



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

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Juanjo's story as told by Billy Clark

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Today is like any other in the lazy town of Pisco. Nine hundred miles of dry expanse and mirrored horizons mottled with tufts of green, water holes and wall-like rows of eucalyptus.

A small voice rings in the distance. Someone I would like you to meet. A young boy of eight gazes through the grey dusk and black shadows of the rock quarry. It is quiet now and he has had time to think. He welcomes us with a faint smile. The edges of his lips curl gently.

"Hi. My name is Juan Jose but friends call me Juanjo. I want to share my story with you because God has changed me and by telling you, I give Him credit."

"A few months ago I used to accompany my Mom to work in the brothels. She serviced customers and I washed their cars. It was good, fast money. Food prices and bus fares have gone up since the earthquake last year. I have four sisters and two older brothers. That makes eight at home, now that my father was taken to prison a week ago for raping Alameda, my neighbor and classmate."

"We never talk about him", he offered, running his fingers across his head until they stuck. He bit the inside of his cheek and sighed.

"The monster is gone. Yeah. He won't come back. They took him away and locked him up for having his way with Alameda.

"I walked in on them and surprised him the night it happened. I suppose I'm not that innocent anymore," confessed Juanjo.

"Dad held me in a chair and tied my arms and legs with thick nylon ropes, before turning on his welding gun." The sound and heat, the cascade of fluorescent beads falling on his skin and the warm steady blowing of the torch. Even with the smell of burning hair and flesh

and the sting of open sore, the pain in his body was nothing compared to the pain in his soul.

Juanjo stared at the floor. His hands reached deep into his pockets and he sighed, like a little man who has grown too quickly.

"It's much better now", said Juanjo, pulling his arms out and showing his hands. "The scars are almost gone.

"But that," he says, almost apologetically, "isn't the story."

"The best comes later. I was minding my own business in the Plaza when a stranger walked up and asked my name. He had a kind smile and he spoke softly. His eyes were small and shiny. I had seen him before, talking to some of my friends but I had kept a distance. I have a hard time with grown-ups, especially the sort that talk to children."

"Just then my cousin Beto walked up, took me by the shoulder, walked me over to a tree and started telling me about Augusto, the man who talks to boys. He told me that Augusto has a big house, with lots of rooms, a swimming pool filled with clean water and gardens with grass. Best of all, he said Augusto and his wife enjoy having children around, even children like us."

I left my park bench later that day and followed Augusto. Beto was right. He and mama Nancy have given their lives to see kids like me amount to something. They read Bible stories to us and tell us we can talk to God. They treat us with dignity and care. I know my sores will heal quickly here and my soul will heal in time."

"Augusto tells me that the house I live in was built by gringos. He says some fly here in big



Useless Information to
Brighten your day:

Including both mission
trips this year:

33% of participants are
young adults (16-21)

The Male to Female
Participant ratio is 0.54

Juanjo's story (continued)

airplanes because they have a special place in their hearts for kids like me and that others must stay home but pray for us faithfully. I must say that none of this makes sense to me. Augusto tells me to be patient. He says that once I understand how God sees me I will start to love myself and that all these changes will fall into place. In the meantime, I thank you for loving me with the love Augusto describes.

Peru Mission Update

The Peru team has had several successful fundraising events and is collecting a lot of items for the yard sale. In addition, Augusta Road UMC has done an excellent job holding regular fundraisers in the Pelzer area. This has added a new dimension to our fundraising efforts to date.

The next big fundraisers for the team will be the Womanless Beauty Pageant on April 18th and the Mauldin UMC Yard Sale on May 2. We hope to see all of you at both of these events. Contestants for the Womanless Pageant are still needed-contact Julie Sellars.

www.idigperu.hendrix-engineers.com

Tanzania Mission Update

The Tanzania Mission team will be switching gears a little bit this month as we switch from complete focus on fund raising to working on our VBS plans and activities in Tanzania.

We will be making games, posters and other items for the teacher to use long after we are gone. These will be centered around actual pre-school activities like learning to count, learning their colors in addition to some basic Christian messages for kids.

The Month Long Marathon and Spring Fling were great fundraisers and we really appreciate everyone who helped out.

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Calendar of Events

Item	Team	Date
Mutt's BBQ Night	Peru	Mar 26, 5-8 PM
Hatari Movie Night	Tanzania	Mar 27, 6:30 PM
Yard Sale Drop Off	Peru	Mar 28, 10 AM-2 PM
Peru Meeting	Peru	Apr 14, 6:30 PM
Yard Sale Drop Off	Peru	Apr 18, 10 AM-2 PM
Womanless Pageant	Peru	Apr 18
Tanzania Meeting	Tanzania	Apr 19, 3 PM
Wednesday Night Dinner	Tanzania	Apr 22, 5:30 PM
Rodrigo Rodriguez Concert	Tanzania	Apr 23, 7 PM
MUMM Golf Tournament	Tanzania	Apr 26, 1 PM
Yard Sale Moving Day	Peru	Apr 30
Yard Sale Prep Day	Peru	May 1, All Day
Yard Sale	Peru	May 2
Square Dance	Tanzania	May 9, 7:30 PM
Peru Meeting	Peru	May 12, 6:30 PM
Wednesday Night Dinner	Tanzania	May 13, 5:30 PM
MUMC Mission Sunday	Both	May 17, 8:45-12
Tanzania Team Meeting	Tanzania	May 17, 3 PM
Mutt's BBQ Night	Peru	May 28, 5-8 PM
Send Off Service	Tanzania	June 4, 2009 7 PM
Mission Trip	Tanzania	June 5-14
Peru Meeting	Peru	June 8, 6:30 PM
Peru Packing Party	Peru	July 14, 6:30 PM
Send Off Service	Peru	July 16, 7 PM
Mission Trip	Peru	July 17-26

Both Mission Trips are now on Facebook. The Peru trip is the group called I Dig Peru. The Tanzania trip is the group called Tanzania Mission Trip.

Congratulations to the Peru team for winning 3 out of the 4 Peru vs. Tanzania Team challenges at Spring Fling. Good Job!

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