

## Wickline/Peru 2008 team journal

### Sunday, June 22, 2008

We met at the airport at 11 am for our 1 pm departure to Houston. Our plane was a little late so it made our Houston layover a little "light." Fortunately, we made our next flight to Lima. It was a long 6-hour flight except for the 2 hours of Matthew McConaughey movie heaven we were treated to. We arrived in Lima at 10:30 pm and then had a 3-hour bus ride to Chincha. Debbie got the lucky "wet" seat. I am sure it was rainwater.

The 9 men slept in a couple of apartments, with only 5 beds, but we ladies slept in the lap of luxury at Pedro's house. All of us had a mattress! Finally lights out at 3 a.m.

Lora VanScyoc

### Monday, June 23, 2008

After only about 4 hours sleep (the roosters finally quit crowing at about 6:45 am) we all slowly started getting ready. The girls are staying in an upstairs room at Pedro's house. At about 8:30, Pedro introduced us to Roberto who will be our driver for the week. He drives a 15 seat van. He took us over to the men's apartments, 5 are staying in a downstairs 1-bedroom apartment and 4 are staying in an upstairs apartment with Pedro's daughter, Gabrielle. Around the corner from the apartments is a very small restaurant owned by Suzanne who will be making our meals for the week at \$5.30 per person per day. We had a great breakfast of hard rolls and fried eggs! After breakfast Pedro and our interpreter for the week, Yinney, took us on a morning tour of the city and the devastation that the earthquake did to this city in August of 2006. This city seems to have been poor before the quake, but the devastation is widespread. We went to a seaside neighborhood (Chincha Baja) that was flattened by a tsunami 10 minutes after the earthquake hit. We spoke with a woman who said that her family was sitting down eating dinner when the earthquake hit and knew that the tsunami would quickly be there. They left their home quickly and headed to higher ground. There was also what appeared to be a large prison that only a few walls were left. All of the prisoners escaped but Pedro said that some asked to come back as they had no home or food. There are piles of rubble everywhere even in the middle of the street.

After lunch we went to a small neighborhood and set up our medical clinic. We also had VBS and there were children everywhere. (Probably 60+) We played Frisbee, threw the beach ball, colored, etc. They were very well-behaved children. The construction team went to look at the church where we would be putting on a new roof. The medical team saw a lot of patients – they lined up until 6:00 pm at which time it began to get dark.

We headed back, ate dinner and then walked to the larger marked for water. We ran into another mission team from Pennsylvania who were Baptist and were also doing construction work.

The guys then walked back to their apartment while the girls took two taxis back. The taxis can only take 4 people – very small and very scary – no stop signs, a lot of honking, but we made it safely. The taxis are 3-wheeled motorcycles with a seat in the back.

Showers were taken and lights were out at 9:45 pm. Everyone was very tired! But a great day!

Julie Longnecker

### Tuesday, June 24, 2008

After a good night's sleep we were up and ready to go to breakfast by 8:00. Pedro arranged for taxis to take us to the restaurant. Lori had the privilege of riding in a Moto cab. We had the good rolls and eggs and guacamole. After breakfast Roberto took us to get some money changed and buy VBS supplies. After a stop to get the medical supply bags and baño break we were off to do our work.

The supplies arrived for the roof and there was much help from the locals, carrying the supplies in. There weren't a lot of people to visit the clinic, but Pedro went looking for them

and soon we had a line. We saw lots of niños with runny noses. At 1:00 we went back to the restaurant for lunch.

For a reason we were not really sure of we were taken to the local hospital to visit a church friend of Pedro's. She had surgery yesterday for a bowel obstruction. There was a security gate to go through to get in, complete with an armed guard. It was like a compound with each building serving a different purpose. There were police inside wearing what looked to be bulletproof vests. As we went in we passed the operating room. There was a bench outside with people waiting on it. They brought a patient outside from that building and went into another building where she was put in a room with 5 other people, one of which was Pedro's friend's wife. We all shook her hand and spoke to her which seemed to cheer her up.

We went back to the work area where there were many adults and children waiting for us. The doctors saw people until it got dark and told the rest they would need to come back tomorrow. We saw the gentleman with a diabetic stasis ulcer on his leg and changed his bandage. A lady came down wanting medication for her husband. We went to her home to check him and found he had a feeding tube and tracheotomy. He was unresponsive. The medication she needed was Dilantin and we didn't have any.

We went to dinner, had a wonderful meal, and went back to the men's apartment where we sang praise songs. On the way back to the apartment Roberto showed us a wake taking place. There were lots of people on the street and just inside the door was an open coffin.

Back to our apartment, everyone showered and discussed the day, then lights out. At one time we had 21 people, backpacks, and a guitar in a 15 passenger van.

Shirley Skipper

### **Wednesday, June 25, 2008**

We have all had a very busy day. The medical group saw people all day. The local guys have done most of the construction work as we looked on. We did get to do some heavy work in the afternoon. The local preacher decided that the old bathroom had to go. He said that the sewer line had been broken in the earthquake. So our job was to remove the walls. This became more of a job than we thought. It took 8 guys 3 ½ hours to knock out a 10 ft. long 8 ft. tall wall. Talk about solid. We all are taking Ibuprofen this evening. George and I have had our share of troubles with our beds. The first night we both slept on the tile floor. The next night we got air mattresses. Mine sprung a leak during the night and I slept on the floor again. The next night George's sprung a leak. Tonight we have 2 foam pads to sleep on, and we are excited. The meals have been good, but we won't eat rice for awhile when we get back. This morning George and I took a walk before breakfast and found a local market. At lunch we took others with us and went back. You could buy fresh fruit and other things. It had an open-air meat market, but it was very clean. We had dinner about 7:30 and everybody was ready for bed. The devastation is so wide spread. The local government can only do so much. The people are so poor and live in such terrible conditions. It is so sad to see. We see so many young girls with babies. There must be one dog per person in this town also. Sorry my writing is so bad, but my hands hurt from banging on that wall all afternoon. Not sure what the construction team will do tomorrow but whatever they ask, we will try to do. We have a good crew, and everyone wants to do their part. The construction is different than what we are used to. We have learned a lot. Any help is greatly appreciated by the local people. We wish there was more we could do.

Gordon Jeney

**Traffic** When you put 21 people in a 9-passenger van it is crowded. Steve and Terry ride up front with Roberto and have a good view of the traffic. There are stop lights at only the largest intersections. Rarely is there a stop sign at an intersection. The speed bumps appear to control traffic on a few streets. The most common vehicle is a 3 wheel motorcycle with a canvas or hard shell body. They hold the driver, some packages and two adult passengers. They zip in and out of the traffic. Speed is not posted but most don't exceed 40 mph. There are a few cars and pickups and some larger commercial truck and buses.

At noon and in the evening the streets are full. At noon the school children are out and there are hundreds of people out, the little moto-taxis zip in and out, horns honk and there are only inches between vehicles. Pedestrians are left on their own. Police watch but don't seem to be involved at all. Accidents seem to be rare in this chaos. Oh yeah, then there are the missing manhole covers. These and the piles of rubble in the street and new building materials that take up a lane make for an obstacle course.

Steve Strawn

### **Thursday, June 26, 2008**

Up again at 0630 – nobody to talk to till 0700 when the upstairs gang (Steve, Dave, Gordon, George) come down by 204 (Terry, Cody, Cecil, Chris, me). Off for a little walk before breakfast. A great day today – it is almost warm and sunny with no mist. But what happened during breakfast was exciting. Create an earthquake no matter how small and a town devastated by a big one panics!! We were walking and most didn't notice but the locals ran for the streets which of course were overrun by 3 wheeled taxis! After the joining of the whole team at breakfast and the logistics of picking everything up – another failed attempt to buy coloring books- we were off to the work/clinic site. Lots of kids and lots of patients run to meet us! With Kerry, Cody, and Sheila herding the kids along with Mary – Frisbees, balloons, soccer balls and the ubiquitous colored chalk and coloring paper was all over the place. The hardy work team was ready for action with only about 6 inches of wall remaining to be broken down. Just about everybody, including Julie, did their best to whack it down – but it wasn't until a huge homemade sledge hammer (a couple of pipes welded together) was wielded by David in the lead bludgeoned the remaining 6 inches into oblivion. Not much left for Dave, Cecil, Gordon, Steve, but to bandage blisters and “take it easy” before lunch. After lunch a repeat of the morning for Terry, Chris, Gaby, Shirley, Roxanne, Laura, and Debbie – seeing patients at a leisurely pace. After lunch we could see the mountains well but the grey haze seemed to come down as the afternoon materialized. A circus of delight is recorded on film with 21 people emerging from what in the US would be a 9 passenger van. We have it down to a science now, but somehow Gordon always ends up with Gaby on his lap – hmmmmmm! It didn't rain though and all was normal until Pedro showed up with a “reworked” lock which the construction team tried to install in the door. A one-person job with four superintendants – what a deal and – it didn't work! Well a new record in the van – 22 folks complete with gear – sardineated or pretzelized. A great day!!

Bruce Ewing

### **Friday, June 27, 2008**

We are up at 6:15 (thanks to Bruce) for a cool morning walk to the square. Cecil, Bruce, and I stop for a ☺esh pastry, Peruvian style. We continue our dusty walk when we turn onto a street with approximately 47 dentists. We debate whether graduating from dental school is a prerequisite to open a dental office in Peru. We then hit the backside of the market and find a whole world of things to buy, from hammers and brooms, to produce and furniture, to dead or alive chickens. We head back to breakfast of bread, jam, and special “pork” McMuffins.

We have finished our time at Micaela Bastidas, so we headed to the church ‘Jesus es Vida y Poder’, while the construction guys went to Pedro's office to move some piles of rock and sand around. The people in this community seemed a little more affluent than at the other places (they had clean clothes on and seemed better kept). We saw some different chief complaints here. More UTI's and gastritis and less “bone pain” and vision loss like at the last church. We had a very streamlined clinic complete with triage, nurses, a pharmacy, a brand new hot shot doctor, and old faithful El Jefe, the family doc straight out of the Norman Rockwell painting!

The church here has beautiful detailing. The ceiling was varnished bamboo weaved in beautiful patterns. It was a great place to spend the morning. Then back for lunch – some beef with a peculiar greenish-brown sauce that was actually pretty good! In the afternoon, we now head out to Micaela Bastidas satellite, the camp where temporary houses have been set

up since the earthquake destruction. This place was an unbelievable experience. We began with Frisbees and bubbles to attract the locals. Then the line at the clinic begins to form. We don't have a place to set up clinic, so the van will do just fine.

This is probably the poorest place we have been. But there is something so joyful about this community. We see 3 pregnant mothers-to-be (another chance to use that medical fetoscope! – see pictures), 3 babies under 2 months, and numerous other kiddos. Our line ends up more like a huddled mass of people around the van. But it was so great to be that close to the people.

We worked and played until dark (literally – there are NO light of any kind here). We said our good byes and headed away. It was a perfect afternoon. I think this was my favorite day. It was pure joy to meet this community that has banded together in the worst of times, to still enjoy life. Seeing Cody playing soccer, Kerry blowing bubbles with 50 kids surrounding, Dr. Anderson finding cute kids and beautiful old ladies to take pictures of (for the wall in Exam Room 4) and the whole community being so thankful we came to their world to share in their joys and their hardships. What a pleasure it was!

Chris Goff

### **Saturday, June 28, 2008**

Our morning started with breakfast as usual at Susanna's. We had breakfast tamales with chicken as the meat filler. We said our goodbyes to Pedro, Gaby, and Roberto and boarded the bus for Lima. This time since it was daylight we could see the ocean and desert. There were several villages with bamboo mat and tarp houses – no water or electricity. I am certainly thankful for the life we have in the good old USA! We arrived in Lima about 2 ½ hours later but it took us an hour to find our hotel – the El Ducado. It was nice but the rooms facing the street were quite noisy – Lima never sleeps. Except for a little mix-up with Mary meeting Ray all went well. We had a local dinner, complete with Pisco Sours. Some of us had too many! We got to bed early for our 0500 departure to the airport. I thank God for giving us a safe passage.

Terry Anderson

### **Other Facts and Tidbits**

Chincha is dusty and smoggy – we hardly ever saw the sun. Next to the ocean it is very humid.

Gas is \$16-\$20 per gallon for 84 octane

If you go to Machu Picchu wear insect repellent. Lots of biting gnats.

Peruvians prefer Soles. Defiantly don't want dollars with tears or creases.

Exchange rate 2.8-2.9 Soles/dollar in Chincha; 2.9-3 Soles/dollar in Lima; 2.95 Soles/dollar in Cusco.

Rice and potatoes with every meal. Beef is tough.

American food in Peru is NOT American, but Peruvian.

Maccu Picchu Excursion

### **Sunday, June 29, 2008**

Departed from Lima at 7:45 am and flew to Cusco. We were met by Eliath and taken to our hotel. After driving through the Sacred Valley of the Incas, we arrived at Pisac, a beautiful town famous for its typical handicraft market. The town has two different sides, the old town (with wonderful Inca architecture), and the new town (Colonial architecture). Lunch was provided at Tunupa Restaurant, an old Spanish Hacienda.

After lunch we went to Ollantaytambo, an Inca vestige that was a military, religious and agricultural center. The fortress is located in the highest part of the mountain, and protected the valley from the invaders. The view of the town from the top is overwhelming, showing the narrow streets and water channels still used by the locals.

We spent the night at Eco Inn Cusco.

**Monday, June 30, 2008**

We rode the backpacker train to Aguas Calientes Station in Machu Picchu then rode a bus to the top of the mountain and citadel of Machu Picchu, one of the most renowned examples of Inca architecture, surrounded by lush cloud forest. Lost in history, it was not discovered until 1911 by the American explorer Hiram Bingham. After Niko took us on a guided visit of the ruins, we had lunch at the Machu Picchu Sanctuary Lodge. We spent the night at El Santuario – Aguas Calientes.

**Tuesday, July 1, 2008**

We were able to enjoy a second visit to the ruins then boarded the train at 2:30 pm to return to Cusco. We spent the night again in Cusco.

**Wednesday, July 3, 2008**

After a buffet breakfast, we embarked on a tour of Cusco. It is an amazing colonial city built on the foundations of the Inca palaces. We visited the Koricancha or Temple of the Sun, where we saw the incredible masonry of the Incas, the Plaza de Armas and the Cathedral with its carved woodworks, altars, and paintings. Then we went to the Inca fortress of Sacsahuaman, to the underground cave and temple of Kenko and to Tambomachay, known as the Baths of the Inca. We spent the night again in Cusco.

**Thursday, July 3, 2008**

We left Cusco on the 12:50 flight to Lima.