

The Karr Family

Aaron, Debbie, Zackary, and Caleb

Dears Friends,
August, 2008

Hello from Arequipa, Peru. We continue to be amazed at the goodness of God. The last couple of months have been filled with several ministry opportunities and challenges. Since our last praise and prayer report we have had three professions of faith. It is always great to see people trust in the only hope there is, the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord has also opened several doors for us to share the gospel. Currently there are three that seem to be close to making a decision to accept Christ as their personal Savior. Please pray for Brander, Isban, and Karin.

We are fulfilling the great commission through both evangelism and discipleship. Evangelism is one of Aaron's gifts, but he has always lacked in the area of discipleship. The classes he attended in Florida in June have made a tremendous difference and impact in our ministries. We want to thank those of you who helped pay for the conference and let you know that the Lord is using it greatly in our lives, our church and the lives of those being discipled. Currently, we have 3 home Bible-discipleship studies going where 11 people are being discipled: 2 men, 4 teens, and 5 women.

Carlos has recently been saved and he started the discipleship classes. In the first class, Carlos said he had never been taught the Bible even though he was very religious. At the end of the first class he asked Aaron to teach him to pray. The next lesson finished with the question, "Is your name written in the Book of Life? Carlos was not sure, so we explained the difference between being perfect and being forgiven. With a smile, he said, "My name is written there and I am a child of God." Aaron then suggested that if he was certain he had trusted only in Christ for his salvation, that he just pray and thank God for giving him eternal life. For the first time in his life, Carlos bowed his head and prayed thanking God for his salvation.

We have also received the new evangelism materials and Aaron began a special class on Sunday nights to train the faithful on how to use these materials to reach their families and friends. We are excited to see how God uses our people to reach others. Our hope is to use these materials to help churches in the U.S. in the areas of evangelism and discipleship while we are on furlough in 2010.

At the church, Aaron is preaching a series of messages on the "Fear of God". He has profited greatly from this study and the church is really capturing the idea of fearing the Lord. One of the focuses is carrying out all the ministries of the church with excellence. Some of the ministry leaders have taken a look at their ministries, and have decided to change things. The music ministry has taken a great leap forward, and now has 7 people participating playing instruments and singing in the Praise Group. They meet an hour before the service to practice and prepare. It is wonderful to see their desire to serve!

The ladies ministry has also seen some changes and is doing great. The ladies meet twice a month for Bible Study and have an outreach every month. They are studying how to apply God's word to their every day lives and God is making some changes in their lives. We are excited to have 2 new ladies attending the Bible studies this time. The outreaches have been positive to build unity among the women and to bring new women in to the church.

The youth ministry is struggling at the moment. Zack's partner in leadership has slacked off and so Zack is having to carry the whole ministry. He is standing firm, but it is discouraging for him. Please pray that the Lord would send a mature couple to work with these teens, as they all need direction and guidance and someone to confide in. The teens had a special activity at our home over the Independence weekend and 10 participated. They were also able to attend a Christian concert last week, which was very uplifting and encouraging for them.

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Seminary will be starting the end of the month. Aaron will be teaching the Prison Epistles every Monday night from 8:15 pm until 10:00 pm. Pray that we have a great turn out for the seminary matriculation on the 18th.

As of last month we were \$687.00 under-supported due to a cost of living increase that ABWE put into effect. They cost of living increase was necessary due to the financial situation in Peru as well as in several countries around the world. We then found out that our health insurance has been increased and that made us \$745.00 a month under-supported. We sent an email explaining our situation and then waited and prayed. As always, God is good. We got word that our home church will raise our support, and we have heard from some other churches and individuals of their intention to increase or begin our support. We are thankful to report that, as of right now, we are only short about \$200.00 a month. God is so good! With the decline of the dollar, the cost of gas being about \$5.30 a gallon and food increasing almost weekly, we have had to start saving as much as possible. We are now walking more and taking public transportation. Aaron walks about 2 miles a day to get to and from the office.

Another praise along this line is that we thought we were going to have to move. We were paying \$435 a month in rent and our landlord decided he wanted to increase it to \$700! We told him there was no way we could pay that and started looking for a new place. Finally, after finding a smaller place for only \$500 a month, our landlord decided he didn't want us to move and only raised our rent here to \$500 so we could stay. Praise the Lord!!!

We would like to share a very special prayer request with you. There are two couples in the church that are having serious marital problems. One couple has separated and have basically left the church, along with their children and extended family. We are trying to reach out to them and counsel them, but unless the Lord moves greatly in their lives they will most likely divorce. Please pray for Jose and Violeta as well as for Jose Luis and Alexandra.

As we close this letter, we would like to thank each of you for your faithful prayers and support. The church which God has planted in Arequipa would not exist without you. Those who have been saved and are now being disciplined and reaching others, may never have come to know Christ without your help. We are very aware that we would not be here if it wasn't for each of you, and for that we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

In His Service,
Aaron Karr and family

P.S. We would love to hear from you!
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