



Inside this issue:

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April 2010, Volume 4, Issue 4

A Tribute to Concrete F

Calendar of Events B

Peru Update B

Request for Articles B

Concrete Missionary B

A Tribute to Concrete

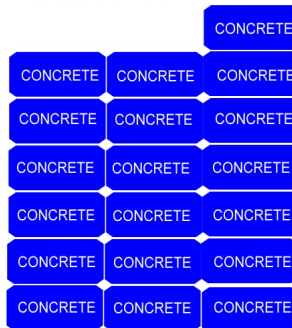
Every year our Peru mission team mixes concrete. Honestly I cannot think of a better material being used in the world to pay tribute to in a mission team newsletter.

Let's start with the history of concrete. The Assyrians and Babylonians used a clay like substance as the first cement. The Egyptians mixed lime and gypsum as a cement material. Hydraulic cement was first invented in 1756 by British Engineer, John Smeaton. Portland Cement, the most common form of concrete today, was invented in 1824 by English Inventor, Joseph Aspidin.

But the real beauty of concrete is all the products that have been made from it. I was first impressed by the concrete canoes raced by my fellow civil engineering students at

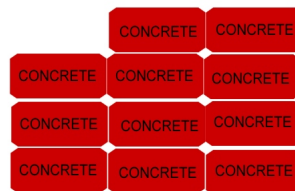
Clemson. (A side note, they have won the national championship 3 times) But this was not the first concrete used to traverse bodies of water. The first concrete dingy was built in 1848 and featured in the 1855 World's Fair. Many Barges were built from concrete materials. During WWI and WWII the Navy commissioned a total of 36 concrete vessels. Most in WWI were considered to be failures due to weight problems, but by WWII they had made successful improvements in the design. Their advantage was using less metal which was scarce during both wars.

TEAM MEMBERS PAID FOR



EACH CONCRETE BAG REPRESENTS ONE TEAM MEMBER FOR PERU 2010.

TEAM MEMBERS NOT PAID FOR



local factor means less transportation of materials reducing the pollution due to shipping materials long distances.

Additionally there are concrete mixes that help purify the air of car exhaust pollutants. Previous concrete mixes help control flooding and storm water pollution when used for paving.

Concrete can be beautiful. Concrete as an ugly gray lifeless material is over. In fact the use of concrete in countertops and sinks has grown in popularity as new ways to stain, texture and polish have evolved. In the last couple of years they have even made a translucent concrete. Can you imagine the possibilities of concrete that allows light to shine through.

So when you are carrying concrete bags just remember what a great product it is!

The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.' Matthew 25:40 NIV

Check us out on Facebook. The group's name is I Dig Peru. Discuss the trips, share photos, look at old videos and connect with interns from past trips.

Please feel free to copy this newsletter to anyone or any group you may think is interested. Go to our website to view past issues or to request the newsletter.

Calendar of Events

Item	Team	Date
Yard Sale Drop Off	Peru	April 10
Team Meeting	Peru	April 13
Blood Drive at MUMC	Outreach	April 19
Yard Sale Drop Off	Peru	April 24
MUMC Golf Tournament	MUMC Men	April 25
Skate Night	Peru	April 18: 5:30-7PM
Jeff Campbell at MUMC Traditional Services	Outreach	May 2
Wednesday Night Supper and Presentation	Peru	May 5
Downtown Coffee and Creamery First Friday	Dunlap's	May 7
Team Meeting	Peru	May 11
Yard Sale	Peru	May 15
Mission Sunday at MUMC	Outreach	May 16

Request for Articles

You may have noticed that the last three months have not featured articles of team member's experiences on the Peru Mission Trip. This is because we ran out of those articles again. Hopefully many of you want to tell others about all the wonderful experiences you had on the mission trips.

I do think you might find the following interesting. While 97 different people have gone on our trips only 19 have written about their experiences. That is 19 articles from 36 newsletters.

So, please submit articles to shendrix@hendrix-engineers.com



At the time of this newsletter, Steven Hendrix is filing Articles of Incorporation with the State of SC for a non-profit called Concrete Missionary. The purpose of this non-profit will be to match Christians wanting to

help with non-profits needing work done. Specifically repair, renovation and landscape projects similar to those arranged through the Methodist Men and Youth. In addition this group will be leading foreign mission trips. The hope is to give people an opportunity to live out their faith and to express it through deeds as told in James 2.

Peru Updates

We have raised just over \$36,000 towards our budget (\$58,000) and have over \$40,000 if you count the carry over from last year. Our actual account balance is over \$32,000 after expenses already paid (plane deposit, Joe Corbi, etc.). We'll need \$29,400 to pay the remainder of our airline tickets when they come due in May. We currently have over 19 team members funded and are working on the funds for our Scripture Union Fees and VBS items.

Here are some of the recent details:

- Easter Day offering brought in \$1,456.50 to the Peru team. Outreach requested we split the money with the Good Samaritan Fund (formerly known as the Pastor's Discretionary Fund)
- 2 Wednesday Night meals brought in \$1076.13.
- Mutt's brought in \$105.69.
- Stevi B's brought in \$180.
- Spring Fling brought in \$580 but we have agreed to sell some of the left over food items to Wednesday Night Supper.
- Yard service is continuing. For the two events we've had so far, we have raised \$700 for three yards.
- Coffee sales were brisk the opening weekend. St. Mark is doing their sampling this Sunday and I would expect them to sell out the small amount of bags (25+/-) we had left from the initial order. It looks like we will sell all the bags and raise at least \$550. We are still taking orders if someone wants to buy several bags as gifts, etc. or just a single bag. That goes through 4/21.
- We have two more Yard Sale Drop Offs in April on the 10th and 24th.
- The Skate night has been rescheduled for April 18th to avoid conflict with the Methodist Men's Golf Tournament.
- We added another Wednesday Night Supper and will be doing a presentation on May 5th. That is right... it will be Cinco de Mayo, so we will have a special meal that night.