

Friday morning the Lord put it into the hearts of my wife and me to do something for believers in the region of Ica, the area of Peru most affected by the earthquake. We made contact with one church in a town just south of the city of Ica and the pastor, Manuel Rojas, told us that things were in bad shape there and that they were in real need. He told us there is no electricity or running water. He said they are running out of basic food items, and that what little the store owners will sell is very expensive. I called our pastor around noon to invite him to go with me. He called some church members asking them to give some things as they could, and by the time we left at 4:00pm, we had a good portion of our van filled with food and basic necessities for the believers there.

Normally the trip would take 4 hours, but it ended up taking us 6 hours to get there. In several spots along the way the roads are in bad shape. We went along one curve where the outside lane has practically disappeared down the side of the hill. In another, one lane has sunk down three feet below the other lane. At one point you have to cross a bridge that has been weakened by the earthquake. One direction uses the bridge and the other direction has to go through the river.

We got to the church around 10:00pm Friday night. We called the church about 10 minutes before we arrived and they told us to be very careful not to stop anywhere before getting to the church because looters and thieves were everywhere. We pulled up to the church and immediately they hauled what we had brought into the building for safekeeping. We slept the night in the van and in the morning began to survey the damage.

We started off going to downtown Ica. We saw a catholic church that has partially collapsed where several folks were killed. We saw numbers of walls and buildings that had fallen in the earthquake. From there we went to a little village on the coast called Chaco. The pastor there, Rigoberto Rolin, lives at a small camp owned by ABWE. The camp is right on the coast. He explained to us that when the earthquake began they left the building and as soon as the earthquake had passed they saw the ocean begin to rise. They immediately started running uphill away from the ocean. They watched as the tidal wave swept over their entire property. We walked through their property today. Everything is covered with seaweed and ocean filth. It was hard to believe. From there, we headed back to Lima.

The immediate need of the folks in these towns is for the basic necessities: food, water, blankets, etc. Our plan is to go back on Tuesday. We have begun to motivate several churches here in Lima to bring food and basic necessities to their churches on Monday. We will pick it up and pack 2 or 3 vehicles full for a trip to Ica and back on Tuesday, Lord willing.

I will post more pictures on our website, www.timchapmanministries.com tonight. Please pray for the needs in the areas of Ica, Pisco, and Chincha Alta. There are numbers of believers in good churches in those areas that are suffering much right now. I plan to send another update out on Wednesday after we get back from Ica. Pray for our safety as we travel on Tuesday.

