Dear Friends and Family,

It has been a super busy month for us, as we spent the first half of the month in the States and then were busy for the rest of August settling back in here in Perú. Here are some of our experiences over the last month.

Blessings / Miracles / Thank you’s

Wheels
A family in our church in Indiana let us use their car for most of our time in the States. We were able to go up to Michigan to visit some relatives and then make local visits without having to figure out transportation every time. Thank you, Josh Graham, for letting us use your car!

Steve: A Ride to the Airport
As Hannah and I were preparing to leave the States, we began to ask different people about a ride up to the Chicago airport. By Sunday the 14th, we still had no ride and three days to find one. I woke up feeling a bit anxious about how it was going to work out. Suddenly I saw, very clearly in my mind, a good friend from church driving us through Chicago traffic. So far, I had been wondering about which family member could take us and hadn’t thought of anybody outside the family. I was open to the idea of a non-family member taking us, but this particular friend was not one of my first candidates. He had lost his legs in Vietnam and, while I knew he could drive, I just hadn’t thought of asking him to make that kind of trip for us. That morning at Sunday school, however, this gentleman came up to me and asked if we had secured a ride yet. I picked my jaw up off the ground and calmly said that we had not. “Let me check my schedule and I’ll get back with you,” he said. My mind was spinning, not with surprise that he would offer, but at the fact that I had seen him so clearly that morning driving us. That night he confirmed with us that he could do it. Thank you, Tim Davis, for your generous gift of time and effort to take us so far!

Hannah: “My Identity Crisis…”
Steve bought our plane tickets to and from the States using my maiden name since I had not updated my name on my passport before going to Peru in April. When we got to the States, I immediately applied for a new passport, as a necessary step in applying for our visas in Perú. The new passport arrived in plenty of time, but unfortunately, my old passport did not come in with it. This meant I had a plane ticket with the wrong name and number on it. Steve got in touch with the travel agency and the airline told him that it was not possible to change my name; I had to present my old passport in order to board the plane or else buy a new ticket ($500-$700). Meanwhile, I called the U.S. passport agency. I was told I could expect my old passport to arrive in about 2-3 weeks, period. We didn’t have that much time. But, praise God, the old passport came in the very next day and we were able to board the plane.
Hannah: Last-minute surprise:
Early in our visit Steve and I talked about investing in a sewing machine. We did a little online research, then we got busy with more pressing matters. But, just days before we left the States, I was talking to a friend at church, who said out of the blue, “I want to buy you a sewing machine!” Not only did she bless us with a sewing machine, she went out of her way to take care of the details during our last frantic days of packing! Thank you so much, J.! I am also grateful for my Mom who helped her children who wished to, learn to sew! Thank you, Mom! The skills I first practiced in childhood continue to serve me well as I begin to use this sewing machine.

A Family who is Behind Us
Apart from these blessings, we could write a lot more about our immediate family who has loved us and helped along the way. Thank you Becky and Joanna for picking us up from the train station. Thank you, Mom, for putting us up for our time there. Thank you, Vreneli, for taking us down to see family in Lafayette/Crawfordsville.
Thanks to all family and friends who hosted us, whether for a few days or a few hours. We are so grateful for folks surrounding us the way you all have!

Trials / Uncertainties

“You need an apostille on that document...” “A what?”
Getting our visas is not happening as smoothly as we had hoped. For us to apply for a missionary visa, Peru requires that we bring a letter of recommendation from a mission organization and that it be apostilled (an international notarization). It’s an unfamiliar process to nearly everyone we talk to, and it was new to us too. PEF has written a letter for us, but it needed some corrections (updated name and document number for Hannah) and we don’t have that hard copy in hand yet. Thankfully, after calling some government offices in the States, we have learned that getting the apostillation itself is pretty simple.
Meanwhile, we are considering visa alternatives. It used to be legal for a tourist to simply cross the border and come back with a new tourist visa. But now the law only allows us to be tourists here for 6 months out of the year. A more realistic option is for Steve to seek a work visa as an English professor. The clock is ticking, please be praying.

Timing of Our Move to Santo Tomás
One of our worst fears are coming true (speaking tongue-in-cheek)...we are wanted in Cusco. The church leadership is undecided about when to send us to Santo Tomás—they may ask us to stay here a year or so. This is partly so they can get to know us more before commissioning Steve as pastor. We don’t know yet if we should buckle in for a long stay here, or stay on our toes for permission to move to Santo Tomás in the New Year.
Please be praying that God guide our leaders as they make such decisions. At the end of the day, we know that God’s timing is perfect.

In Current News...
Steve’s sister Esther, her husband Danny and their two children continue to share our apartment. Esther and Hannah have streamlined the sharing of housekeeping as much as possible, so living in close quarters is going pretty smoothly. However, staying or leaving Cusco will affect whether we look for a larger apartment where we can continue splitting rent but breathe a little more easily.
Also, Steve has committed to teach an Apologetics series to the youth group for the month of August. Saturday night he introduced the topic and then opened the floor for questions. He is excited about the next few weeks as he teaches one of his favorite topics.

"Feel free to use some of the carrots, we got too many..."  "We’ll buy eggs this time..."  "I’ll give you a couple extra soles if you buy huevos de corral (free-range eggs)."  "Let’s make bacon and eggs for breakfast tomorrow."  "Can I make grits to go along with?"  -housewives harmonizing
We love to hear from you, too!

Though it is a challenge with our current Internet access to carry on extended back-and-forth communication, we love those one-liner or even 1-pager responses some of you send! We love hearing how you are doing, too, even if sometimes our replies are simply our next update.

Thank you Prayer Warriors

Finally, thank you, THANK YOU, to everyone who is praying for us as we go through this process of getting established as missionaries in Perú. Your prayers are being answered in clear ways. We are blessed because of you!

Many Blessings to each of you,
Steve ‘n’ Hannah Johnson
Missionaries in Peru, South America
With the Presbyterian Evangelistic Fellowship

To support Steve ‘n’ Hannah financially, click here
Or go to, http://pefministry.org/JohnsonS.html

“To whom He was not announced, they shall see; And those who have not heard shall understand.” Romans 15:21