



The Surrett's

Lima, Peru

January 2012



Ethel Surretts, 1913-2011

Our Family & Heritage

The Lord has blessed me with a rich Christian heritage. My grandparents on my Dad's side have been a wonderful example to me. They raised two sons who both went into full-time ministry and raised their kids in the knowledge of the Lord and are continuing in their relationship with God. My grandfather passed away in 1997 while my grandmother continued on as a prayer warrior. Over the years, her health declined and my parents went back to the States to care for her when she had a stroke and the doctors had given her only 3 to 6 months to live. God saw fit to leave my grandmother on this earth for four more years after her strokes and on December 6th, promoted her to glory at the age of 98 years old. Though we are sad, we rejoice in knowing that she is with the Lord and that the impact that her life had is felt in many different places through her direct ministry as well as through the ministries of her family members that she helped mold into the likeness of Christ.



Wilma and Dave Surretts at Christmas

My parents, Dave and Wilma Surretts, are now transitioning back into more direct ministry here in Peru. For now, they will be traveling in Peru for around 4 months at a time, visiting Peruvian missionaries and pastors that they have trained and supported. They will come along side of them to continue training and assisting them with their current ministries. While here in Lima, they will be living in a apartment in a church across town from where we are. It takes about an hour in a car or up to 2 hours on a bus to get from our house to theirs but that is still much closer than we have ever been before.



JD at youth group

Holidays in Peru

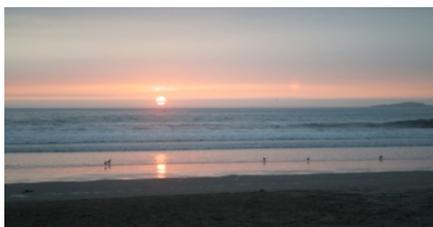
Part of living in a different culture is adapting to the way that they celebrate (or don't) different holidays. Thanksgiving here is not celebrated but many missionary families do and, though I had to work, Debbie and the kids were able to celebrate it with a few other families.

For those that are used to a white Christmas or at least a cold one, Christmas here coincides with the start of summer. It is common to see Christmas trees being sold next to fans and for people to go to the beach. They also celebrate Christmas with a big meal on Christmas eve around 10:00pm or at the start of Christmas at midnight followed by the opening of gifts. At least for this year, we stuck to our family tradition of celebrating Christmas morning. Since our church here did not have a Sunday morning service on Christmas day, we enjoyed being a part of our home church's service in Pennsylvania using Skype. We then enjoyed a time of opening gifts with my parents, sister and niece who were able to be with us.



Fireworks shot off by neighbors at New Years

For New Years, our church had a special service to enjoy a time of fellowship, Scripture reading, and prayer to bring in the new year. Though we did not have an official fireworks display, neighbors all around the church shot off fireworks. JD enjoyed taking many pictures of all the different fireworks though it was a challenge to know where to aim as the fireworks could go off in any direction around us. Send him an email (jd@surrett.org) if you would like to see some of his other pictures.



At the beach for our anniversary, December 30th

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Strengthening the local church

With conferences: The relationships that we have and how we act in those relationships greatly affect our lives. As young people get older, they start to make decisions about who they will date and marry and how they will conduct themselves in those relationships. I was invited to speak to a group of “young” people (equivalent to youth and college and career) about these relationships. We talked about the types of friends described in Proverbs, how to avoid the wrong kinds of friends, how to be the right kind of friend, and how to seek right relationships based on biblical principles.

With evangelism training: On Sunday evenings for eight weeks, we had an evangelism course that I taught at the new church plant. Joseph, one of the sons of the missionary who planted the church, had been bringing some of his soccer friends to church and even to the evangelism course. During the course, he was able to practice on a couple of his friends who later accepted Christ as their Savior. As part of the course, several church members gathered at a shopping center for a “fishing” trip. We were able to present the gospel to many different people as we walked around talking to people and handing out tracts. In the final evening class, we had a time of testimony. Several members expressed that they had been able to witness to taxi drivers, a maintenance man, friends, family and coworkers and that several had accepted Christ. Though the official course has come to an end, we will continue scheduling “fishing” trips so that it becomes a habit for the people.

Strengthening Christian schools

We are seeking to make LMCS (La Molina Christian School) a model for other Christian schools. Procedures and curriculum have to be evaluated, developed and implemented in such a way that they can be reproduced in other schools. This is a time consuming process but it will lay a proper foundation for the expansion of the Christian school movement in Peru.

As the school year came to a close, we held our graduation ceremonies for preschool, elementary, and secondary. We had many unsaved people attending and were able to present the gospel to them using the Christmas story. Please pray for the students, parents and friends who heard the gospel but have not yet accepted it.

As the Chemistry teacher for the second semester, I was able to remind next year’s senior class that they will be the leaders of the school next year and that they had to choose whether they were going to be leaders for good or for evil. One of the teachers told me later that the class had decided that they wanted to be leaders for good next year. Please pray that they will follow through with this decision.

The teachers start their in-service training on February 6th, with the first official day of classes on March 1st. We will be starting the teacher in-services with a three-day staff retreat focusing on our individual spiritual needs as well as teamwork. Pray that the Lord would use this time to prepare us to minister during the next school year.



Staff at La Molina Christian Schools



The area of Lima where we are living and working



Youth conference on relationships



At the church evangelism training course



Joseph Frerichs with two soccer friends who have accepted the Lord



Praying with the graduates before the ceremony



Student and staff ensemble singing at the high school graduation

Philippians 3:13-14

Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.