

FW: Mighty!

1 message

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Sent from Mail for Windows 10

From: Tim & Barbara Whatley - BMM Peru Sent: Monday, March 23, 2020 5:45 PM To: klargentwhbc@yahoo.com Subject: Mighty!

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Tim & Barbara Whatley Missionaries in the Cusco Region of Peru With Baptist Mid-Missions

Prayer Update - March, 2020 - "Mighty"!



TEAM KITENI Árias Family, Rolando, Gladis, Paul and Grace Joy Akkermann, Tim and Barbara Whatley

MIGHTY SURPRISING:

It is astounding how the whole planet is being impacted by this unprecedented pandemic. Everyone's life has gone through a series of dramatic transformations during the last ten days and, due to the long-term health and economic ramifications, there will continue to be unexpected changes for many months to come.

We are very thankful to be under quarantine in Kiteni. This small town and outlying farms provide plenty of jungle produce as well as meat and chicken. God has mercifully resolved the issues of our seven children. Since BJU has gone to online classes, Sonia and Caleb have had to find places to live off campus. We are thankful that Fredy and Cesar are firmly established in their computer jobs in Atlanta. Sonia has gone to live with them as she finishes her senior year online. She is also able to continue one of her jobs online. Fredy and Cesar are now doing their jobs remotely as well. The Washer

family graciously made Caleb a "room" in their living room. They have set him up with a curtained off area on an air mattress and Caleb is thrilled! Fernando and Yuli with their children are doing well in Arin, so of all our children only Flora and her family are in a more precarious situation. We will return to that topic a little later.

MIGHTY QUIET:

An unexpected benefit of the quarantine is what Tim refers to as extended periods of "golden silence". The busy street outside our window is devoid of traffic most of the time. The all night drinking parties have been eliminated. Once again, we are doing well in Kiteni. On the other hand, the silence in Pilcopata, where Flora and Alex live and minister, is deafening. The initial panic followed by a degree of violence has turned the normally very lively town into a temporary ghost town. The circumstances are difficult since trucks are not bringing supplies. We are grateful that the Herrera family has supplies for another week. They plan to start sharing with more needy families during these days. We are grateful they have electricity and a phone line to keep us appraised of what is going on.





PILCOPATA: Most of the stores in town are closed, as well as most of the market stands. The few that are open have plenty of shampoo, soap, soft drinks, cookies and, of all things, toilet paper, but no staples. Flora and Alex have enough to last another week. We are praying the trucks that supply the area are able to find food in Cusco to take to Pilcopata.



KITENI: They finally finished paving the main street into Kiteni, just in time for quarantine!

MIGHTY MITES?

Tim has enjoyed the extra time to prepare his outline and power point presentation for his next workshop for the pastors and lay leaders in the surrounding villages. He was supposed to have one of these workshops on the doctrine of the Holy Spirit this week but, due to the quarantine, it had to be cancelled. We hope to reschedule it once things settle down. In the meantime, he is working on the next workshop which will be on the doctrine of angels. Each workshop entails about 45 hours during the course of 6 days. On top of the office work, there were also practical tasks that needed attention. Hence, we both went to the roof on Wednesday to make adjustments to the water tank. Part of the platform was sinking so the tank was shifting. Not good! We were glad for the old wood and other materials that were handy because the previous owner had left them when he moved out. We are thankful that we were able to perform that task, which we had never done before. To our amazed satisfaction, it turned out great. It will, however, have to be redone once the rains pass.

Our thrill over stabilizing the tank was interrupted when we both started breaking out with probably close to 100 bites that got worse instead of better. After researching online, we suspect an infestation of straw itch mites. After trying many possible solutions to mitigate the proliferation and itching, we found vinegar to be the most helpful. We are gradually improving, which is a good thing since we have lots more work to do up in that area. Now we know why our poor little dog, Capuchina, is always scratching.



Up on the roof: Yep! This is the area on our roof where we and our dog picked up the mites. Now we wish we could get rid of them as quickly as we picked them up. We need to fumigate the whole area before we get back up there to do any work. I wish these critters could be quarantined, perhaps on ... Mars?

MIGHTY GOD!

It has been very encouraging to see how God is using this quarantine to edify His people and propagate the gospel. Yesterday we were able to join the worship services of two of our Stateside supporting churches. What was even more surprising was the number of churches here in Peru who were also live-streaming their services. We were able to participate with two of them in Spanish, and even see part of one in Quechua. Here in Kiteni, even under quarantine, we have many opportunities to minister. Please pray for Ramón, Segundina and their five grown children. The quarantine has brought

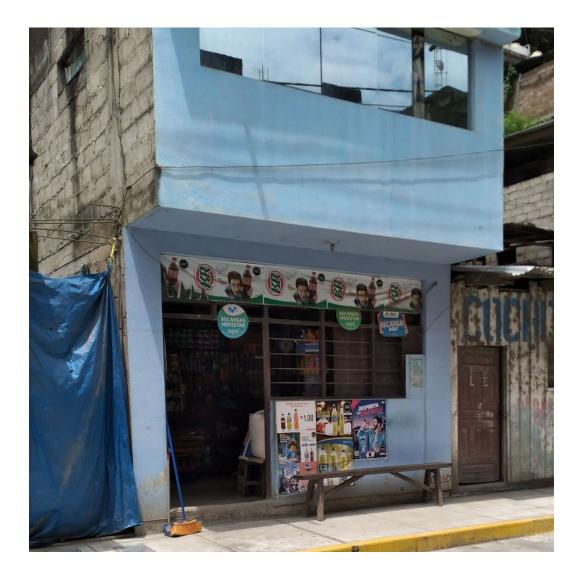
them all back "home" and the whole family seems interested in the gospel. Since Segundina has a store almost across the street, Barbara tries to find an excuse each day to go buy something we need. In this way she has been able to take them evangelistic DVDs. The family also received tracts and a gospel of John. Barbara has been answering questions each day and the family has said they would like us to present the gospel to them today, if circumstances permit.

We also have opportunities at the store next door. Yesterday Barbara went over to buy matches and give them some chicken skin they will use to make dog food for their German Shepherd. Please pray for Victor and his wife.

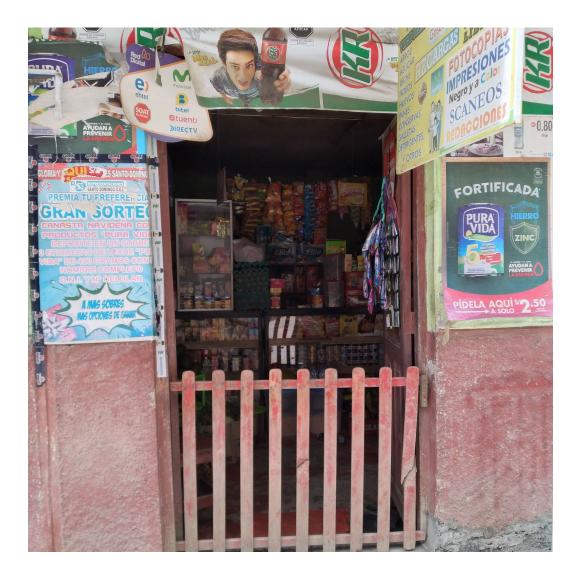
On Saturday night we had an incident of harassment from the army soldiers that are enforcing the quarantine. It was serious enough that, after asking advice at the neighborhood stores, we went to the police station. To not sound negative, we took jello, cold pop, and tracts. We are grateful for the 14 police officers and 6 soldiers we were able to talk to and share with. The police commissioner gave us his phone number in case of any future complaints. We pray God would use His Word to penetrate hearts. Pray as well for the radio programs on Monday and Tuesday. So far it appears we can do them. A final request is for Rebeca, a believing mother of 2 who began having panic attacks when the quarantine started. Last night she violated curfew and came over at 10:20 p.m. She went home a little later comforted by the Word and prayer.

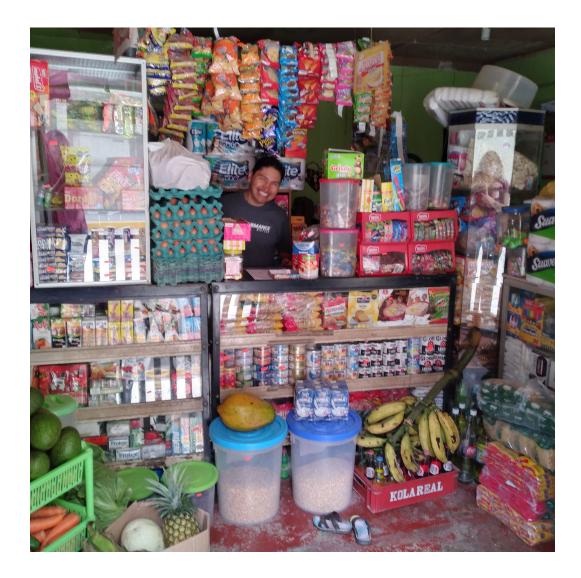


<u>KITENI</u>: Segundina's store is just across the street from our place. As you can see, it is well stocked. We really aren't having any shortages here yet. Pray for the salvation of Ramón and Segundina and their five grown children.



This is the store just next door on the same side of the street as we are. Please pray for the salvation of Victor and his wife as well as their two grown children who are home with them during this quarantine.





This store belongs to Pastor Rolando and his wife Gladis. You can see both the exterior and the interior. It helps them supplement their income as they are national missionaries and don't have full support. As you can see, their store is also well stocked. They even have TP! They keep a gate outside their door to keep customers at a little bit of a distance. Please pray for their protection.

PRAISE AND PRAYER:

- We praise the Lord for safety. Our children are all in safe places. Please pray for the situation in Pilcopata and that trucks would soon take supplies there to relieve the food shortage.
- We praise the Lord because, in spite of the fact that we are not able to have services, He is still at work in the hearts of people and we have had several unique opportunities since the quarantine began 8 days ago.
- We praise the Lord that we are still able to continue with the radio programs we have on two local radio stations. Barbara is having an hour long radio program for

ladies today and every Monday. Tim and Pastor Rolando have a 1 1/2 hour program on Tuesdays. Please pray that the Lord would use these opportunities for His glory!

- We had to suspend an evangelistic outreach last week, after putting several weeks into preparing for it. We look forward to rescheduling it once we are able to. Tim also had to suspend a workshop for pastors and lay leaders which was scheduled for this week. We hope to be able to reschedule this important activity as well.
- Please pray specifically for the salvation of the following people: Ramón, Segundina and their 5 grown children who are back in Kiteni throughout the quarantine, as well as Victor and his wife and two grown children.
- Please pray for wisdom to take advantage of every opportunity the Lord gives us to be a witness for Him without taking unnecessary risks.
- Pray that the Lord would be glorified through this very difficult time. As of today, there are 395 cases of COVID 19 that tested positive in Peru. There have been 5 deaths. So, we are in better shape than many places. Our president, Martín Vizcarra, took some very important precautions right away when this all started, and we praise the Lord for that, even though it has thrown our routine into a tailspin. But even in this, may God be glorified!

Contact Information Update:

Barbara is now using Tim's old cell phone number in Peru. When calling from the US you need to dial 011-51-969-003-668. Tim's new cell number 011-51-984-513-187. Any cards or letters should be sent to our Field Address provided below

Praise the Lord we do have Internet in Kiteni now, so please feel free to write to us at either of the email addresses also provided below. We'd love to hear from you!

Please fee to share or forward this update to folks who would join you in praying for what God is doing here in Peru!

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