

Dear friends,

“Do you want the bad news or the good news?” A phrase often used to entice your audience into wondering. This time, however, the matter at hand is simple and straight forward and it’s important that you know exactly what happened in Cusco last week so that you can pray appropriately.

Our home for abandoned street kids collapsed completely and was swept away by incessant rains. The course of the river shifted and descended on our building with brutal momentum, peeling its adobe walls from the foundation, that served as a blotting paper for a few hours before the walls and heavy roof thundered to the ground.

That’s the bad news.

Only a few nights before the rains had started, Héctor and Maritza (our Cusco house parents) and the 42 boys at the home boarded a bus for a 27 hour ride across the Andes and through the desert to the Pacific (Kawai). For the boys it was the first time to see the ocean. Héctor had saved from his budget for months and the trip was a dream come true. When their house fell to the ground in Cusco, every last one of our boys was safe, enjoying life as a child should, laughing and sharing, kicking a ball and being loved.

That’s the good news, but there’s more!

I had lunch yesterday with the man who had gifted the money for our Cusco home. Not a lunch date I had anticipated and certainly not one I was looking forward to. As soon as we had found a table and ordered a drink, my friend mentioned the news, the BBC and the rain in Cusco. “I heard last night that quite a number of tourists are stranded in Machu Picchu.” Then the dreaded moment. “How are things at the home?”

After almost two hours and a plate of food I seemed to never finish, my friend uttered seven words I shall repeat over and over again in my mind, the words that soothed and silenced my worries, words I should have had more faith to predict; “It’s just money, let’s build it again”.

So there you have it. The bad news and the good news.

Naturally, we need to temporarily relocate the boys (Ica) and examine where best to rebuild. For those of you who frequently visit us and have Cusco on your calendar, I am committed to getting you back there this summer. We will cross each bridge as we get to it and, if reconstruction needs to be postponed, I will offer you very exciting options, where little boys just like those in Cusco will be waiting for a home to be built.!

Please pray for the big Cusco family, now on the Pacific coast for longer than expected, for the little boys who have already lost so much and yet have still trusted us with their futures, for Héctor and Maritza and for those of us making decisions that will affect their lives.

Warmest greetings,

Billy