Dear Family and Friends,

April 3, 2017

Another month has come and gone and many new experiences with it. One of our dear friends from back home commented after reading our last update that it sounds like the honeymoon stage of missions is over, and she may well be right about that. But if the honeymoon stage of moving here and beginning our dream of missions is over, then the momentum and passion of seeing this community come to know God is continuing to drive us forward.

We wrote about our new, developing relationships in our last update, and to write about the same thing this month seems redundant. But that really is the ongoing process that we see God working in our ministry here. Meanwhile, Steve is learning to play the guitar and is now able to play a song in Quechua. Hannah is now able to have comfortable conversations in Spanish, which is very exciting for her. These are the kind of steps we are taking towards being able to reach out and communicate to the people around us.

1-year Anniversary

One year ago, on the morning of April 3, we landed in Lima for the first time as missionaries. Then we embarked on a 21-hour bus ride to Cuzco with our four large boxes and miscellaneous carry-on luggage. By the end of the week we had moved into our first apartment.

Blessings and Thanksgivings

We are so thankful to God for continuing to provide what we need to live comfortably. We have food on the table, a roof over our heads, friends and family down the mountain to visit and keep us uplifted, and many other blessings that we could list. Hannah was just talking to one of her sisters on the phone (a blessing in itself) and I said in jest for her to tell her sister to eat an Italian Gyro from Subway for me. It's so easy to start thinking of the things we don't have here and for that meditation to drag all the life out of our... life. I have found many times that if I'm feeling down, it is probably because I am counting the things I miss from a life I once had. But the beautiful secret is to start looking around me and, lo! Life becomes bright with hope and joy again. First and foremost, I am saved! I have peace with God through my Lord Jesus, and that is worth singing about. Second, I am married to a beautiful, smart, loving, godly woman who encourages me when I am down and laughs with me when I am happy. Next, I am serving the Lord my God in an exciting, fulfilling way that I have yearned for for years. I am thankful to be here in this ministry. Finally, as if all that were not enough, God has surrounded us, both far and near, with people who encourage us with words of encouragement, wisdom, and Scripture. You all, our readers, are a blessing from God that make us stand in awe of God's love. Thank you!

Prayer Requests

As you continue to pray for us, please remember the dried up well up the mountain. In just a few months, the town will make a trip to the top of the mountain, accompanied by a warlock, to make an animal sacrifice and perform rituals to the mountain spirits. This is to appease these spirits in order to receive water. Please pray that God show Himself powerful in this situation.
Please also pray that we have wisdom in time management. I have been placing a high priority on spending time with people in order to gain their trust. But I also have things I need to be doing in private; I want to invest time into the guitar, Bible-study, and Quechua. These are time-consuming but very important. I need to practice good time management skills so that the 24 hours God has allotted me each day may be well spent.

Blessings,
Steve 'n' Hannah Johnson
Usphabamba, Cuzco, Peru
(We've been misspelling and mispronouncing Usphabamba. It has a hard S, and the "ph" is still a hard P.)

A team from World Race came to serve with the projects our cousins are managing in Cuzco. On two Wednesdays, however, the team came up to Usphabamba and blessed us with their hands and feet, enthusiasm, and spiritual encouragement. The result of their hard work is a lower and leveled path behind the damp sanctuary wall of our home/church building.

The back wall of the sanctuary is built against pancake-layered sedimentary rock, and there is a serious moisture problem. I (Hannah) worked with a World Race team member to bleach the interior wall, only for this white "mold" to return in a matter of days! Thankfully, a bit of Internet research has revealed that this is a type of salt-crystal formation due to the water seepage. I'm not taste-testing it, though!

As we network with other local projects, a short term mission trip could involve construction work, volunteering at the Josephine House orphanage, encouraging our Quechua community, and/or enjoying a little tourism while fellowshipping with us and our fellow missionaries.

We would LOVE for you to visit us in Peru! Form a work team or come alone--Lodging may be available with friends, or in hotels. $2000 per person could cover travel and modest living/tourism costs for a week or two, including a trip to world-famous Machu Picchu. Ask us what a visit might look like!

No more century plant cameos! Our "friendly neighborhood century plant" was on the verge of full bloom, but sadly, a wind storm took it down and the neighbors cut it off. We enjoyed it while it lasted.