

NEW HOPE MINISTRIES

...thou (LORD) are the helper of the fatherless...

(Ps. 10:14)

David and Debbie Bolos... Missionaries to Peru

Feliz Navidad!!

or AS WE SAY IT... **MERRY CHRISTMAS!** What a special time of year this is here at New Hope Children's Home! Christmas time has always been a special time, not only for the children but also for the Peruvian Christians. We wish we could bring you all with us to Peru just for the next few weeks so that you could see how Christmas is celebrated here... well, since we cannot expect you to all fly down, let us tell you how Christmas is celebrated here in Peru!!

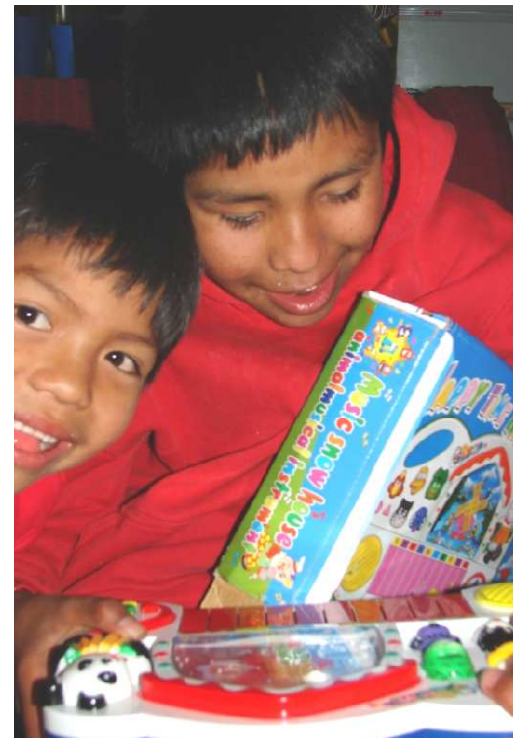


It is Christmas Eve at 6:30pm, December 24th. The children have just eaten their evening meal... and are begging to be taken to the Plaza de Armas. This is the main square here in Central Arequipa, a city of nearly 1 million people. We have whipped up some "Chocolatada" (Peruvian style Hot Chocolate) and Pan Dulce (Sweet Bread)... enough for at least 200 ninos de la calle (street children). You see, on this night the Plaza will be filled with children, mostly from the poorer mountainous villages. We will bring you with us

as we bring our young people from the home on this night, not just to see the lights of the Plaza and hear the sounds of Christmas Eve but to minister and testify, to share with the children the love they have learned from the example of Jesus Christ and His message of salvation... and what a special night it will be for all of us! **I**

will never forget the night of Christmas Eve, 1997, when many of the children of New Hope brought the gifts they received for Christmas to share with children here on the streets of Downtown Arequipa, children they knew would receive nothing at home! What a wonderful night that was!

Well, it is 11:00pm, and we need to leave the Plaza for we must return to the home... we have sung Christmas carols, shared our Chocolatada and Sweet Bread, and hugged countless children we have met... but it is late and we will be lucky to find taxis that will take us back! You see, at midnight at the home we have a fireworks display ready to announce the birth of the Savior and to ring in the **Christmas Day**, a Peruvian custom the children faithfully follow! All the children will be out in the villages waiting for Midnight to arrive... and when it does there will be shouts of joy and weeping as children and adults hug and wish each other **FELIZ NAVIDAD!** It will be a sight you will never forget in all your life! After this, at approx. 12:30 am we will sit down again with the children and give thanks to our God for His many blessings and mercies before sharing the Christmas Story! We will then fill our plates (YES, at 1:00am in the morning) and feast on a meal of ensaladas, pavo o carne al horno, paneton y chocolatada (different Peruvian salads, baked turkey, beef or alpaca, sweet cake and chocolate)! After feasting on our Midnight "Christmas Meal", one more time we hug each other and prepare to sleep. Christmas morning the children who have not already done so will open their gifts... and rest during the day, many will speak to you about what they remember of their families and how they were brought here to New Hope. Heartbreaking? Yes, but I would not trade our memories of Christmas in Peru with the children for anything in the world... and after spending Christmas here at New Hope, neither will you!



Many ask... what do the children here at New Hope receive for Christmas? We usually try to purchase the same thing for each child... usually a pair of shoes along with an outfit... a pair of pants and shirt for the boys or a skirt and blouse for the girls. We also try to purchase some "family games" for the 5 groups of children, games such as Connect Four, Monopoly and CandyLand. Their "Botas" (Christmas Stockings) will be filled with candies, pencils, crayons, puzzles... depending on their ages! What about Christmas night? Well, we go to bed exhausted, thanking God for his grace and mercy on our lives and the lives of each child He has loaned to us, for truly He is deserving of all our praise!



They story of Julia and her Marriage to Abel.....

Her name is Julia Paniura... She arrived here at New Hope nearly 10 years ago... a scarred and broken little girl with a horrendous story. Abandoned, she was a shy and timid child with no memory of her mother or father. For the last 10 years our God in His infinite grace has worked on Julia's heart, teaching her to love and forgive those that mistreated her, abandoned her and hated her. Year after year she had no contact with her family, but she pressed on. Many times she would wonder about her mother and why she was abandoned, wondering what she looked like and hoping some day she could meet her. We encouraged Julia and prayed for

her... she finished High-School with honors and has become a Godly young lady, faithful not only to the principles she has learned to live by but also to a Creator who gave her hope and who gave Himself for her!

But Julia's story does not end here. This past month Julia married a young man she has known and been engaged to for nearly 2 years now! His name is Abel Delgado, he is one of the music leaders here in our church. Together they exchanged their vows and promised to be faithful to each others. They have moved in a small 2 room apartment here in Pachacutec, about 5 minutes walking distance from the Children's Home to begin their life together!



Julia's plans? Well, aside from being a wife to Abel she has plans to continue studying English and tourism. She speaks English fairly well, and Julia and her husband have plans to open up a "Restaurante Turistico" (tourist restaurant), catering to the needs of the many foreigners that visit the city of Arequipa. They are both faithful and active here in our village church... please, pray for Julia and Abel as they begin their new life together with each other!

Our Thanksgiving Offering...

We want to thank so many that have helped and prayed for us this month and have given a special offering for our **Thanksgiving Offering!** We were able to raise enough for at least 4 – 5 months of food for our home and feeding the children in our village. Thank you all for your prayers and faithfulness to New Hope. We only pray our God would continue to bless and keep you as we close out 2009 and look to begin 2010, giving our God the Glory, for He is truly worthy!

In Christ:

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