

Praise

- enjoyable Anniversary celebrations in July
- Holiday Club in San Andrés de Oasis in Aug
- adults attending the meetings on Sats in S. Andrés
- progress towards the Student Centre
- interesting discussions in the post-Alpha group!

Please Pray...

Special dates

14 Sept: Signing of agreement between Compassion & Jesús el Salvador

Second half Sept: registering children for Student Centre

24-26 Oct: AMA residential retreat; theme "Saved to serve"

16-23 Nov: APEC summit meetings in Lima; pray for security & for Peru to make a good impression!

General requests

- **Student Centre (Compassion):** director Jhonnathan; for volunteers, registering children & talking to their parents
- post- **Alpha** discussions in Surco
- **youth work** in Jesús el Salvador; esp. for the 13-18 group led by Jhonnathan, David & Cecilia
- **Values course** (SU) for 5th & 6th grades in Basadre School; Carmen, Alcira, Cecilia, Cleofé, David, Melody (volunteers)
- **San Andrés de Oasis** –meetings for children & adults (Juan Carlos, Penny, Marco)
- **Sunday School** (Jesús el Salvador) – Penny, Rubén, Martha & Rosario
- Diocesan **leadership**; Bishop William's health & wisdom in coping with it
- **Lizi** deciding what to do when she finishes school next Dec

God bless you

With love from

Juan Carlos, Penny, Rebeca, Lizi & Jonatan

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Marcés Mailing

September 2008



A healthy 1000 year old carob tree (according to carbon dating!). The area we went to on holiday (north coast) is well-known for carob trees and their extract. This one is on the edge of a new archaeological site.

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Dear Friends

The BIG activity at the moment in Jesús El Salvador is setting up the **Compassion**- sponsored student centre project (CDSP). Compassion-Peru is certainly well-organised; here is how it works from this end...

1. Show you have enough rooms to cater for 4 groups of about 25 children each; the room above the church hall is now divided into 3 with wooden paneling walls and partitions. (We still need more toilets)
2. Carry out a baseline survey on 200 random houses with children aged 3-8 years to show general lifestyle of the area; most surveyed are NOT future sponsor children. Predictably, in the list of possible jobs (office, fishing, street seller, factory & other) about 95% were “other”: brick-layers, domestic help, tailors, taxi drivers, etc. Monthly income? - most have a daily income (or don't have any income...) which may vary so much as to make a monthly calculation almost impossible. “Monthly spending on food” is easier -ask how much is spent daily and multiply by 30, but the result is a lot of people who happily spend twice as much in the market on food as they say they have received.... However, many in our area are definitely NOT poor, which is good ^{news!}
3. Sign an official agreement between Jesús El Salvador & Compassion. This will be signed after the eve service next Sunday (14th), in the presence of the congregation 
4. Register 150 children aged 3-8, using a detailed family questionnaire giving points for numbers of children, type of employment etc. (Some attend the CDSP a.m. and go to school p.m.; most study in school a.m. & attend CDSP p.m.) We aim to identify the neediest children by asking local state & nursery schools to give us lists of those they consider poorest. Most will be from 2 “invasions” 15 mins walk from the Church, areas unofficially ‘invaded’ several years ago but now formally accepted. Please pray for this process; already someone at church has asked about their niece – who is poor but not necessarily amongst the poorest.

5. Meanwhile, Compassion sends the papers to the central offices in USA.
6. The (tentative) timescale has the CDSP starting in Dec. We'll see! Sponsors are gradually found for the children. Please pray that the children registered WILL attend; in new projects at least some children NEVER go and after 3 months they are taken off the list, which is sad when their sponsors have been given photos etc.

We now know the (tin) roof for the classrooms doesn't leak! But unfortunately we can now join all those who have problems with a leaking church roof because so does ours (where the sheets of roofing meet). We



know because Lima, despite being in the Atacama desert, has had so much **rain** that firemen had to rescue passengers from a minibus in Villa el Salvador; it had got totally stuck in a huge rain-filled pothole in an underpass..... Not really comparable with floods in UK last year, or even those recently in Chile, but newsworthy. More mundane problems caused by this rain are the fact that damp clothes simply do not dry, and for those who have little clothing to start with (for example in Oasis) it is difficult. (On the other hand, the grass is green, and I saved lots of time NOT watering the garden last month!)

Brighter news from **San Andrés de Oasis** is that we held a holiday club for a week in Aug, which those who attended enjoyed. The closing event starred a magician – someone who attends the post-Alpha meetings and is excellent! The Sunday school has returned to Saturdays, and recently some of the mothers have begun to attend the adult class again which is an answer to prayer, so please keep praying for their spiritual and material needs. It was the turn of the part of Oasis where the church is held to receive the government food parcels recently, delivered to each house at 1a.m. one Saturday.

Rebeca is one of the most faithful in our post-Alpha **youth discussion** group. Actually half those who attend didn't “do” Alpha, but we have some good debates on UFOs, discrimination, parental involvement in boy-girl relationships etc! Pray for those who attend to become rooted in the Lord.

As for the family, Rebeca signed up for the “**Roof for my country**” project, where students stay in a school in a very poor area and help to build prefabricated wooden houses. The list of things to take included sunblock; in the event wellingtons would have been more useful...



She also had to take hammer and screwdriver; unfortunately nobody on her team took a camera! Having helped in Oasis the previous week she commented that the “roof” families were poorer; those in Oasis mostly already have wooden or plyboard walls. Lizi is thinking about after-school; Jonny is a typical teenage boy & just about the tallest in the family.