

# Ministeria Juvenil

News from Peru's Anglican Youth Ministry

September 2010



**Lizbeth Varillas**  
The Diocese of  
Peru's Youth  
Coordinator writes

I am very grateful to God for the year and four months that I've been serving and working for the Diocese of Peru's Youth Ministry. For me, it really is a gift of God to be able to have the opportunity to give more time to serve Him and young people. At the beginning I was excited about everything I hoped to do, but recently the Lord has been working a lot in my life, teaching me to listen to Him and that my excitement to serve Him must begin with what He wants to do. The truth is that it is not easy to know where to start when faced with all the youth ministry needs, the difficulties that always appear and the disappointment of not getting the answers you want. It's at this point that I'm learning to depend more on God and not on my own strength. Prayer has been a great source of strength in my life, learning to leave everything in God's hands and for Him to work and respond in His time.

Thanks be to God then that in this last year we have had youth leader training workshops in Lima and in Arequipa and the attendance demonstrates the interest that the leaders have in learning to serve the young people in their parishes. One of the things that I like most about them is getting together in small groups of leaders and talking and praying about the similar personal and ministerial difficulties each of us face. This really encourages us all.

I also thank God that I have also seen a change in our clergy as they take young



**Yovana and Miguel at this year's youth leader's retreat**

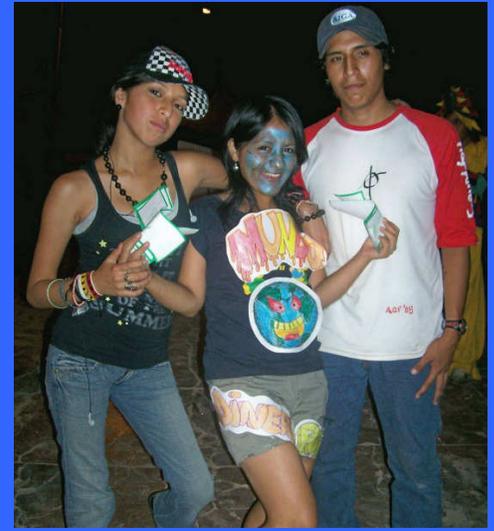
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**Youth Leader's Retreat – Learning New Games Ideas**



**Youth outreach in Ica**

people in their parishes and missions more seriously. God is working little by little in our diocese and this is a result of his power and blessing that he gives us through working as a team. I work alongside Paul Tester and Rev. Rachel Hill, friends and brother and sister in Christ and we unite our different gifts to better serve the young people.

*“My hope is to see a diocese with young people and youth leaders passionate for Jesus”*

My hope is to see a diocese with young people and youth leaders passionate for Jesus, ready to love, receive, evangelise and serve young people who come to their churches and, if they don't come, ready to go out and look for them. To see leaders who are discipling and forming other young people who can lead the following generations.

We would like to respond to all the needs that the young people of our diocese have, above others the needs of leaders in our missions, but we know that God works and responds in his time and our role is to put everything in His hands and to strengthen ourselves to serve Him to the best of our abilities. I thank you for all of your prayers and the support that you give us. You are also a valued part of our youth ministry team. Thanks be to God for putting the young people of Peru on your hearts.

*Lizbeth Vanillas*

### **Teenagers Summer Camp 2010**





**St Luke's Youth Sports and Arts Week**



## *An inspiring young person!*

Nikole is someone who challenges you! We first met her when we visited St Luke's Church in Arequipa in the south of Peru a couple of years ago. As we shared about how the church could engage with young people she clearly captured what we were talking about. She was keen to see St Luke's doing more for the young people in the local area and so she did what all good young people do...she started pestering her vicar about getting something going for young people!

He then asked the youth ministry team to help and so we went and helped run a week's sports and arts activities. Nikole was one of the leaders during that week, publicising the week, encouraging friends to attend, helping organise food for lunches, leading some of the activities and opening and closing up the church before and after the day's events. On the last day of the week she shared her testimony in front of her peers and invited them to a youth group on the Sunday. She then led that group with the support of Lizbeth and now continues to run the group there. All this at the age of 13!

Do pray for her as she grows and as she leads others and for the group at St Luke's.



**Nikole**  
A Young Person  
leading Young People





### For Your Thoughts and Prayers

Please thank God for all that he has been doing over the last year with young people here in the Diocese of Peru:

- For Lizbeth's appointment as Youth Ministry Coordinator in the Diocese.
- For the Youth Leader Workshops and Retreats across the Diocese.
- For a growing awareness of the need for youth ministry across the Diocese.
- For the events of the last year – Summer camps, Sports and Arts Weeks, Youth Gatherings, and Youth led missions.

Please continue to pray for the "Ministerio Juvenil" as we seek to serve God and share his love with young people across the Diocese of Peru:

- For the young people of Peru and particularly for youth leaders in parishes and missions across Peru.
- For God's direction and guidance for the youth ministry team.
- For the youth organised family festival on the 25<sup>th</sup> September (bringing the church family together in community and raising funds for the youth ministry).
- For the youth leader's retreat at the end of October – that it might be a time of blessing, refreshment and encouragement for all of our youth leaders.
- For the summer camps in January and February 2011 and for all the planning and preparation that needs to go into them.
- For a possible youth mission trip in 2011 to support the work of a diocesan mission.

