



# CROSS COLLABORATION

MTW MISSIONARIES TO PERU

MISSIONS NEWSLETTER

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OCTOBER 2014

## *Planting the Seeds*

We honk the horn and give a soft knock on the house window to make ourselves known. A familiar face walks out of the door, and almost like clockwork, this initiates a steady trickle of teenagers from the community who join us out on the street. This is the beginning of our new “normal” on weekends.

Each Saturday evening, we find ourselves playing games, eating, worshiping, and learning the Bible together with youth from a community just a couple of miles from where we live.

Like any youth group you would find in the U.S., these kids are looking for community and safety. To be sure, some of them may just be coming to play soccer or to have some snacks, but for others, it has been amazing to see a true desire to worship and learn the Bible with other believers. Unlike many youth groups, these youth are not forced to be there by their parents. In fact, many times it is quite the opposite. In many cases these youth are risking chastisement from their parents and friends who hold either secular beliefs or forms of distorted Roman Catholicism.



Please pray for the youth of this community. Just a couple of weeks ago, several of them professed faith in Christ for the first time. Please pray for us as we continue to shepherd these young men and women. They face many challenges in life that you and I

may have only read in a book or have seen in a movie. We hope that these youth would not only develop into the next generation of leadership in the church, but that we would find avenues to reach their parents with the Gospel of Jesus Christ—something that is hard to do when most of the fathers in this community have abandoned the family or are abusive, and the single mothers have to work impossible hours to support the family. We hope that through this ministry we will plant the seeds of a future church in the area.

## *Watering the Seeds*

Following our Saturday evening ministry with the youth, we join a local congregation in another part of the city for worship on Sunday mornings. This group of about 12 people has been meeting faithfully over the past nine years, and they represent the only Reformed presence in this city of over one million people. Emilio, the man who started this gathering in his living room, has asked us to come alongside him

**So neither the one who plants nor  
the one who waters is anything, but  
only God, who makes things grow.**

1 Cor. 3:7

to help reach the city and grow the church. Although they may be small in number, they are overflowing with graciousness and hospitality.

Please pray for our relationship with this body of believers as we work through the joys and challenges of partnering cross-culturally with a group of believers who have nine years of history. When we first arrived in Arequipa, we knew we could not set out to plant new churches without first attempting to help any existing Reformed communities (if there were any). The seeds of this community of believers are ready for watering and ready for growth, and we are thankful for their invitation to work alongside them.



*Where we meet for worship.*

### ***Growing the Seeds***

As you can see, these are two great opportunities to reach the city of Arequipa with the gospel. One of them is a new ministry (planting the seeds), and one is furthering an existing ministry (watering the seeds). As the Bible tells us, we are called to plant the seeds and give water, but it is the Lord that gives growth (1 Corinthians 3:6). Please pray that the Lord might bring an abundance of fruit from this work.

### ***LEAD Conference***

Every three years, Mission to the World holds a conference for all the leadership, both American and international, of MTW. This year, the conference took place in Siem Reap, Cambodia. After over 40 hours of travel one-way (exhausting!), we took part in seminars and participatory break-out groups where we discussed, prayed and worked through various issues facing our organization and missions as a whole. It was also a time to connect with leaders from all over the world to learn from one another, encourage each other, and worship together. It was encouraging to hear how the Lord was working all over the globe.

### ***Important Reminder!!!***

For those of you who send your financial support by mail, MTW has a new address for donations processing. Please be sure to note the new address as they will not receive any donations mailed to their old address in the near future:

**Mission to the World  
P.O. Box 2589  
Suwanee, GA 30024-0982**

If you would like to become a financial ministry partner, please visit:  
**[www.crosscollaboration.org/partner-with-us](http://www.crosscollaboration.org/partner-with-us)**