

Steve & Rachel Peat



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May '98

Greetings from Peru. Although our city has had less rain than last year when we experienced serious flooding, the country as a whole has suffered greatly from the climatic effects of the "El Niño" current. Many lives, roads and even entire villages have been destroyed, and yet in all this God is sovereign for which we are truly grateful. Thank you for your prayers and support in so many ways. We are aware of people's prayers which mean a lot to us. We never take any provision of the Lord for his work through us here in Peru for granted.

Amy's News!



In March I started back at nursery every morning! I even get homework! I've got 22 guinea pigs as we've had lots of babies. I had 32 but we gave some away and one died! I like to hold the babies. After Christmas we ate six and they were really nice! We have so many now we are going to have to eat some more. I can't wait to see Grandma Susan (Rachel's mum) who comes for six weeks just before my birthday which is on May 2nd. I will be three!

PAA Prayer Co-ordination

Thank you for praying for the production of the monthly prayer notes for the Pacific Andes Area (Chile, Peru and Ecuador). We have an efficient routine now and it seems to go quite smoothly. We are also now co-ordinating sending prayer information from the PAA to the US for weekly e-mail and bi-monthly mailed prayer bulletins. If you would like the SIM world-wide prayer points by e-mail each week, send a request to Dick Fuller at: <dfuller@nw.sim.org>

Rachel's Language Tutor

Last time we mentioned Brenda, Rachel's tutor who is not a Christian. She was supposed to contact us after Christmas but has not done so. We have no means of contacting her, so please continue to pray for her and that Rachel might find another tutor.



Health and Safety

We have both had minor illnesses recently. We never take safety in travelling for granted. Steve was returning from Lima recently when someone threw a stone through one of the coach windows. Thankfully the curtain was drawn so no-one was injured. It could have been very serious indeed. We thank the Lord for his care and protection.

Holiday Bible Club Pack

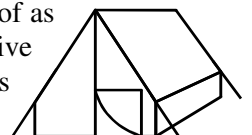
The pilot Holiday Club package prepared by our team was ready in time and used by a good number of churches during the holidays. Please pray as we revise it for publication.

Field Conference

Our annual Spiritual Life Conference over New Year went well for which we give thanks. Everyone had a good time of fellowship and we were all greatly blessed and challenged by the speaker.

Children's Camp

At the end of January Steve had the privilege of speaking at a Children's beach camp. Pray that God would work in the lives of all 38 children. A great time was had by all in spite of the unusual rain which made life interesting! It "never" rains on the coast, so the camp is not designed to be waterproof as we found out! Lots of team initiative with polythene sheeting saved us from the worst effects.



Arequipa Bible Institute

At the beginning of March Steve taught a 20 hour Children's Ministry course at the first residential period of the newly opened Arequipa Bible Institute in a village called Chiguata (pronounced Chiwata) an hour by bus from Arequipa. The students return in December to sit exams and hand in their projects.

Future Plans



Victor, the young Christian Peruvian artist are working with moves to Lima soon to continue his studies. This makes working with him much more difficult. Pray that he will grow in faith and responsibility.

The first batch of three Flannelgraph sets from the U.S. should arrive any time. It has proved impossible to avoid paying 20% customs duty. We look to the Lord to provide for many more sets over the coming year.

We soon hope to start a children's club linked to a local church to reach those around where we live and encourage the formation of other pilot clubs in the city.

To develop culturally appropriate materials we recently began to work with a regular "think-tank" comprising Peruvians with experience working with children. The first meeting was very encouraging.

Alongside this we hope to offer a weekly workshop for those working with children. The desperate need for training was one of the main points emerging from our first "think-tank" meeting.

We praise God for three gifts which should enable us to begin production of the first proposed set of about 25 song sheets with cassette. We also hope to get together a small children's choir.

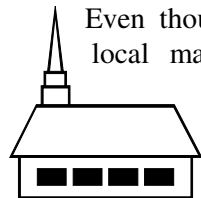
Rachel has been asked to do some baking classes for the mums at Amy's nursery.



Ministry Gifts

We hope you were able to read the article by Steve in a recent edition the SIM UK View magazine describing the breakfast feeding programme in the Nazareno church here in Arequipa. However, we are not involved in the administration of the programme. Please send any gifts towards our ministry other than support to the SIM UK office marked, "Peat ministry" and designated for what you would prefer it to be used for.

Church Life



Even though financial support promised by the local mayor never materialised, the concrete sports court next to our former church was completed in November. Pray that this facility will be of use for youth from churches all over the city.

After much soul-searching we have decided to move to a church in the centre of Arequipa. There are various reasons for this, however the key stimulus is to find a church home more conducive to our vision of producing materials suitable for children's clubs in the Arequipa and wider Peruvian context. Please pray for us as we again go through the process of settling into a new church family, and for the leaders of our former church, that they may truly lead by God's Spirit.

Possible SIM/AEF merger



Please pray for wisdom for all concerned in the negotiations for a proposed merger between SIM and Africa Evangelical Fellowship. It holds out many exciting prospects as well as inevitable changes. Pray that God's will be done.

In closing...

If you can now receive e-mail, please let us know your address. We can keep in touch so much more cheaply and quickly by e-mail.

Thank you again for your prayerful and practical support. May God encourage you in your lives with him.

Yours in Christ,

Steve & Rachel

Praise!

Completion of the Holiday Bible club material.

A good time at the children's camp.

Gifts towards producing the song sheets and tape.

A refreshing time at field conference.

The Lord's goodness to us day by day.

Requests

For settling into a new church situation.

The publication of the Holiday Bible Club Material in time for next January/February.

The launch of the children's club in our area.

Production of the song sheets.

The "think-tank and starting the workshops"

Provision of more flannelgraph sets.

A happy time with Rachel's mum.

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.