

SERVING IN TACNA, PERU

MARCH 2012



“I HAVE BUT ONE CANDLE OF LIFE TO BURN, AND I WOULD RATHER BURN IT OUT IN A LAND FILLED WITH DARKNESS THAN IN A LAND FLOODED WITH LIGHT.” – JOHN KEITH FALCONER

~ Praises ~

- Praise the Lord for a great time with the missions' team from WI. They were able to fold and pass out hundreds of invitations to church, and help in many other ways.
- Praise the Lord for a successful Family Day at our sister church in Arequipa. Several visitors came to participate in the activities (see photo to the right); and two accepted Christ as their Savior!
- Praise the Lord for opening the doors for me to stay an extra four months in Peru.
- Praise the Lord for growth in the Viñani Bible Club.

~ Prayer Requests ~

- Please pray for comfort for Olga's family, and that through her testimony, they would come to know Christ as their Savior.
- Please pray for wisdom as I teach a guitar class for the next ten weeks. My hope is that one of the several students I have will be able to take over the music by the time I leave.
- Please pray for the Viñani Bible Club.
- Please pray that God will continue to help me with Spanish. There are days when my tongue just doesn't seem to want to work!
- Please pray for Calvary Baptist Church that God will raise up leaders and faithful members.
- Please pray for the funds to come in for the extra months I will be staying here in Peru.

Dear Family and Friends,

March flew by and now April is here! Only six short months left to my internship... I had a small mental panic attack the other day just thinking about leaving. What will I do when I return to the States? I know what I want to do – I want to get equipped to return to Peru as quickly as possible as a full-time missionary – but where do I start? What do I do in the meantime? How can I know for sure if that is God's will for me? What if I make a mistake?

Peter 1:3-5 says, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which...hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible...reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.”

(cont. on page 2)



life is but a vapor...

The wailing could be heard as soon as we walked in the door. In one corner lay the casket surrounded by flowers. People lined the walls of the community center. Somber family members tried to console the grieving wife, but she could not stop sobbing uncontrollably. Never have I seen such hopeless grief. Outside, men passed a bottle of alcohol. Life is short.

This was on a Monday. The day before, following the Sunday evening service, Olga had received a call. “I have to go,” she told me. “I have to go be with my mother; my step-dad just died in an accident.” We later learned the details. Driving home from the beach on his motorcycle, his sandal had fallen off into the street. As he made a quick U-turn to retrieve his missing shoe, a passenger bus slammed into him. He died at the scene.

And here we were, the very next day, offering our condolences at the viewing. Two days after the accident we would attend the funeral. This man had influence; he had money and property; he had friends and family; but he did not have Christ. It does not matter the hundreds of people who came to attend his funeral. It doesn't matter the wails, funeral dirges, prayers, or flowers that accompanied him to his grave. Being buried in a Catholic cemetery will not help. The money his family will pay to keep him buried on “holy ground” makes no difference. Such a simple incident – a missing sandal – and yet, such great consequences – an eternity in hell. Life is short, indeed; but eternity...well, eternity lasts forever!

**Only one life,
'twill soon be past,
Only what's done for
Christ will last.
~ C.T. Studd ~**

“BUT YE ARE A CHOSEN GENERATION, A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, AN HOLY NATION, A PECULIAR PEOPLE; THAT YE SHOULD SHEW FORTH THE PRAISES OF HIM WHO HATH CALLED YOU OUT OF DARKNESS INTO HIS MARVELLOUS LIGHT.” I PETER 2:9

(cont. from page 2)

Through these verses and Andrew Murray's book *Absolute Surrender*, God reminded me of something I had forgotten. Andrew Murray writes, "Faith implies helplessness." It is a conviction that God can do something that I cannot do. The end goal for each of us is salvation; God promises to keep us to that end with an incorruptible inheritance as the down-payment of that promise. And God certainly isn't going to allow me to struggle blindly through life by myself, making decisions without certainty, while keeping a perfect inheritance for me and saving me at the last minute. I am kept by the power of God! All I have to do is allow His power to keep me each minute of each day.

We ask You for nothing more than You can give, but we want nothing less. Let my life be a proof of what the omnipotent God can do.
~ Andrew Murray ~



May God bless each of you this coming month and teach you more each day to live by faith in the power of God.

In Christ,

Sarah Parks

Sarah Parks

let the little children come...

The sun beat down on the dusty roads that make up Viñani. For the first time, those of us that meet at the church before heading down to the Bible Club arrived half an hour early.

As the taxi pulled up, we could see ten children already waiting for us...and they had been waiting for half an hour! Some of our church members (and perhaps some of you reading this) should take a hint. Imagine arriving an hour early to church just because you were so excited to be there!

We do this every Saturday. For a little over an hour we have anywhere from 15 to 20 children singing songs, playing games, eating snacks, and listening attentively to a Bible lesson. Sometimes we even have a mother or older sister stay to see what all we do.

Viñani makes up what is known as an invasion. People build shacks on unused property and hope that eventually the government will grant them ownership...sometimes they do, and sometimes they bulldoze down and burn the invaded land. It is a poor zone that abounds with unsupervised children – which is one reason we are there. Though it's not much, the one hour Bible Club we hold each week is hopefully the beginning of a full-time Christian community center where children and youth can play in a safe, supervised environment while also learning about God.

Please pray for the Viñani Bible Club. God has blessed us with leaders who want to be involved with this ministry. God has blessed us with several children who come faithfully each week. Pray that God will bless us with continued faithfulness on the part of the leaders and children. This short hour each Saturday is most likely the only Christian influence these children see on a weekly basis. Pray that God will use it to reach their hearts and the hearts of their parents.



STAY CONNECTED...

Not everyone can go, but everyone can be involved!

PRAYER: Prayer is key! God has shown me over and over again this past year how much I need Him – and my need for Him will only increase as I step into a new country, language, and life, and am stretched to new limits. PLEASE KEEP ME IN YOUR PRAYERS!

FINANCIAL SUPPORT: If you would like to support me financially, please make checks payable to Sarah Parks/Peru Internship and send to my home address. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

ENCOURAGEMENT: My website www.onecandletoburn.org is up and running! Feel free to check it out or send me an email. Tacna, Peru is located in the southernmost tip of Peru and is many, many miles from home. I would love to hear from each of you!

CONTACT ME...



Stateside Address:
SARAH PARKS
386 WEST CADRON RIDGE ROAD
WOOSTER, AR 72181

Peru Address:
SARAH PARKS
CASILLA 317
TACNA, PERU
SOUTH AMERICA

Phone:
(850) 665-3593

Email:
SAPARKS85@GMAIL.COM

Website:
WWW.ONECANDLETOBURN.ORG