



# The Surretts

## Lima, Peru

### October, 2011



*The kids doing some sightseeing*



*Our new car*



*Our new home*



*Our new puppies*

#### Things are coming together in our home

Leaving behind so many good friends was difficult especially for the girls. There were several nights where Julia and Amy had trouble going to sleep because they were missing everyone back in the States. But the Lord has blessed as we adjust to a new place.

**New friends:** Since arriving, we have been able to meet several missionary families who have kids around the same ages as our kids. As they are learning Spanish, having friends that they can talk to has greatly helped in their transition. We have also been able to visit with a Peruvian family that we know from our previous trips. The kids have been participating in AWANA on Fridays at a Christian school for missionary kids and in an English-speaking youth group on Thursday evenings. Since the kids do not yet understand too much of what is said at church in Spanish, these English ministries give them an opportunity to have a spiritual challenge outside of the home.

**New vehicle:** The first couple weeks here, we either walked, bummed rides or rode taxis to go shopping, go to church or whatever else we needed. After looking around for a little while, another missionary put us in contact with someone here in Lima who enjoys shopping for vehicles. He was able to find us a 2004 Ford Freestar in pretty good condition. We have enjoyed being able to use the vehicle to travel around here as well as to make it across town to fellowship and minister with churches we have helped in the past.

**New home:** When we first arrived, we stayed in the home of another missionary who had traveled to the U.S. for six weeks. During that time, we looked around for a place of our own. We had a couple leads but they all fell through. About two weeks before we needed to move out, a missionary friend told us that the people living in the house across the street from them had just moved out. We inquired about the house and found that it was available. It is a little smaller than we would have liked, but it is close enough to the school where I am working that I can walk. It is also right across the street from another missionary family who is homeschooling which gives Debbie and the kids a sense of security and fellowship. One drawback so far is that the phone company is delaying the installation of phone and internet services. Hopefully we will be connected soon.

**New Spanish tutor:** Debbie and the kids started studying Spanish more intensely once we arrived in Lima. After a short search and some recommendations from some missionaries, we were able to find a Peruvian pastor's wife who comes to the house and works with Debbie and the kids four times a week for 2 hours. It is a slow process but they are making progress.

**New puppies:** Since we had always rented, we have never had any pets. One of the things that our kids have been looking forward to here in Lima was the opportunity to have a dog. Well, they now have two puppies, Oreo and Lucky, and are very happy.

#### Contact Information

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#### Sending Church

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## Things are coming together in our Christian school ministry

When I arrived in Lima, the Christian school I am working with was moving to a new location. We arrived on a Thursday, held a dedication service for the new school over the weekend, and started the second semester that Monday.

**Ministering to parents:** One of my responsibilities as the interim administrator of the school has been to meet with many parents. One of the school's ministry outreaches is to have a weekly Mastering Motherhood class for mothers of children in the school. For one of the sessions, I was invited to speak to them about raising their adolescent kids. Some fathers also came as we talked about making sure that we are the proper examples to our children in humbleness, consistency, love, and firmness. Afterwards, I was able to talk to a couple of parents who asked for more advice about raising their children biblically.

**Ministering to teachers:** From running a missionary teacher to the clinic due to asthma, giving interpersonal advice, encouraging, challenging them to have the mind of Christ, praising God with them, and praying with them, I have enjoyed the chance to work along side the teachers in the school.

**Ministering to students:** In addition to my administrative responsibilities, I have the privilege to teach Chemistry and Drama classes. I also taught 8th grade Bible for a few weeks as a teacher was away. When teaching, I have the opportunity to build relationships and influence lives. I have also taught the secondary chapel time three times about the fruit of the Spirit.

## Things are coming together in our local church ministry

**Visiting churches:** The first four Sundays, we visited four different churches. We were seeking the Lord's will as to what church He would have us work with during the time that we serve on this side of Lima.

**Special Services:** One of those Sundays was spent at Pachacutec which had invited me to speak for the anniversary weekend. I went out and preached on Saturday night and then again on Sunday for morning and evening services. I also was able to speak at another church's monthly evangelistic Men's breakfast. Every month they invite men to come for a special topic and breakfast. My theme was Technology in the Home. After discussing software that could be used in the home and how to protect our information, I was able to springboard into how to protect our soul and presented the gospel.

**Working with a new local church:** A few months ago, one of the local churches here in Lima sent a group of their members with a missionary to start another church. As it is a new church, there are plenty of opportunities to serve. We have begun to minister with them. JD is helping with the audio, and I am helping with the music ministry as well as teaching an evangelism course on Sunday evenings.

## Prayer Requests

Thank you for all your faithful prayer support. God has been directing and blessing us throughout this transition period.

- Praise that God is continually at work: providing, protecting.
- That the legal paperwork for our visas will proceed quickly.
- That God will use the evangelism course to help us to reach out and be faithful witnesses for Him.



Visiting the preschool classrooms



Mastering Motherhood class at school



Preaching in Pachacutec



Evangelism course at the new church