



August 2017

The weapons of our warfare...

are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds

2 Cor 10:6



News from Herb and Markie Burch serving the Lord next in Belize and other places



Markie says, "Adios" to our faithful friend



Above: Jorge and Luis load out the kitchen appliances that won't move with us. We pray these will bless Jorge and his wife Betania, our resettled Lutheran friends from Venezuela

A little over three years ago, we announced our departure to the mission field in Lima, Perú. As experienced missionaries and military veterans the idea of meeting new cultures and adjusting to life in new surroundings has been part of our lives. While in Perú, we had opportunity to baptize in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, teach, and confirm many new souls. Now the Lord has called us to join another missionary family Duane and Elizabeth Meissner and their four children in Belize, Central America. For several years, short term teams from the LCMS have shared the gospel and performed mercy ministry in Belize. However, their short visits have not provided a permanent presence nor planted churches in the

country. Several congregations, individuals and the Rocky Mountain District have pledged their support, and we look forward to this partnership as we join in this effort. Moving to a new place sounds exciting as we look forward to the trip and the adventure. Sadly, we leave behind so many good Christian friends, community leaders and the Peru Mission Team to continue God's work in Lima. We (the LCMS) have only scratched the surface in the last ten years, and there remain so many people that need to learn about Jesus. Please pray for the continued work of our sisters and brothers in Peru. We will miss them dearly, and all the joy we have experienced in the last three years.



The regulars at Coffee and Conversation studied John 5 with us then we all went to dinner



AND WHEN HE HAD SAID THESE THINGS, HE KNELT DOWN AND PRAYED

WITH THEM ALL. AND THERE WAS MUCH WEeping ON THE PART OF ALL; THEY EMBRACED PAUL AND KISSED HIM....ACTS 20: 36-37 (ESV)

As missionary Paul set his face toward Jerusalem, he gathered the leaders of Ephesus together in Acts 20:17 to say farewell. He reminded them how he had worked, "testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ." They tried to discourage him from going, knowing he would probably not return...So too, our friends expressed regret that we were leaving. However, we explained the great need and how we have set our sights on Belize and the work that needs to be done there. So we said goodbye to our congregation in Los Olivos in the North Cone of Lima, and passed the baton to missionary Rev. Cullen Duke and our Bolivian Vicar Osmel Soliz. We made the rounds and enjoyed meals with friends, devotions, and a teary farewell to the children of Casa de Misericordia Castillo Fuerte in La Victoria. Thanks be to God for the confirmation of Mery and Jose from Ancón on our last Sunday, support to send Elvis Carrera and family for seminary studies, and the preparation of another young lady for baptism. We didn't get to celebrate the baptism, but we

know that the Lord's work will continue, because it's His.



Bolivian vicar Osmel Soliz with boys from our Saturday morning service in Ancón.

Now we see ourselves on the journey between our old "home" and our new. When we left Perú, we surrendered our residency cards, a legal requirement. For us Calle Delta in Lima no longer exists. When people ask for our home address, we can only refer to a virtual address where they collect our mail in the U.S. and dispatch it to us on occasion.

It's important that we stop now and then to remember that we all sojourn through this world looking for a better place. We already know that better place, thanks be

to God and his provenance that go with us. We look forward to meeting new people whom the Holy Spirit has already prepared to hear the Gospel.

Our lives have been blessed beyond reason in spite of the slings and arrows the devil, the world and our flesh throw our way. One such blessing came to live with us a few short weeks after our arrival in Lima. Theodosia Purlhuaman, a member of the Lutheran community, needed a home, and we had more than enough room. A talented seamstress, extraordinary cook, and dear friend, Teo taught us so much about Perú in our daily table talk. We will miss her dearly.



Teo and Julie Williston from Memorial Lutheran, Sioux Falls SD

Prayer Requests

That the Lord will prepare the hearts of those who thirst to hear the gospel as we redeploy. That the Lord will bless the Duane Meissner family as they travel on furlough and obtain medical attention for family members.

Support Christ's mission in Belize at www.lcms.org/burch

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