

Merry Christmas From the Cochrells

Christmas is a time to reflect and remember all that Christ did for us and what God is doing for us. This year has been one of the most challenging stretches of life and ministry we have had in Peru yet. Despite the challenges and often feeling overwhelmed and inadequate, we can see God's hand and help in our lives.

"Roca Fuerte" Baptist Church is growing in number and maturity and we marvel at how Christ is growing His Church in Alto Qosqo, Cusco!! In September, we were able to purchase property for the church and we are working on our strategy and plan for how we are going to begin construction. We are already in need of more space as a couple of weeks ago we had just a little over fifty people in total attendance. We hope that around New Year's we will be in our short-term building that provides us more space while we build our permanent church structure.

As a family, we are seeing some changes on the horizon. One of them is that at the end of October we purchased a residence property in Alto Qosqo. We have wanted to live in the neighborhood where we are starting this church. We probably won't live on the property until March, but are excited to be able to move up closer to the church. We are also looking at a three month trip to the States from April to July for Aaron's graduation from Seminary, to visit family and a few churches, as well as attend the 100 year anniversary of Baptist Mid-Missions.

God has allowed me to support and help Aaron in the work of church planting while managing our family responsibilities. Every Friday we host our leadership team for a meeting and social time. We can see God using this time as we pray together, learn more about church planting, and work to make wise decisions about the various aspects of this church plant. I am thankful for how we are seeing different individuals experience victory in their spiritual lives.

Joel turned seven in September and is really improving in Spanish. His best friends are Aarón and Josué. He has improved in being able to recognize sounds and read larger words. We let Joel get two gerbils for his birthday and "Tom" and "Jerry" are officially part of our family!!

Liz is five now and has gotten a lot taller. She is often happy and giggly while doing her best to defend herself against her two brothers. She got a rabbit for her birthday and named him "Funny Bunny". Kindergarten is going well for her as she begins to put together small words and is doing pretty well at reading! On September 16, she turned five and on the 26th she accepted Christ as her Savior! This is what Christmas is really about!!

Levi will turn three in February and is a delight to have in our family. He wants to be a "big boy" and do everything that his siblings do. He sits and likes to "read" outloud. We are blessed by the children God has given us and realize that as tough as parenting can be some days, it is a privilege we wouldn't trade for anything.

We wish you all a wonderful Christmas season and pray your hearts are filled with the remembrance of Christ and His love for us!!

