

# The Chapmans

August 25, 2009

## Cheryl's Health

While I was in Venezuela on a preaching trip at the end of April **Cheryl** began having pain in her abdomen. This, along with some back pain and a loss of energy, has really hampered her ability to function normally as a wife and mom. Since May, Cheryl has been to different doctors here in Lima, she's taken numbers of tests, and so far nothing has indicated the cause of her pain. At this point, we've decided to have Cheryl fly home to **Michigan** so that she can see her doctor there. There are a couple of possibilities we'd like to have checked out with her doctor. I'll be staying with the children for the 15 days Cheryl is scheduled to be gone. **My mom** will be coming up from Chile for the majority of that time so that she can help me with the responsibilities in the home (it's a good thing for the kids that they'll have someone besides just Daddy to take care of the cooking.)

Pray that the Lord will give an answer soon as to what is wrong with Cheryl's health. The Lord is enabling us to consider this process a joyful thing as we recognize that He is maturing and perfecting us in this trial. At that same time we are asking the Lord that He would remove the trial if He sees fit.

## MEBIP Conference

In June, I preached a 3-day conference for the members of a Peruvian mission board- **MEBIP**. For three hours two different mornings, to the group of about 80 folks gathered, I taught on the topics of leadership and vision in ministry. I had been mulling over and thinking through the material for this conference for several months knowing I had an opportunity to impact a whole group of Peruvian missionaries who are out there daily working to advance the gospel. All of them have a tremendous heart for service and sacrifice. Many of them, however, lack a clear understanding of what their goals are in ministry; as a result, many of them have seemed to flounder in their church planting attempts. I worked to help them clarify



Ministry friends at the MEBIP Conference



Tim's parents were able to be here in May



Lauren's kindergarten graduation

the importance of a philosophy (knowing why they do what they do) and of forming specific goals in ministry and family life. We received a good bit of very positive feedback in the weeks following the conference for which I'm grateful.

### July Mission Team

In July, a group of 5 folks from **South Baptist Church in Bay City, Michigan**, visited us. Our plan had been to go up into the mountains 20 hours by bus from Lima to host a conference for believers there. Because of Cheryl's health, we decided I shouldn't go on the trip. The Lord worked it out for a Peruvian missionary friend, **Ruben Quispe**, to take my place on that trip. Ruben speaks English and was able to translate for the group from Michigan as well as preach for the conference. It certainly wasn't the plan we had in mind, but God's plans are always better. Ruben was a special blessing to the group and in the conference as well, all of which would not have happened if I had been able to go. I am thankful also for the flexibility of the group from Michigan in their willingness to go to a remote area without the security of the missionary being along. They worked very hard and God really used them in the lives of the folks in the mountains. There were numbers of folks who made salvation decisions on the trip and we praise the Lord for that.

### August Mission Team

On August 3<sup>rd</sup>, a group from our home church in **Midland, Michigan**, arrived in Lima. **Pastor Mark Dickerson**, the youth pastor at **Calvary Baptist Church**, led a group of 11 young people and 3 adults. We worked with **Pastor Vailete Velazquez** and his church in a poor area of Lima called **San Juan de Lurigancho**. The Lord gave us a wonderful week of ministry together. We ran programs for children, played soccer, evangelized, ran a family carnival, preached, and much more. There were folks saved during the week. The young people worked hard all week giving up themselves for the sake of ministry and the gospel. They had prepared testimonies which they memorized in Spanish, puppet skits, carnival games and special music, all of which they used throughout the week. The church here was very grateful for the ministry of the group. This will be the highlight of ministry for this church for many years. When they see believers from another country and language who love the Lord and sacrifice for the chance to serve it makes a very lasting impact. The same is true for the young people and adults from the U.S. who saw the genuine love for the Lord that the believers in the church here demonstrated.



Grandma Monroe was able to be here in June



Pastor Mark Dickerson at the family carnival



Abby and Lauren with their friend Gesarela

## Prayer

1. Pray for Cheryl's health as requested above.
2. Pray that the Lord will give the children and me grace and strength while Cheryl is gone. The two youngest children have never been gone from their mommy before so this could be a difficult transition for them.
3. Pray that God will continue to give fruit from the work of the mission teams here and that the churches will be faithful in following up on what ministry took place.



The Calvary Baptist mission team