It's been just over a month since we got back from the States, but it feels like much more time has passed. It is amazing how slowly time can pass while we are seeking answers! Here are the highlights of this month...

**Visa Issues**

The hot topic this month has been our missionary visas, which are going to allow us to minister in Peru long-term. As many of you know from our last update, we need to get a sending letter from our mission-agency in order to apply for our visas. Getting the letters was never the issue; the requisite that has been giving us a headache was the apostille, which nobody seemed to know about except the people here in Peru.

We have sent our letters to the office in Virginia that can apostille documents and are simply waiting to receive them back. In good faith that they will be apostilled for us, Hannah is flying to the States to pick them up (in fact, she is putting the finishing touches on this update from Indiana). While there, she will have the opportunity to finish packing some much needed items we have been missing here in Peru. Please be praying that her trip to the States be a success. She has a lot of packing and repacking to do. But mostly, it is a challenge for us to be separated for so long. We ask for your prayers during this time of being apart.

**Trip to Santo Tomás**

On Wednesday the 14th, Uncle Keith took us out to Santo Tomás. With us went a grad student named Alicia who is doing intercultural studies for her church. Her purpose was to interview as many people as she could to find out about their culture. She spoke very good Spanish, so translation was not necessary, but we still got to tag along and overhear the interviews. It was fascinating to hear directly from the people what they believe about God and their religions, death, marriage, and family structure. Alicia will be writing a paper based on her findings, which we have permission to share with as many of you as would like to read to it. Please feel free to ask if you are interested.

**Ushpabamba**

For those of you who may not have read our email requesting prayer... There is a town about 45 minutes outside of Cusco, up a windy dirt road, called Ushpabamba. Our church in Cusco, Jesus el Buen Pastor, started to minister there a number of years ago and built a small building to serve as a sanctuary. While the initiative was good, the lack of a consistent pastor to live there has not allowed the church in Ushpa to grow very quickly. Right now, it is virtually inactive. Jesús el Buen Pastor has decided that if we can cut our teeth in Ushpa, it will allow them to see how we do in ministry before sending us to the more distant town of Santo Tomás. We will hold church services in Ushpa on weekdays and come into Cusco for church on Saturday nights and Sunday mornings. This way we will still be around our church leaders who want to get to know us more and guide our progress.

While Hannah is in the States, I (Steve) plan to start renovating the church building out at Ushpabamba so that it can become our home when she returns from her venture abroad. We can honestly say that we are excited about this ministry opportunity, which may last as long as a year.
Retreat

As Steve wrote the first draft to this update, he felt the fading aches and pains of having been through boot camp all over again. Hannah had dark bruises on her legs and was sore in various places. The reason for this sorry state was a pleasant getaway with the youth group last week. They called it a retreat; we called it basic training for the marines. But it was a good time. The group of youth was split into four teams and were in constant competition as they played games, did skits, and came up with talent shows. It was meant to be an escape from daily life and to let us get to know each other better by spending time doing fun activities. There were times of Bible study, but it didn’t seem like worship was the main focus. We accepted that it was designed to be more of a retreat and not a revival camp, but we hope that in the future there may be more time spent on biblical mentorship and prayer at these retreats. Worship did happen; lives were touched, hearts were changed, and God was honored.

Internet Marathons

We desire very much to stay in touch with you all. We have often felt bad for not replying to all emails you write after we send out an update. Part of the reason is because the Internet is so slow in our house. But when we make the move out to Ushpabamba, we will not have Internet at all. We love hearing from you and we truly want to stay in touch, so we are hoping to bring the computer into town every week and spend some hours reading and replying to emails. We thank God for the modern blessing of technology, which has shrunk the world down to a manageable size for all of us. Thirty years ago, we would have been sending type-written letters by airmail once or twice a year! Please know that we want to stay in touch, but we have limitations because of where we are moving.

Financial Support

As we make this decision to move to Ushpabamba, there are some implications for our finances. Instead of teaching English for a cash income, it is possible that our only local income will be potatoes and corn from nearby farms if Steve (and possibly Hannah) spend days working in the fields alongside the neighbors.

Thank you so much to those of you who are supporting us in this work with ongoing pledges or one-time gifts. If you are still giving to us through the Santo Tomas project under MTW, please take a few minutes to cancel that payment and set up payments at our PEF account.

We are not suffering an emergency and we are not panicking, but we are scraping the bottom of our financial barrel. It is hard to ask for help when our faith in God keeps us from feeling anxious about our financial situation. Our faith truly is in God and we know that He will not let us suffer lack. We are willing, if necessary, to come back to the States and work 9-5 jobs again to save up so that we can come back to Peru and continue our work, but we believe that God has better plans for us than that.

Prayer Requests

1. As already mentioned, please be praying that Hannah have a successful trip to the States. Our visas depend on her bringing back an apostilled letter so that we can proceed with the application process.
2. Please also pray that God continue to give us clear direction as we make the move to Ushpabamba.
3. Finally, please pray that God will supply the finances we need. We know that He is our provider and we believe that He will be faithful in our need.

Blessings,
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 15:21b