

This is the story of each day and what happened. I wanted you to know what God did through us in Cusco, Peru. So, here it is:

We left on Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup> around 1:00 p.m. We arrived in Cusco, Peru about 27 hours later. Whew, what a trip! We drove to Atlanta, flew to Miami, then, flew to Lima, Peru. The flight from Miami to Lima was from Midnight to about 5 in the morning. I did not sleep on this flight. We then had to stay at the Lima airport for about 7 hours. Finally, we arrive in Cusco and were ready to work. We had only 1 hour to check in to our hotel and then we had an opening rally to meet the pastor we would work with. I had a little trouble with equilibrium and nausea when we first arrived, so I went to bed early and missed the opening rally, as instructed by our leader. They wanted to make sure I was ready to serve on Sunday morning.

On Sunday morning, I traveled by taxi along with Vera, my team-mate, about 5 minutes to our little church we would be working with all week. The name of the church was "Casa de Oracion" which means, "House of Prayer." We met Pastor Jose Villaseca and his wife Mary and his kids Anna and Jeremy. They were all from Peru. We also met the worship leader and his wife and baby, Jaime (pronounced "high-me"), Doris, and Gabriel (the baby). We met a couple of their church members. This church is only 8 months old. The room they meet in is off of a city street. A small door rolls up and I had to duck my head low to get in. Once in, another metal door is rolled up so people can see in and out a large glass wall. The size of the church room is about 12 feet wide by 30 feet long. Their morning service is actually a children's service. About 7 or 8 children showed up and a couple of adults. I was able to lead them in some singing and then Vera and I led them in a Bible study that we were not prepared to lead. We just came up with something. We spent Sunday afternoon with the family in their small home located above the church (I will send some pics soon so you can see these things; you can see them now on my Facebook page...become my friend, if you're not and you can see about 250 pics of the trip). We began to map out our daily strategy for evangelism and discipleship. Sunday night, Jaime ("high-me") led worship. I sang 2 songs and then preached with my interpreter, Michael, a sermon on the parable of the soil (some call it the parable of the sower). After a good start to the mission work, we took a taxi back to the hotel and ended the first day by going to bed.

On Monday, Vera and I took a taxi back to Casa de Oracion, our church in the city. Most of the time, the pastor paid for the taxi, but, sometimes, I paid for the taxi in Soles (we were able to exchange American dollars for Peruvian money when we arrived). We went out into a rough part of the city to go door to door, person to person sharing the Gospel of Christ via our testimonies and the Evangecube. Our goal was to train the Pastor and church members and work ourselves out of a job. We had some success on the first day! Praise the Lord for going before us. On this first day, we presented the Gospel 13 times in homes and in little corner stores. We had 5 professions of faith on this day and we made 3 ministry visits to help Pastor Jose. One visit was to a man who has cancer. We read him some comforting scriptures and prayed with him. It was a very moving visit. The second was a man who is a new believer named Juan. He had many questions. I answered his questions as best I could with my interpreter and the Word of God. He and his wife have started coming to church and Pastor Jose will be going soon to share the Gospel with Juan's extended family who are all Roman Catholics. On Monday, we saw the first attack from Satan as I was confronted at a storefront by a drunk. He was attempting to fight me. He was saying that I needed to go back to the United States and quit telling about Jesus Christ because it was not the truth. We told him the contrary that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6). After several minutes of confrontation, my interpreter, Michael said for him to leave in Jesus' name and he did. He wanted to fight me in the streets, however, God's protection was with us. Then, the third ministry visit was to the house of a lady named Adelida. She lived on the second floor apartment in the downtown heart of the city. Needless to say, the taxi ride was intense with taxis and people everywhere on the streets. We squeezed our way out of the taxi and through the crowd and finally up some stairs to her apartment (oh, I forgot to mention that being at 11,500 feet above sea level makes walking up stairs very difficult!). She was very welcoming, but seemed to be distraught. She is going through separation from her husband and a possible divorce. She had many questions about the Trinity, is there a real Hell, the Rapture and many more. She is a new believer. God was with me and my interpreter as He helped me remember so many scriptures and references to answer her questions. I am definitely not a scholar, so this visit was only accomplished by the power of God working through us! I will have more to say about Adelida later. After a fairly successful day, we took a taxi back to the hotel and crashed for some rest for the next day.

Tuesday morning arrives early and we go down for our usual team leader meeting at 7:15 and our group worship and meeting at 7:30 and breakfast at 8:00. I was the worship leader for the team. John from our church and Chuck from South Carolina alternated helping me lead worship throughout the week (John and I both took guitars with us). Our worship and sharing was really great and prepared us each morning to go out to our sites. Tuesday was a good day as we presented the Gospel 14 times and had 6 professions of faith in Christ. Tuesday night was our first "Cell Group Meeting" where we began discipleship with new believers. On Tuesday night, we had 3 new believers and 6 children show up at the church. I led the Bible study for the adult new believers with my interpreter, Michael. Vera led the children's activities upstairs in the Pastor's home with her interpreter, Cynthia. We had a good night with the new believers.

On Wednesday, we had our team leader meeting, team worship, and breakfast. We headed out to our sites. I was greeted with a surprise that Pastor Jose would be gone out of town teaching at a seminary until Thursday afternoon! I had not been told that. However, the work went on and we had some of the church members go out with us as they had on Monday and Tuesday. We began to let them share the Evangecube. Vera and I became the way to get in the door...people were interested in seeing us white folks from North America and wondered what we were about. On Wednesday, we presented the Gospel 9 times and had 6 professions of faith. We also started some of the new believers on the discipleship path by going back by their locations and taking them a Bible and lesson one of the discipleship material. In the cell group that evening, we had the same 3 new believers and the same amount of children. I finished up lesson one and began lesson two with the adults and Vera worked again with the children. Adelida was one of the three new believers that had been to both cell group meetings. She had all of her lessons filled out each night and her countenance was bright and she was so excited about growing in the Lord. After the cell meeting, we took the taxi again to the hotel and off to bed. By the way, lunch is the most important meal in Peru...they do not normally eat supper.

Thursday came and we had the usually morning, then, off to Casa de Oracion. We presented the Gospel 8 times and had 4 professions of faith. We continued discipleship in the homes and businesses of 7 new believers. Pastor Jose returned home around 1:30 p.m. and he and I spent a couple of hours laying out his plan to continue evangelism and discipleship after we head back to the United States. We had a wonderful meeting with Pastor Jose and my interpreter. His plan is to go out with a couple of church members and continue to share the gospel with the Evangecube and to continue to follow up and encourage discipleship and Bible study (we left many Evangecubes and other tools for them). We left him with many tracts in Spanish that coincide with the Evangecube. A new believer's name and info are filled out on one part that is then torn off. The Pastor keeps that part for follow up and the new believer keeps the other part that re-explains the gospel and the life of a new believer. Pastor Jose plans to continue the cell group meetings/Bible studies every Tuesday night at 6:30 at Casa de Oracion. I have his email address and am going to stay in touch with him and constantly encourage him to continue the work. Anyway, we then prepared to have our final cell group meeting. It was time to begin and 9 new believers showed up!!! One had been a Mormon and his wife brought him with her. We had to divide into 2 study groups. I led one group of 6 people in lesson one and Pastor Jose led the original group of 3 in lesson three. Adelida was there again with lesson three filled out entirely. There were 10 children there for Vera to work with. Three of the children had never been to church before. At the end of the meeting, all the adults and children gathered together in the small church building for a group picture. There were over 25 people present on that night. It was very exciting and very encouraging to Pastor Jose and the charter church members (again, I will share pics as soon as possible or to see them all, befriend me on Facebook). So, we finally headed back to the hotel via taxi and tried to wind down and go to sleep.

On Friday, we had our final morning meetings with some great worship and sharing. Some people could not go back to their sites on Friday because we only had half a day to work and they were so far out of the city that they could not go. We, however, being so close, went back out via taxi. We gave many gifts to the Pastor, his wife Mary, his kids, our interpreters, and the 3 church members who worked with us all week (Jaime, Doris, and Claudia). They were very, very grateful for the gifts. They are very poor and do not have much. We had a wonderful time with the family that morning. We took all of them out and paid for their lunch. They were so excited and got dressed up and were very grateful for the meal and the fellowship together. After lunch, Vera and I went to the market and the square with my interpreter, Michael. He works as a tour guide some of the time, so we had a great and informative time. We purchased some gifts. I bought a leather, Indiana Jones-looking hat for Grant; a hand-made purse for Hilary; a seamless scarf made from Alpacha for Robin; and some little hand-made bracelets for Hilary and Grant. We finally made our way back to the hotel

and got ready for our closing rally to be held in the city at a bigger church. The Rally was great! Pastor Jose brought ten of his church members and new believers to the rally. We sat together and worshiped together in Spanish. It was awesome to hear "Open the Eyes of My Heart" and "Lord, I Give You My Heart" in Spanish. My roommate for the week was Danny who is the National Director in Peru for e3 Partners. He preached the sermon that night with an interpreter. During the sermon, I looked over to my left on the row behind me and Adelida was sitting beside someone whom I had not seen before. She was using the Bible we had given her and opening to each scripture passage and reading it to the lady. I got a picture of this. This was the picture of discipleship! We disciplined her and she was desiring to disciple others! What an awesome night it was. At the end of the service, all pastors and team leaders were called up front and presented to everyone. Everyone then prayed for all the pastors that they would continue the work in Cusco that has been started. After the service, we said our sad goodbyes to all the people of the church and our interpreters and friends we had met. We headed to the hotel, this time on a bus, and tried to wind down and go to bed.

On Saturday, morning, we had some time to spend, so we went in a group with a couple of interpreters and toured an Incan historical museum/Catholic church. It was very interesting and beautiful, but sadly, the doctrines seen in the paintings and statues are not the truth of the Gospel. However, many Roman Catholics and others came to know Christ during our week in Cusco, Peru. Between our 27 team members, the Gospel was presented over 800 times and over 250 new believers began the one on one discipleship process! Praise the Lord for what He accomplished through us!

Anyway, we departed the hotel around 2:00 p.m. on Saturday and said some more goodbyes. We drove to the airport in Cusco. We flew to Lima. We stayed in Lima Airport for another 6 hours. We departed Lima for Miami around Midnight. We arrive in Miami around 6:00 a.m. Eastern Time. We arrive in Atlanta late morning on Sunday. We arrived in Pell City at 1:15 p.m. on Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. It was good to be home and spend time with Robin, Hilary, and Grant. They loved their gifts and they were excited to see me! I will be sharing the stories with Hilary and Grant, especially, to help them realize how blessed we are in the United States. I pray that this helps them to be thankful for blessings and not spoiled and ungrateful.

Finally, this trip has changed my life and I will seek to look for more opportunities to share about Christ and to disciple new believers in my church. I will also be grateful for all we have here in North America and be very grateful for what God provides us with every day!

I thank you for being a part of this trip through your help financially and prayerfully. Because you helped me go, my team was able to present the Gospel of Jesus Christ to 44 people and we were able to begin the discipleship process with 16 of those 44 people. Please pray for Pastor Jose and his church family that they will continue the work we help them begin in Casa de Oracion in Cusco, Peru.

May Jesus Christ receive all of the honor and glory for what he did through us and through you in Cusco, Peru!!!