

## John Ceselsky

There are definite positives to returning in back-to-back years to the same ministry site to work with the same missionaries. Gone were the anxieties of travel, lodging, food, the effect of altitude and interaction with unknown leaders. In many ways I was looking forward to this trip because of the removal of all of these unknowns which challenged me last year. I was thrilled with the makeup of this year's team – 5 returning from last year, and the addition of first-timers (at least with me) John and Lucas. (We definitely missed though the four from last year that couldn't attend this year for various reasons.) We were definitely more prepared than last year – not only with the logistics as I have previously mentioned but also with the performance of the skits. Team members really took to heart my challenge to them to spend time in the Scripture passages – focusing on their roles in acting them out – and it really showed in the amazing job that everyone did.

I was particularly challenged on this trip though by my own self-reliance and plan (yes, even team leaders and pastors can fall into this trap). I was challenged by the cold that made its rounds through part of the team during the trip – especially as it had me feeling lousy one day and then hit Julie pretty hard as we were preparing to travel 3 days toward home – thankfully the Lord carried Angelo through the difficulty as we traveled to Peru and he certainly appeared strong through our days of ministry.

I was also challenged with my own expectations. The Lord reminded me that it is not about what my plans are/were, but what He would do. We purchased over 500 t-shirts to hand out to children in the villages as part of our presentation. After purchasing the plain shirts, Gwen did up a design that we had printed on the shirts of John 11:25 in Quechua. We lugged the five 50 pound bags to the airport, onto the plane, to the hotel in Lima, to the bus, to ministry center in Lima and then to Yanama. We packed the shirts in bags with coloring books that Gwen also designed (what a blessing she and her talent were to us and the people of Yanama). The challenge came when we were not able to pass out the shirts on 2 of the days of ministry. We simply didn't have enough to hand them out to all of the students at 2 of the schools (we couldn't hand them out to some but not others). I have to admit that I felt a bit frustrated. But then the Lord reminded me that it is not about my plan – on the way back to the lodge on Friday, both vehicles stopped at various times and were able to hand the bags with shirts out to a couple of other children that Larry Rockwell had had some contact with. Now he will be able to do that with even more children – what is important is that God's Word goes forth – not necessarily by us – in fact, our role in this was really just to open doors for Larry & Sandy to continue to walk through. So it is appropriate that we left them with over 100 shirts and coloring books that they can continue to share with the Quechua people.

These opportunities, both for us as a team, and for Larry & Sandy as our missionaries, are only made possible because of your support – both financial and in prayer. As we drove around each day and saw the wheat on the farms in the mountains, I was constantly reminded of the biblical truth that the fields are white unto harvest. You have helped us to plant the seed of the great hope of the Gospel. We are so thankful that we have been blessed to assist Larry & Sandy as they, like the extended rainy season in the mountains of Yanama, will be able to water the planted seeds of the Gospel. Please join us now in prayer that the Lord of the Harvest will indeed bring many of the planted and watered seeds to full maturity and reaping in the days, weeks and years to come!

## **Julie Ceselsky**

Last year when traveling to Peru I felt like we traveled to the ends of the earth & even though we're commanded by Christ to go there before He'll come back, I never thought I could do that again! BUT GOD, not only called me back there again, He took us even further than what I thought was already the ends of the earth! Our three days of multiple planes, buses & van rides now included an additional 5 hour drive up further in the Andes Mountains to the Rockwell's 2nd home where they spend about half of each month ministering to even more native Peruvian Indian villages. Believe it or not, though longer, God made this year's travel easier than last year's with no plane delays or bus breakdowns, & I'm sure it helped that we knew more of what to expect. However, especially going further to our missionaries 2nd home there, we were even more amazed how they ever ended up literally in the middle of nowhere, up in the 2nd largest mountain range in the world, where even planes don't go. So, it should be no surprise that the almost 15 years that the Rockwell's have been there, NO ONE has come to stay to minister alongside them, even though MTW has a Biblical & team oriented approach to each mission field, & despite Larry & Sandy's need & desire all these years. So, that's where we, ALL of Aisquith comes in, to answer God's call, even though it's costly & not for long, but it's effects are Eternal, let alone the encouragement it provides Aisquith's missionaries that struggle with things beyond what we can imagine. Also, it allows our church not just to send money monthly, but to be in contact with & provide MUCH needed & specific prayers. As always, I can't THANK YOU enough for ALL you do, especially as a relatively small church, right inside the Baltimore City line, to reach the ends of the earth & beyond! 😊

## **Angelo Cicone**

Hello, my name is Angelo Cicone, this is my second missions trip with Aisquith. So far the two trips I have done both went to Peru and I loved it each time. Now this trip was a little different then the last time I went to Peru. Last year when we went to Peru we stayed in Huaraz at the Rockwell's and then we would go to the same village every day and do a kind of VBS with the kids there. This year we went to Yanama which is about a five and a half hour drive from Huaraz even though its only 50 miles away! So that added another day of travel to the trip which added up to six days of travel there and back. However, once we finally made it to Yanama we stayed in an amazing lodge that boasted some pretty amazing views out of their windows. After a good night's sleep and a nice fresh breakfast, we would head of to the villages. Each day we would go to a different village all at differing levels of elevation reaching all the way up to 14,000 ft. We would go to the schools in all of the villages and do our skits. Thankfully we reused the skits that we did from last year which made it easy for me since remembered them from the last trip. We would first do the temptation of Christ then Jesus calming the storm, then the demon possessed man then the prodigal son and then finish with the resurrection of Lazarus. In between them Mr. Larry would ask questions and have the kids recite the stories. Once we did all the skits we gave them bags that had a shirt with John 11:25 on the back and a booklet that had all the stories we acted out and coloring pages to go along with them. Overall this was another very enjoyable trip to Peru once I recovered from cold. Sadly, I ended up giving it to both John and Julie but other than that it was very successful and the Rockwells were very pleased with the work we were able to do for them. One last thank you to everyone who donated to us to make this trip possible.

## **Gwen Cicone**

Adobe bricks dry near the side of the road. Soon they will be used for the building of a barn, a shed, or maybe a home. The cross beams are cut from the tall, straight eucalyptus trees. Although originally transplanted from Australia, they flourish here in the Andes. We too were transplanted for a brief time to these magnificent mountains and pray that we too have been useful as well as adaptable to our surroundings.

It takes three days of travel in airplane, bus and van to arrive in Yanama, a small town nestled on the east side of the White Mountain Range. It takes over five hours of driving up and over the mountains from Huaraz to arrive at the Andes Lodge, our home for the next 5 days. In this valley we see the Quechua living as they have for generations: planting crops on the steep slopes and tending to a variety of animals. Larry Rockwell talks with them in their native tongue of Quechua. A scholar of their language, several have commented that he speaks Quechua better than they do!

At the public school we dramatize stories from the New Testament while Larry reads the Bible passage in Quechua. We performed the skits outside in a courtyard of sorts. At two schools we were treated to Folk dances by the students.

Each school showed appreciation for our presence and Larry explained that we travelled three days from America to be able to visit them! The gift of a Bible coloring booklet with the stories written out in Quechua and Spanish along with a shirt printed with the verse John 11:25 in Quechua were well received.

It is hard for us to understand the impact of our efforts, however, Larry and Sandy assured us that those special events would give them opportunities to share God's love further in the future through teaching and relationship building.

"For here the saying holds true, 'one sows and another reaps'." John 4:37

Thank you for sending me back to Peru to be part of the sowing in the Yanama valley.  
Thanks In Christ.

## **John Cicone**

The decision to participate in this years IMPACT trip to Peru was made several months ago in January of this year. Six months is a lot of time to ponder the wisdom of such a decision...Peru is far away...we were going to a remote area in the mountains...some details of the activities we would perform were uncertain...could we raise the support needed, etc. Thankfully, our God is gracious, and the uncertainties I felt were overcome by the many ways He provided. The following is a summary of the main lessons I learned from this wonderful and spiritually edifying experience.

The first lesson learned was how gracious and giving Aisquith is. This lesson was not a surprise having been attending this church for most of my life. However, this was the first time I was a direct recipient of this strength of our body of believers. Thank you so much for your generosity in allowing me such a wonderful experience.

The second lesson learned was overcoming negative attitudes towards trying situations. The travel to Yanama was arduous. We had two flights, a nine-hour bus ride followed by a 5.5-hour ride mostly on dirt roads and of our eleven days we travelled for six of them. I do suffer from motion sickness and the travel was difficult. However, I remembered the apostle Paul travelling great distances with enthusiasm to spread the Gospel. While I am no apostle Paul, in a small way God was allowing me the

same opportunity. The reason we travelled was to bring the Gospel message of salvation through Jesus to a people I never met, a culture I did not know and who speak a language I do not understand. There is no greater calling in our service to our Heavenly Father and this knowledge was a comfort and aid in helping me to focus on the joy of the work to be done and not my immediate difficult circumstances.

The third lesson I learned was that God's promise to Abraham is being fulfilled in our time. Several times God promised Abraham to have children from every tribe, tongue, and nation. While in Peru we had the opportunity to worship with six Quechua believers on Tuesday night. We sit in church in week knowing around the world other Christians are worshiping as well, but to be worshiping with other believers was truly exciting, encouraging, and uplifting. The preacher for the night shared how his wife suffered from depression a few years ago and I realized that these people, who live what seems a simple and carefree pastoral life, have struggles just like us. He reminded us that only Jesus can help us with depression and any other problems. Very uplifting to hear a message so true to the Gospel in a place so far from home. God is fulfilling his promise to Abraham even today. (Our missionaries translated for us, lol)

The fourth lesson I learned was to understand my role in the path to salvation for the unbeliever. The Biblical dramas we performed were very well received, however, we had very little interaction with the students. Since they were in school, after our skits were done, they returned to class. I wish I could have heard a confession of faith. However, on this trip, such an event was not to be. We did see one young man do a remarkable job of summarizing one of our skits and Larry Rockwell is hoping to connect with him. Our role on this trip was to sow seeds and I am confident the Lord blessed our efforts. I hope when in Heaven to have a Quechua come up and introduce himself/herself and say they remember seeing me perform a skit at their school.

Finally, I was encouraged by the faithfulness and hard work of the Rockwells. They labor alone in a remote area and yet continue to have faith that God will bless their efforts. I think we can all learn from them as we labor each day for Christ in our own situations.

Thanks again for your prayers and support in allowing me to be a part of this IMPACT trip.

### **Lucas Hague**

Hello, my name is Lucas. I will be sharing my amazing trip to Peru. We did many things that were fascinating. This includes doing many skits to different schools, giving kids shirts, handing out coloring books and doing daily devotions. The missionaries that hosted us were very amazing, Mrs. Sandy was so hospitable, Mr. Larry was very sweet. One way this trip impacted my life was to never be self-righteous, always to be humble – as Mr. Larry always reminded us.

Although traveling was tough at times, this trip was very amazing in the way God blessed us, and the kids we were ministering too. I need to thank all those who helped me financially and through prayer on this trip.

### **Beryl Wickham**

This is my fourth missions trip and my second trip to Peru. I feel very blessed to have had this opportunity. When we went to the different Quechua villages and saw the children's smiling faces I was excited to share the gospel with them.

At the Quechua villages we acted out Jesus calming the storm, the demon possessed man, Jesus being tempted by the devil, the parable of the prodigal son, and Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead while Mr. Larry read to them from the Bible in Quechua so the children could understand what we were doing. After each skit was completed Mr. Larry asked them questions about the skit. One of the boys was able to retell the whole story of Jesus calming the storm perfectly, with hand motions and everything. There were also adults that were able to retell some of the stories. Each village was so thankful that we came and shared the gospel with them. We were planting seeds for the Rockwell's to go back to later and water. I know that we definitely started a friendship that will last.

Throughout this trip God has taught me to not fear because He has everything under control. I was worried that I would be by myself a lot because there was no other girl my age going. He showed me that this trip was the perfect opportunity to take time to dive into His word and spend more time talking with Him. He filled me with peace throughout the whole trip and showed me that it is better to rely on Him. A verse that was laid on my heart from the beginning of the trip was Deuteronomy 31:8 "It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed."

This verse gave me confidence and peace throughout my stay in Peru. I would like to thank everyone who financially supported me and prayed for me.  
Thanks in Christ.