

Steve & Rachel Peat

Field Address:

Apartado 1810
Arequipa
Peru
South America

Prayer Letter:

Dr & Mrs C Peat
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Sheffield
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Support:

SIM-UK
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Coulsdon
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April '97

Dear ,

How are things going now that we've been here over six months? Many say that you hit rock bottom about now after the euphoria and newness has worn off! You will be pleased to know that we are in good spirits and enjoying God's blessing in spite of a number of difficulties. We have both learned that in everything God is in control and can be trusted!

Language and orientation



Our first year is set aside for the vital work of acquiring a working knowledge of the language and culture. Without this our whole future ministry will be hindered. The temptation for Steve, having a fair knowledge of Spanish already, is to get involved in ministry too soon, especially as we see the many needs. Pray that he will get the balance right between doing some things now and taking the opportunity to do some extra cultural research in this first year. Rachel continues at language school four mornings a week and has a tutor each of these afternoons. Please pray for sufficient quality time to be available for home study and for increased ability in understanding.

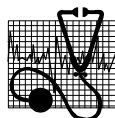
Amy and other family matters

Many of you would hardly recognise Amy. She is growing fast and daily bringing us much joy. She's quite a chatterbox and seems equally at home in Spanish or English! She has been well on the whole although she had a ten day bout of diarrhoea which kept us busy and resulted in her losing quite a lot of weight. She has since more than regained this! She loves bananas and spends lots of time eating them!



Health

Rachel has had a number of stomach upsets and a bad bout of sinusitis since



Christmas. This tends to disrupt our schedule somewhat! Please pray for good health for us all.

Feed-back

We enjoyed a challenging week in Lima at the end of January at our Field Conference. It was good to get to know the wider SIM Peru team.

Many of you will already have heard that our house was robbed the week after conference while we slept. Most of our electrical items were taken from downstairs including a small cassette recorder with a tape we've been recording of Amy since she was born. That is irreplaceable and was a major loss but we did not lose vital equipment like the computer. We are grateful to the Lord that we were not harmed and have been able to replace some items through the generosity of folk at home, so many thanks to those who gave in this way. The house was quickly secured with iron railings on all the wooden windows and we have had an infrared alarm system fitted.



Rachel and Amy had a difficult but worthwhile time on camp the week after. Steve stayed to look round the second hand places for our stolen property! Rachel found looking after Amy who had diarrhoea for most of the week, in quite primitive conditions, overrun with flies, quite hard. However, the dough craft which she taught was appreciated by the 9 or so older folk who went and by the children and youth in the following camps.



Steve spent a weekend in February helping with the children's programme on a beach "camp" organised by a church some way from Arequipa. It was not well organised, with inadequate shelter, water or cutlery! We slept on the sand under the stars, had soup made with sea water as they'd forgotten salt and used my table knife to peel the potatoes as they forgot a sharp knife! One highlight was the fresh fish we barbecued for Sunday lunch. A local brother and fisherman caught them the night before. It was really exciting pulling live fish from the net in the moonlight.

Weather



You may have heard about the very bad weather, the worst the country has had for 17 years. It was country wide and even beyond into neighbouring countries. Much damage was done to houses, roads and farmland. Hundreds of people were drowned, bridges and even a whole village were swept away and the main Pan-American Highway was cut by landslides and the water disrupted power supplies. Those suffering most live in makeshift housing made from reed matting and plastic sheeting. We ourselves had water pouring in at the office and bedroom windows, once reaching the landing! However, we have not suffered any real damage. Our home help, Antonia, spent a lot of time sweeping water out of her house. The first day of the storms it rained for three hours and the thunder and lightning lasted throughout. We've never seen such constant lightning. The damage is not likely to be repaired quickly as the country is so poor.

Church life



We still attend the Graficos Church and Steve has been asked to join the church officers in an advisory capacity. This gives him the opportunity to keep in touch with the inner workings of the church. Please pray for them as Marcelo, the pastor, was recently elected president of the national council of the Evangelical Church of Peru. This means he will be away a lot more and Steve is already feeling the pressure to take on more responsibility in the preaching. Pray that we will get the balance right. The church is also undergoing a difficult pastoral problem involving the disciplining of a Sunday School teacher. Pray

that she will respond positively and be restored to full fellowship and usefulness.

Support team

Again we would like to reiterate our appreciation to all who give and pray so we can serve the Lord here in Peru. We do not take any of it for granted. Thank you all once again for your faithfulness.

In closing...

Change of e-mail address: We have had our e-mail address changed, so please make a note of it: <STEVE-PEAT@mail.interplace.com.pe> (everything exactly as it is between the brackets). It has been a real blessing to be able to communicate so quickly and cheaply with many folks all over the world. If we can contact you by e-mail and you have not sent us your address, please let us know. We also send out e-mail updates in addition to this regular letter. If you would like to receive these, just send us your e-mail address.



Even with e-mail, we still love to receive letters! Thanks to those who have written. You may think they take for ever to arrive. They don't! The average is about a week.

Thanks to those who have 'phoned us. Please remember that we are five hours behind GMT. Our number from UK. is: 00 51 54 259657



Yours in Christ,

Steve & Rachel

Praise!

For blessings received at conference.

For protection during the robbery.

For new security and replaced stolen items.

For Amy and the joy she brings to us and others.

Requests

For good physical and spiritual health for us all.

For the Graficos Church in its current problems.

For our pastor, Marcelo, in his new role.

For Peru in the aftermath of the bad weather.

If you do not already receive our prayer letter regularly and would like to, please send your name and address to Dr & Mrs C Peat. Our mailing list is stored on a computer database for use in sending out this prayer letter.