

# AREQUIPA, PERU 2013

"Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails" (Proverbs 19:21). Most of the 14 team members seemed to have a defining moment when the Lord directed him or her to join this medical/dental mission trip. I learned in Peru that Celeste had even told the Lord after she thought she missed the deadline that if I called her then she would commit to go on the trip. Another called me after a convicting message at church saying, "Buy me a ticket. I'm supposed to go to Peru." Because of that call, I sent a text to Celeste and said, "Do you want me to buy you and Paige tickets, too?" I'll never forget her text "Let's do it!" I asked her if she wanted to check with her husband but I didn't know she was waiting to say Yes to God! We saw the puzzle pieces come together for Cynthia, a seasoned mission dental hygienist and balloon artist, to join the team but



also show the mission ropes to Katie Brooke, another hygienist who was great with the children. Kristen, a math teacher, was debating on whether to go on a mission trip with her church until her mom and dad told her about Peru. Immediately, she said she knew that was the trip for her even if she had to pull teeth! As always, we had just the right number of team members to do the work the Lord had prepared for us, even adding a third story brick wall.



"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end" (Jeremiah 29:11). We go on these trips expecting God to do great things and when He does them, we are amazed yet thankful! Fortunata came to the medical clinic and as Kim was taking her blood pressure, Melanie mentioned that she had tried for so long to get her to open up but she wouldn't. Just then, Fortunata began telling that her mother left when she was a baby, her dad had abused her, her husband was gone and she is having difficulties with her sons. Melanie began sharing from the Word of God then she asked her what she could do for her. She replied, "You could read the Bible to me." Kim said she couldn't understand what they were saying but she could pray because she knew the Holy Spirit was at work. The following Saturday, Melanie and Mary, a lady from their church went to Fortunata's house and began reading in Genesis. She didn't know that Adam and Eve were the first man and woman but she does now. I heard later that someone left money for a CD player so that she can listen to the Bible any time. Don't you love it when the puzzle pieces fit neatly together?



"But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations " (Psalm 33:11). Celeste and Paige were fitting people for reading glasses. They took a picture of a lady because she looked so good in her new red glasses. As we were going to lunch on our last day, that same lady followed us into the restaurant. She told us that she had been teaching the Bible to children but was having difficulty reading and that she let her eyesight go to buy other needed items with her meager wages. She was so thankful for her new glasses so she can again read her Bible and teach the next generation. Then we went shopping. One of the first ladies we saw sitting on the steps selling bracelets was a lady who received a new pair of glasses and her first Bible! She seemed to glow when she saw us. I pray that she could see Jesus in us.



Please pray for another team of 14 as we leave for Bucharest, Romania for two weeks of ministry. What will I do in September without a mission trip? I suppose I'll make it up in October with two separate trips. I love being right in the middle of where God is working. Yes, I'm so thankful the Lord answers our prayers and puts all the puzzle pieces together. Thank you so much for "your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now" (Philippians 1:5).

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