare for installation of the metal stairs which will



lead from the 1st to the 2nd floor, and from the 2nd floor to the roof of the building.

The prefabricated building in the side yard of our building is about to



be recycled to a new use which may be described in a future report. This will open up what will be the outdoor play area for our future childcare center.

Park Upgrade

We aren't the only ones who are building something in Alto Cayma. The Municipality of Cayma is in the process of improving parks and playgrounds throughout the lower settlements of Alto Cayma. That includes the playground right across the street from our original service center. This photo will make an interesting "before" picture for comparison with whatever



this playground turns out to be. It's nice to be able to say that everywhere we look, we see progress being made. As I'm fond of saying, "Every day is Christmas in Alto Cayma, because there's not a day goes by that doesn't bring something good for someone."

Touring the Campiña

This afternoon (Sunday), we took a tour of the Campiña, the



agricultural area on the other side of Arequipa from the side where we live and work.

We had lunch in a "picantería", which is a country restaurant serving



food which is very typical of Arequipa. The picantería we chose is 113 years old, and is very steeped in tradition.

We also did some sightseeing, including visiting a 400-year old



gristmill that has been turned into a tourist attraction. Overall, it was a very relaxing end to a fairly hectic week - a week typical of Alto Cayma, where we always strive to

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

Jim