

## Report No. 9 from Alto Cayma - 5 May 19

### The Countdown

I'm now down to just 1 week left on my current stay in Alto Cayma. I'll be writing Report No. 10 on airplanes and in airports on my way home. This has been a wonderful stay. We've made a lot of progress as the ASAC Team, but I still have a lot of things to put the finishing touches on before I leave.

### Kaizen

I've been trying to squeeze in as much work with our Kaizen consultants as I can before leaving. I met with them Monday to schedule some sessions. On Tuesday, I returned to spend a couple of hours helping them capture my Philosophy toward the work of our Association. I also related who are the Heroes in our history, as well as some anecdotes



surrounding key turning points in our development. As you can see, I was badly outnumbered during this session (6-1).

On Friday, we had a training session for all the Directors on Measurement of Performance. Then, on Saturday, I had another session alone with Kaizen to capture my Vision for the ASAC and my view of our Mission. This time I wasn't quite so badly outnumbered (4-1).

Having this "view from the top" all spelled out will help align everyone on the ASAC Team in the same direction, and also breathe new life into our webpage and Facebook page.

## **Labor Day**

Wed the 1st was the Día del Trabajo (Labor Day) here in Peru, as it is in most of the world (except the USA). To celebrate, I took the whole staff to



eat raw fish (ceviche) and other "light snacks". Don't be alarmed, though. More than half of the contents of each of those heaping plates went home in



carry-out boxes.

### **The Second Coming of Jesús**

As I've written in the past, Jesús, our builder, disappeared a couple of months ago, just as the rainy season ended. It wasn't that he washed away, though. It was worse. Victor just found out that he was in the hospital for the better part of 2 months being treated for diabetes and gangrene. Victor finally tracked him down, and told me afterwards that Jesús looked terrible. He had lost 15 pounds, and as this "before" picture shows, he didn't have any



pounds to lose. In any case, we wish him the best for a speedy and complete recovery.

## Food Baskets

Every Mother's Day and every Christmas, we give the families in our Acercádonos sponsorship program a food basket with a wide variety of



products. Right now, the ladies in the office are preparing over 250 baskets to



distribute on Fri the 10th and Sat the 11th. The money for these food baskets comes out of the support that the sponsors send, so sponsors, this message is for you: Imagine the joy you are giving your family here as they receive these goodies. It's not the big bird in the window that Scrooge bought for Bob Cratchit's family, but it evokes the same emotions, so give yourselves a well-deserved pat on the back.

### **Our First Intern**

This week we brought on board the very first intern we've ever had working with us. Claudia is from the Catholic University of Saint Mary.



She'll be working with Briza for approximately 2 months, doing a diagnostic study of the community we serve. Welcome aboard, Claudia! In the near future, we hope to bring in a number of other interns from a variety of disciplines, shadowing the specialties we have on our permanent staff.

### **Another Alliance**

On Friday afternoon, Briza and I went to visit Dr. Agueda in the medical research department of the Catholic University. We were there to



put the finishing touches on plans to have her and her students conduct an activity at our monthly *Acercándonos* meeting for children the next day (see story below). We also talked about longer term plans for in-depth health studies in Alto Cayma which, if we can get support to carry them out, will no doubt lead to new ASAC initiatives in preventive healthcare.

### **Strategic Office Relocation**

In the interests of promoting closer teamwork between Briza and the ladies she supervises, we are moving Briza's office downstairs to where the ladies work. Carmen, our new lawyer, is moving upstairs, completing an office swap. No one likes moving, so we sweetened the pot by allowing Carmen and Briza to choose colors with which to repaint their offices. Here are the colors they chose.



## Acercádonos Children's Meeting

On Saturday afternoon, on a one-time only basis, we held our monthly Acercádonos children's meeting in Father Alex' church in Primero de Junio,



by the Volunteer House. The agenda for this meeting was almost entirely given over to Dr. Agueda and her group of 50 or so 3rd year medical students.



They gave talks on threats to children's health, development and wellbeing,



including anemia and child abuse. Then they administered surveys in both



these areas, to capture baseline data on the situation in Alto Cayma. We'll see the results of these surveys in about a week. I wouldn't be surprised to find the incidence of both problems to be high in our area.

And with that, I'm down to 6 days and counting.....

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

Jim