

MARK AND ANNA BURGESS - OUR MISSIONARY PARTNERS IN PERU



It is some time since we reported on our missionary partners in Peru. Mark and Anna Burgess oversee the Oikos Ministries there and are based in Lima. They lead the Oikos team, the church in Lima as well as links and movement in the jungle. They have three young sons Daniel, Joel and Kaleb. Their family is originally from Sheffield, England. Their main calling is to build a community or family of equipped disciples who are making disciples who will then make disciples. These disciples will be sent out to plant churches and

equip, inspire and grow new leaders in Peru and beyond.

Other members of the Team include Ronald and Nancy Santillan who lead Oikos Pacifico located in the Lima slums. They are dedicated to seeing leaders from that region being raised up to disciple and lead their families and communities. Ronald and Nancy have a baby daughter Arielle. Steve and Lili Bremner are another couple that oversee Oikos Cedros. Steve is involved with in the Ministry School and Lili is an Oikos leader and in charge of Sunday-School Ministry. They also have a baby daughter, Jemi. Rafael and Saida help run the Oikos School Ministry. They are Shipibos (indigenous Amazonian people) from the Amazon jungle. They have a baby son, David.

2016 has been a busy and stressful year for the family. There have been many challenges to overcome. Early in the year they were feeling isolated on the frontline and wondered if what they were doing was worth it. Following prayer and the arrival of the students for the new school year things did improve. The opportunity to purchase the house next door arose. This was encouraging as it would be ideal as a church centre for the school of ministry and provide a prayer room, office, Sunday service and Sunday school and a place to receive guests from abroad or the jungle. During March many members of the team developed headaches, sickness and fever. This made life very difficult especially as workmen were in the house building a much-needed second bathroom. By the end of March the sickness phase had thankfully passed.

The progress towards purchasing the house next door has been very slow. There were lots of delays due to red tape that meant that meetings etc. had to carry on in the Burgess's home. There was still no breakthrough in July and to add to difficulties Mark and Anna's three boys all took sick and chose to stay in bed.

During July some of the teenager leaders in Pacifico were having problems with their families which at times turned into physical abuse. Ronald and Nancy did what they could to encourage the teenagers in their faith as well as liaise with their families.

In their August correspondence the family asked for prayer as they were still managing the delicate pastoral situation with young converts and their families.

Despite all the difficulties the families have faced throughout the year they have had numerous occasions to praise God. In January three young adults from the jungle made the decision to follow Jesus for the first time. It was also encouraging to see graduated students from their School of Ministry leading others especially in the areas of worship, prayer, leadership and encouragement.

In March all the students arrived safely from the jungle despite severe delays due to landslides blocking the main route. They settled in well getting used to community life, homework and other responsibilities. On the financial side this month brought a breakthrough and funds were sent specifically to pay for the new bathroom - everyone currently shares one small bathroom and can be quite problematic.

A 24-hour prayer room was set up in a tent and the first session went really well. It gave students a more meaningful and deeper experience of communicating with God.

July brought the family closer to renting the building in Pacifico where it is intended to start a discipleship after school group for teenagers. A prayer team from Ohio USA joined the families for a week to learn about prayer and the community in Lima. Everyone felt encouraged by the visit and so despite lots of difficult situations they were hopeful and believing in God for breakthrough and were thankful for His faithfulness and joy.

The first half of the school year finished at the end of July and overall had been a real success. By this time most of the families and people in the community had finally recovered from sickness. People had returned for Sunday morning worship and numbers had increased. There was also an increase in numbers in some areas of ministry, especially the Pacifico teenage sport outreach held on Sunday afternoons.

During August Anna Burgess attended her brother's wedding in Bali with her extended family. It was a joyous occasion. There was also good progress towards renting the building in Pacifico for the teenage programme however progress was still slow with regard to the purchase of the house next door.

In their latest email in November the family informed us that the building in Pacifico had been completed and a monthly rent had been agreed. They were also celebrating a huge rise in the number of new people coming to Sunday morning services over the previous two months. The Sunday sport and cell groups in Pacifico and in Miyashiro were also continuing to grow both in number and in depth. There has been significant progress towards buying the house next door but there is a legal complication due partly to Peruvian law and partly an error on the buyer side. Hopefully problems will be resolved and by next year they will have two new buildings for Oikos.

The Burgess family is currently asking for prayer as they make plans for 2017. They are hoping to visit both the UK and the USA if finances allow and it is God's will.

You can find lots more information about this family and their missionary work in Peru on line. Mark and Anna Burgess in Peru - Oikos Ministry will bring up several

sites to explore. The family also communicates using the burgess family
blogspot.com.

It is intended to include their prayer requests in our Prompts for Prayer monthly
handout next year. (This will be replacing Prayer Points)