

DAVIS CUSCO MISSION

SHARING THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST WITH THE CITY OF CUSCO, PERU • MAY | JUNE 2016

Every single month that we've lived in Cusco working with the church here, God has blessed the congregation with at least a few baptisms (and sometimes even more!). We always post these baptisms in our newsletters, but this month we'd like to tell you a little bit more about the wonderful new members who've been added to the body. Hopefully, understanding their stories will help you as you remember them specifically in prayer!

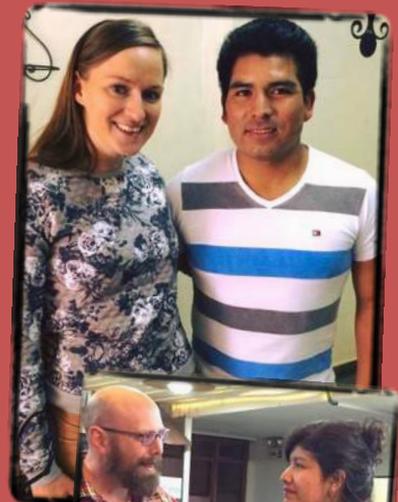
NOISET Noiset was baptized on May 7, and a month later Gary officiated his wedding ceremony on June 9. It is so beautiful to know that he and his new bride are beginning their life together, both being in Christ. Noiset married a German woman named Betina who is a nurse at an excellent mission-based hospital in a nearby province called Abancay. Betina has been attending with our congregation for a few years as often as she is able to travel away from the hospital, and she has become a friend to many on our team. **Please pray for this new couple to continue seeking God's will in their lives!**

LISBET One of our greatest joys is to get a call from one of our members who has been studying with someone who wants to be baptized! This means that our members are continuing to develop hearts for sharing the Gospel. On May 27, we gathered at the church building to witness an exciting baptism like this. Our member, Ana Isabel, had been studying with her cousin Lisbet for quite some time. Lisbet had been struggling with some difficult family-related issues but finally made up her mind to be baptized! **When she came up out of the water, her tears spoke volumes, and you could see that several burdens had been lifted.** Lisbet lives in the capital city of Lima, so we've helped her find another congregation to worship with there. **Please pray that Lisbet will connect herself more and more with this congregation as she greatly needs this source of strength!**

KARINA Once again, Ana Isabel was talking about her faith in her home, with her friends, and even at work, and someone took notice. On June 1, Ana Isabel brought her friend Karina to us, and she was nearly sure she wanted to obey the Gospel. She'd been studying with Ana Isabel for quite some time and wanted to talk to one of the ministers before she made her decision. After more time in prayer and conversation, that night she made the greatest choice of her life! **Please pray that Karina will become more integrated within our church family here especially as she seeks to raise her young daughter in the Lord!**

GREGOR Gregor's story is especially inspiring. Once more, as we often hear, someone was told by churches and friends over and over for years, "Baptism? Eh... you're fine. Don't worry about it." However, Gregor is one of those rare people who had studied his Bible and wouldn't take this for an answer. **He continued seeking until he found a place that would allow him to do what he'd always wanted and believed he should do - he was baptized into Christ on June 20!** **Please pray for Gregor in his new walk with Christ, and for his sister Valerie who Sarah is currently trying to set up a study with!**

Betina & Noiset



Lisbet



Karina

Gregor



NEW PREACHERS IN CUSCO

Many of us would never dream of becoming teachers because in our own words, “I can do it (whatever it is we’re good at), but I can’t coach or explain to someone else how to do it.” Sometimes this mentality can be a big temptation in our work here in Cusco as well. We, thankfully, keep fairly busy schedules, and, in the course of our daily tasks, it can seem simpler to “just do them” rather than to teach and develop these skills in our members. Teaching requires patience, faith, and much more time and investment.

Nevertheless, since discipling is a crucial pillar to our strategy for the mission here, God has helped us make it happen! Every week we’re trying to “teach others how to teach others” about the Word, whether that be in the pulpit or in one-on-one Bible studies.

Ryan has been especially focused on and excellent about this over the past few months (this is Sarah here bragging on him a little bit!). Ryan absolutely loves to preach, but instead of taking his time studying, investigating, and rehearsing his own delivery each week, he’s been meeting diligently with a handful of men to prepare them to preach or lead the Lord’s Supper talk on Sundays.

This type of work is much more than just reviewing some sermon notes that these men have written down. These are new Christians that are still discovering their own faith, so they typically have no background in researching a passage in the Bible, finding outside sources, or in public speaking. It’s been very rewarding to walk with them step by step as they learn how to organize their thoughts, write sermons, memorize, and deliver the Word with power. We also do “worship run-throughs” where new song leaders or preachers can practice in front of just a few of us from the mission team before Sunday. This has proven to be a great tool in helping new leaders become comfortable before a huge crowd and also by providing an opportunity for positive feedback and constructive criticism.

God has definitely been present as these new leaders have taken to the pulpit. These men who’ve delivered sermons or other talks have done a wonderful job and have been very effective at reaching the congregation! When we hear them speak, it’s always a reminder that no matter how much we perfect our Spanish language or grow to understand the people here better, native Peruvians will *always* be able to affect change more easily within their own culture. This spurs us on to focus on teaching and discipleship more and more!

In June, Ryan worked with Diego, who many know as a great translator and friend from our March medical campaigns. He also worked with Jharel, who loves deep Bible study and is interested in studying theology in the future. We had one of our first Peruvian song leaders, Ricardo, who lead us in a very heartfelt worship during June. This month Ryan is meeting often with Conrad, who has already given a few Lord’s Supper talks, but will be preaching for his very first time on July 24 on the topic of “The Immense Power of Prayer.”



*Diego preaching on
“The Idol of
Selfishness”*



*Jharel’s moving
talk before the
Lord’s Supper*



*Conrad and Ryan have become
good friends while prepping for
Conrad’s July sermon*



*Ricardo leading singing
with a smile*



WONDERFUL TRANSITIONS

As many of you may already know, we are expecting our first child, and we just found out that it is a very healthy baby BOY! Sarah is due in mid-December, and we are thoroughly relishing this special time of waiting on the baby. She is feeling well, and our doctor here tells us that the baby seems to be growing great! Once the baby is a few months old, Sarah plans to slowly return back to part-time work or perhaps close to full-time as we seek out the right balance for our family. Although her first months of pregnancy have been filled with joy, it has also been a little difficult for Sarah to “take it easier than normal” as she is very passionate and emotionally invested in the amazing work we get to do here. We couldn’t be more thrilled about the newest member of our family who will be joining us in about five short months, but also, please keep us in your prayers as we, like every new family, wade the waters of transition!



INDEPENDENCE DAY!

We say it all the time, but, we love our team! When you live far from home, having close friends and co-workers to lean on and laugh with means everything. We always stress to aspiring missionaries how important it is to go on the field with a team, and a healthy, unified one at that. It’s especially important to get together for holidays to enjoy traditions together and celebrate since we can’t be with our family and friends back at home. Barton and Allison hosted a great 4th of July cookout a couple of nights ago, complete with sparklers for the kids and, thanks to Ryan and Gary, fireworks! We definitely confused our Peruvian neighbors who may still be wondering what holiday could have called for such a show!



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Our Community Outreach campaign, July 23-30, and for our 30 wonderful US volunteers!
- Our brothers in neighboring countries: Ecuador with the recent massive earthquake and Venezuela in a tragic humanitarian crisis affecting the safety and basic needs of the people
- Our growing family of 3: for the health of Sarah and the baby, as well as Ryan
- Understandably, some of our work is confidential and certainly not appropriate for a newsletter, as is the case with many ministers who are caring for those in the flock who are hurting. Often, we feel that we encounter these situations far too frequently here in Cusco because of the social norms of abuse and aggression that exist for some people in the culture around us. Our past two months have been filled with hurtful cases like this. Please keep our brothers and sisters who have been affected by these types of situations in prayer, and also our mission team as we seek wisdom and guidance to support those who are coping and healing.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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Thanks for reading our newsletter and for your constant prayers and support!

*Ryan + Sarah
Davis*