



I Dig Peru News

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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“What has the Peru mission trip meant to me?”

By Derrick Chandler

When I was first asked this question, I thought “sure no problem, this will be easy to write about!” However, each time I sat down to pen my thoughts, I quickly realized how inadequate my words are in describing the effect these trips have had in my life. There is not a week that passes that I don't think about a person or event from my journeys. The memories invade the busyness of my days like a squadron of geese preparing to land on a small pond; they come out of nowhere and draw your attention for the moment to enjoy their beauty and grace.

I'm not writer and I have certainly never shared my journal writings with anyone. But, I know no better way to describe the true meaning to that question than to share one of those moments that land in my life on a regular basis.

Journal Entry August 9, 2004;

Tonight will be our last dinner and sing along with the boys. Emotions are high on both sides. The boys snuggled close to the person they had become most attached and each of us held onto them tightly. Gabino and Remaro had become two of my favorites. With

Remaro nestled under my arm and Gabino lying with his head on my leg we just sat and enjoyed a moment we had hoped would never end! Then the signing began...Alhandro began with a song where a person is chosen to skip around the circle while we sing and clap. When the music ends they turn to the person beside them, hop, turn around, and wiggle their body. Then that person must get up and repeat the dance. Everyone was laughing and having so much fun that I know we could be heard for miles down river!

It's time for the boys to say good night; each hug lasted a little longer and each squeeze a little tighter than all the nights before. As the boys disappeared into darkness the team began to share how this week has touched their lives and how we wanted so much to share this with others. In our final moments the team shared in communion using bread and water we all had shared this week. As I received mine these words

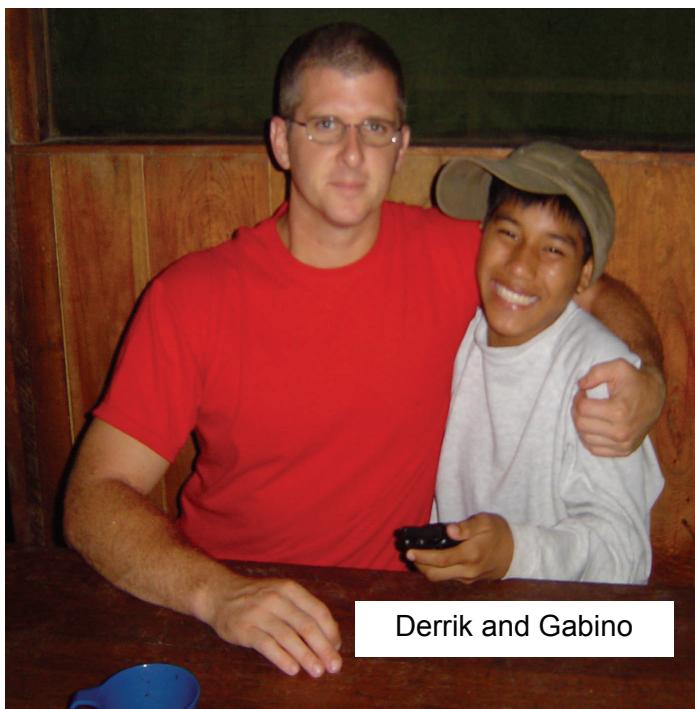
came alive in me....Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him and he disappeared from their site. They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the scriptures to us?” Luke 24: 31-32

May our lives bring glory to the Lord!



Useless Information to Brighten your day:

- This year we have received donations from 20 different states
- Over the last three years we have received donations from half the states in the union



Derrick and Gabino

Peru 2008 update

As we come into the home stretch for this years trip you will notice from the fundraising graphic that we have covered the cost for all but one person. The graphic does not reflect the Spaghetti Supper because I write this the day before that event. It also does not take into account some cost savings implemented and all the team members getting their required money in. With all these factors weighing in, I expect we will be complete in our fundraising before the Yard Sale this year.



So it will not be long before we move more to administrative tasks such as planning out our VBS, getting materials of the school/health kits ordered, getting mosquito nets in and wiring money to Scripture Union. It is a great feeling to once again be blessed by the fundraising of both our church and our friends. As mentioned on the front we received money from 20 states to date and nearly half our budget is from individual team member fundraising outside our church.

This year our money from the “church plate” was reduced. One reason is that we split the Easter Day offering with the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund. The total of our part of the Easter Day offering and general donations from people in the church came to \$2,513.50 to date.

I don’t say this as a negative, but as a positive sign of God’s blessing that we continue to raise our funds and have managed to avoid interfering with the building campaign or normal donations.

This is one of the many reasons I think we can handle a second mission next year. The proposed Tanzania mission trip has completed one of three steps to be approved by the church. The next committee to evaluate the trip will be the Council on Ministries at their next

Calendar of Events

Peru Yard Sale	May 3
UMM Golf Tourney	May 4
Peru Team Meeting	May 20
Mission Sunday	June 1
Peru Team Meeting	June 17
Peru Team Meeting	July 15
Peru Team Send Off	July 24
Peru Trip	July 25-Aug 3

meeting.

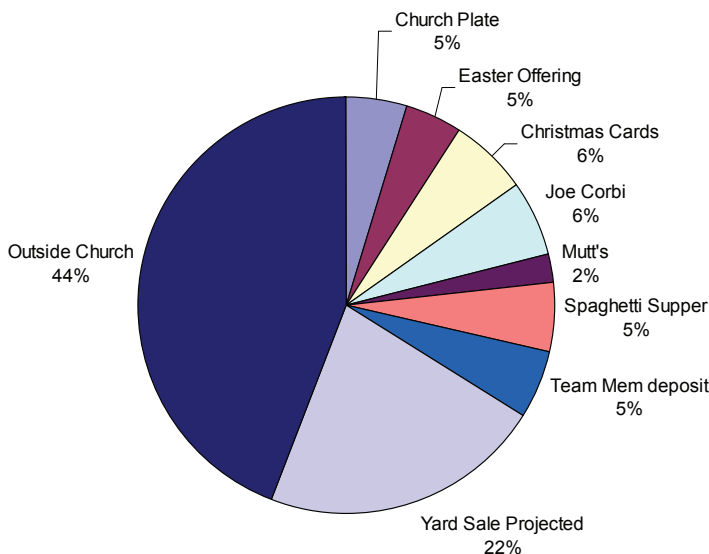
For those not aware, we have held several meetings to determine the interest and desired dates for a mission trip to Tanzania to work with pre-school kids and evangelism. That is right, no construction is planned. I personally have been overwhelmed by the response of those wanting to go, especially when we announced our dates would be June 2009. Currently 35 people, both at MUMC and other churches, have expressed an interest in the trip with many already making plans.

I believe that as long as we follow God’s will and keep ourselves focused on what he wants, funding two trips and not affecting our church budget or building campaign will be a great step of faith that will provide many rewards for all the churches that will become involved. It is my utmost hope that

MUMC will become a leader of missions in our community both locally and foreign.

Thank you for your support, both physically and financially.

2008 Peru Team Fundraising To Date



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