**Mike Belton, Short Termer in Lima, Peru**

We are now into the second of the schools years two terms after a break in August. Since we have been back I have been teaching some English classes on my own and continuing to support classes with Milagros the Peruvian English teacher. I am now also doing art classes with the first and fourth, sixth grades that I am planning myself and the students seem to be really enjoying them so far as it is quite different to what they are used to. A big thanks to The Lighthouse for their recent donation which has allowed me to buy art materials and will continue to do so. Part of the money will also be used by Milagros and I to buy some books and photocopiable resources to help with English lesson planning.

English classes have been great fun, we´re slowly steering away from ´listen and repeat´. I try to get the students to guess for themselves the meanings of words and attempt to pronounce them <<only if they want to>> without worrying about making mistakes. We have been able to deduce some rules about word stress in English then apply it to new words just by listening to correct pronunciation and this is the kind of learning I had really hoped to encourage. We have to do exams every month with the higher grades, but we are allowed to help the pupils in the exams which is great because most oftentimes they know the correct answer but won´t write it down for fear of getting it wrong.

A group from the diocese of Worcester visited Lima mid August and came to the school. The diocese of Worcester has supported the Anglican church in Peru for many years. Their contributions to the four Anglican primary schools in Peru are vital to their survival. It was a real boost to have other English people in the school, not least because it helped me to realize how much I had adapted and learnt in order to fit in and contribute effectively towards life of the school. They were very encouraging and pleased to see a volunteer working their. There are hopes to set up a link between schools in Worcester and Peru

I was very happy to take Jo Hazelton from CMS (formerly of SAMS) to the school on the 7th of September and show her around and introduce her to all the kids. She then helped me in an art lesson with first grade.

On the 18th of Sep. we celebrated the inauguration of Peru´s second Anglican bishop, Mike Chapman who will be located in Ica, a city 5 hours drive south of Lima which was badly hit by the earthquake in 2007. The Anglican church´s efforts to help in the aftermath have led to a strong following there and potential for growth. I was able to help with the service by taking charge of the sound for the band and miking the various speakers taking part in the service. Everything went without a hitch I´m glad to say.

I´m starting to miss things and people from the UK a lot. But I´m finding the work very fulfilling and building good relationships with the students. I´m still learning and experiencing new things everyday at an overwhelming rate. I will be trying to make sense of the whole thing for years to come, I´m sure. The best thing for me at the moment is the number of opportunities I have to offer encouragement to students, in Art classes as much as in English, and in ways which they are not accustomed to, because of the very narrow idea of what constitutes success in this culture, as well as the culture here of not openly praising peoples attempts, and it is in this that I feel I most contribute. Also, being from the northern hemisphere, your opinion seems to mean more to people. I have included some art work by some of my pupils which I found exceedingly praiseworthy. Particularly Anthony´s work (cat and planet earth pictures). The cat picture just makes me happy whenever I look at it.

Mike 27/09/10 Photos: [http://picasaweb.google.com/100476507993933170912/UpdateSeptember#](http://picasaweb.google.com/100476507993933170912/UpdateSeptember)