



May 2017

The weapons of our warfare...

are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds

2 Cor 10:6



News from Herb and Markie Burch serving the Lord in Lima, Peru and other places



Mother's Day has to be one of the biggest holidays in Perú. Newspapers, special inserts, window dressings all trumpet the importance of getting "Mama" something special for her day. A large billboard even suggested a specific luxury automobile to brighten her spirits, although a small percentage of people actually own and drive their own cars in Perú. We celebrated at our congregation in Los Olivos on the day itself after hearing the Gospel and celebrating the Sacrament. At our houses of mercy, where we daily share Jesus' love with children and adults, we

gathered mothers on weekday afternoons. In LaVictoria, on the edge of the garment district, the children sang songs and recited special messages, some in English. Pastor Hosch and I joined in the festivities in Chorillos with the ladies of Krochet Kids, where our teachers care for the children of single moms who are learning to run their own micro businesses. They daily teach Bible stories and songs about Jesus. Pastor Hosch spoke about the love God showed to all of us through the gift of Jesus as a child and through his life, death and resurrection. What a joy!



Our mission child care facility nearly doubled in size during the last year. With five teachers, we care for 19 babies, and an additional 30 children of preschool and school age. Their mothers ate tamales and received special gifts on their special day.



TO THOSE WHO ARE ELECT EXILES OF THE DISPERSION IN PONTUS, GALATIA, CAPPADOCIA,

ASIA, AND BITHYNIA, ACCORDING TO THE FOREKNOWLEDGE OF GOD THE FATHER, IN THE SANCTIFICATION OF THE SPIRIT, FOR OBEDIENCE TO JESUS CHRIST AND FOR SPRINKLING WITH HIS BLOOD: MAY GRACE AND PEACE BE MULTIPLIED TO YOU. **1 PETER 1B-2 (ESV)**

We read and hear of Christian brothers and sisters persecuted for their faith, and how, just as in the days of the apostles, they had to leave their homes for safety to take up new lives and to worship the Lord. We see our own flock experiencing change because of various difficulties caused by the turmoil in today's world...

Jorge and Betania left Venezuela because of the political situation there. Betania was a member of Cristo Rey (Christ the King) Lutheran in Caracas. On arrival in Lima they sought out Lutherans here, and our congregation in Los Olivos offered them the back room of our rented facility as a



temporary shelter. They have a mattress on the floor, a bathroom and use of the small kitchen. Because the Peruvian government has graciously relaxed the immigration and work laws for the displaced Venezuelans they can obtain residency and work. As a lawyer and dentist, Jorge and Betania have work skills they can use here, and soon they will have enough put together to move to their own apartment. They actively participate in our Thursday Bible Studies, and Betania helps with our Saturday kids club in Los Olivos. Jorge is taking adult confirmation instruction and will be confirmed on Pentecost, June 4. We hope to restore this wonderful couple to their homeland, but in the meantime thank the Lord for bringing them to us as we enjoy their beautiful smiles and Christian witness.

Business associates and family affairs lured Lutherans Estela and Felix back to Lima from the U.S. where they quickly found excellent work with old partners. However, as Christians, they grew frustrated with some of the business practices they observed. They decided to return to the U.S. and work again for themselves in the real estate trade. We miss their active participation in our worship and Bible studies, and pray they will be able to reestablish their successful lives in California.



Prayer Requests

We ask God's guidance for those who have been displaced by war, pestilence, famine, disease, or political unrest. Pray that we might open our arms to bless those who have been cast out or downcast by the devil, this world and others.

Support Christ's mission in Peru at

www.lcms.org/burch

Send checks made out to "Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod" with Burch written in the memo line to Mission Central, 40718 Hwy E16, Mapleton, IA 50134-7105 or

Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod, 1333 S. Kirkwood Rd., St. Louis, MO 63122

To be added to or removed from this mailing list, send a card to

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
423 E. Fesler St.
Santa Maria, CA 93454

or email message to: