

Dear Friends of Project Nehemiah,

While Ruthie and Benjie are in the United States for health reasons, I am with Caleb and Nathaniel wrapping up the summer activities. With the help of Maruja who was married to Ruben last month and now back from her honeymoon, I am the cook, the preacher, the mentor, the teacher, the evangelist -- in other words -- a regular Jack of all trades.

Ruben and Maruja were such a handsome couple on their wedding day as you may be able to see in the attached picture, that for us it was as if our own kids were getting married and they did make us feel like their parents, even in their invitation. You can only imagine through our words how beautiful, happy and joyful the event was the day of their wedding. Everyone helped through their presence and their gifts to kick off the life of this little couple in the world and in the service of the Lord. A couple of weeks ago, Ruben and Maruja returned from a week long mission trip as a family and were able to make good contacts and preach and teach as the occasion has presented to them. You can visit this link if you are interested in seeing a slideshow of the area that they are working in now: <Http://www.mtwsa.net/people/ggutierrez-pl/DevHighland.wmv>

Cesar, Ruthie and Freddy Figueroa along with Jose come back every weekend to Huanta from the seminary in Ayacucho to help with their Christian service weekend assignment in our main congregation and other groups of ours. They go back at 5:00am on Monday mornings to be back in Ayacucho for their classes. Richard and Edgar are learning to make a living working on practical trades of



carpentry, mechanics and construction, combined with youth work as time allows. Our little Enriqueta is quite a young lady now and is known to all the girls as the greatest evangelist of her peers. She also helps with all the little children in the nursery and Sunday school. Eliseo Torres travels with Ruben to the villages above the timberline up in the Andes

mountains organizing groups and encouraging the Quechua brothers in their church building projects. David Bendezu is working together with Caleb in mentoring younger boys and together with his mother they are planting a group of young people in a property of theirs down in the valley. His mother is involved in church planting activities among the Quechua brothers also in their home. Mariela has been trying to make a living working with her sister Lucinda and not quite happy just going after money -- we are closely monitoring her movements. Lucila came back after three years of absence while being in Lima and the jungle and has become a beautician and we could hardly recognize her when she came for a visit

with short red hair and very thin body -- fit to kill -- yet there was no spark of joy in her life, because she has left her first love to go after money. Fredy Mora is still wrapping up his studies and working with a local electric company. Wilber has been in the north of Peru working for a church during the summer and back in the seminary also finishing his studies. Yense and Teodoro are working on his grandmother's farm and they are quite good fishers, herders and farmers. I had a pleasant surprise call from Pio who is in Lima working in construction and is living with a woman who has a child. I was pleased to know that he has enough confidence to call and keep in touch and that he wanted to talk to me and I'm looking forward to having a visit from him. Walter Huichu periodically comes to spend time with us and is trying to be a police officer in Lima. Rosa Flor got married and has a child and Esther is in Lima working with her Aunt. Karina is in seminary and Guisela is better from her sicknesses. Norma is in Marcas badly hurt by the lost of her newborn baby in the hospital.

This report may seem full of bad news, but we have seen the metamorphosis of the lives of these kids and we have noticed that it is part of God's work in their lives -- all the things that happen to them -- for example, Freddy Figueroa left to Lima and had a prodigal-son-like experience. The man that came back to us is a much better man than we had ever hoped or imagined that he would turn out to be. He loves the Lord now in a real manner and puts his utmost in his studies at the seminary and wears a smile that brightens the room as he walks in. In the same way, Cesar had a near death experience when he struggled with a serious sickness where he had a prayer "Lord I am yours. If you want to take me now, it is fine. Do with me as you please." Ever since then, he is a completely changed person and wants to be a pastor and already has a little congregation that is calling him. Another case is that of Eliseo who also left at night as he had previously -- running away from the Army. He too had a serious sickness and came back and we helped him to recuperate and now he is leading a church building project way up in the Andes mountains in the community of Cunya. Edgar has learned the value of working with his hands and being serious in the faith that he professes to have and is very punctual in the services and willing to help with joy. Richard has seen all these rebellious kids and has made some moves toward experimenting in the world, only to come back in tears of repentance and hating his weaknesses and asking for help in prayer to be a better man. Now as I write this letter to you he has taken two weeks off to go to the jungle to help in a church planting mission with Ruben.

Looking back, if we had a choice to take up this work or not, we would do it again in a heartbeat. For we have learned to know God more to know ourselves better and to understand human nature and all these things have helped us to grow in grace and all for the glory of God. Thank you for your part in it.

In His care,
Gerry