



Mark & Jen's Jungle News

April 2019

Dear Friends,

We are excited to let you know that our family will be making a short trip to Oregon from May 24 to June 12. Jennifer will be joining her father, sister and brother for a 6-day bike ride through Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks, while Mark and his sister will take our kids to visit Mark's mother in southern Oregon. We are sorry that our work and the kids' school schedules do not allow us enough time to visit CA this trip!

We will be at Salem Alliance Church (555 Gaines St NE) on Saturday, June 8 for the 5 p.m. service. Following the service, there will be a light dinner/dessert in the Courtyard Room of the church from 6-8 p.m. Please invite friends and family who would like to hear about our ministry. Children are welcome! RSVP by June 1 to Debbie Miller: deboraha59@gmail.com or 503-551-5849 to help us with the planning, but please come even if you do not RSVP.



Silas (dressed for kindergarten graduation), Jennifer, Mark & Liana



Ariana and Eduardo receive uniforms, shoes, and backpacks so they can attend school

Back-to-School Campaign Helps 1,184 Children

The school year in Peru is from March to December. In February, we trained pastors, church leaders and college students to identify and interview some of the neediest families in our city in order to help the children get registered and equipped (uniforms, shoes, backpacks, supplies) for school. This year, our 25 trainees worked day and night for 6 weeks, visiting families in strategic neighborhoods and on the streets. We slept very little some nights as we fielded phone calls and text messages with photos of children who needed support.

Ariana and Eduardo (see photo) sell candy with their mother on the street downtown. One of our trainees, Leidy, asked them if they were registered for school. "We are selling candy so we can pay the registration fee (\$20), but we're not sure we will have enough money to buy our uniforms." Leidy took Ariana and Eduardo to a nearby store to buy uniforms, shoes and backpacks. Their eyes welled up with tears as they said thank you and gave Leidy hugs good-bye.

This year, we were able to help 1,184 children buy the uniforms, shoes, backpacks, school supplies, PE clothes, and/or pay registration fees that are required for the kids to attend school. For many of these children, one parent is *absent* (due to death, abandonment, or imprisonment) or *unemployed* (due to illness or physical impairment). Some of the fathers are fishermen, carpenters, and construction workers who have only seasonal or intermittent jobs. All of the parents had one thing in common: they longed for their kids to go to school. Thank you for making this possible!

Stewardship/Finance Class

Mark and I were invited to teach a 3-week Stewardship/Finance class at two churches. We loved preparing and teaching the class together. We discovered that many of our adult students were debt-laden and had minimal training in financial management. We taught practical tools like: tracking income and expenses; preparing a family budget; brainstorming ways to generate more income and reduce expenses; prioritizing debts so they can begin to pay them off; and understanding God's principles related to finances and stewardship. "Tithe 10%, save 10%!" we repeated frequently. We also emphasized the parable of the talents in which God gave the talents according to each person's *ability* (Matthew 25:15). In this class, we wanted these students to increase their *ability* to faithfully manage God's resources. Hope returned to many hearts!



Mark and Jennifer teaching a Stewardship/Finance class



Daily Bible study at the drug rehab center

Drug Rehab Center Expands

This month we purchased a piece of land next to the drug rehabilitation center so we can expand the center. Currently, there are 23 men living at the center, most of whom were rescued from a life of hopelessness, malnutrition, crime and addiction. The recovering men participate in daily chores and Bible studies, attend weekly church services, and receive periodic visits from their families. They also spend significant time in prayer and counseling. The goal for these men is

to get jobs and be reunited with their families within 1-3 years. Thank you, Dick and Gayle Withnell, for helping to purchase the new property to expand this ministry!

Documentary on the Way

Mike Wilson, a friend from Salem, Oregon, visited us to film a short documentary of our ministry. Mike is friendly, creative, adventuresome and energetic, all of which were invaluable during his busy time with us. Mike writes, "If there is one thing to ultimately take away from spending 12 days with the Morris Family, it is this: they have an unyielding will to intentionally demonstrate the kingdom of heaven here on earth." We will let you know when the documentary is posted on YouTube!



Mike interviewing Mark for the documentary

Donors Give Family a New Start

Gaspar arrived on our front porch with a finger that needed urgent amputation; a heavy motor had fallen on his middle finger, but Gaspar did not have \$109 for the operation. "My finger was black and hanging limp, our daughter was sick with bronchitis, and our property was going to be taken away because we could not afford to build a house on it. I went to our neighborhood church and cried in despair to God."

Our Benevolent Fund was able to pay for Gaspar's amputation and then help him build a small house. Our Micro Enterprise Program helped Gaspar and his wife, Delicia, start a vegetable business (their idea) at a local market in order to provide consistent income for their family. (see photo) Recently, Jennifer was invited to preach at the satellite church where Gaspar had poured his heart out to the Lord. Gaspar, Delicia, and their daughters thanked God for His blessings!



Delicia selling vegetables to Mark



Liana and Silas at school

Silas and Liana

Silas (6) and Liana (3) are growing up fast and enjoying school. Recently, Silas mastered a list of 100 spelling words in Spanish; he is excited about learning to read and write. Silas gets up at 6:30 a.m. to build with his Legos...police cars, spaceships, helicopters, airplanes, and on and on. After school, Silas likes to ride his bike, take swim lessons, and jump on the trampoline with his friends. His physical stamina is remarkable!

Liana is a very curious and confident preschooler. She loves to walk into school by herself, sing worship songs at the top of her lungs, twirl around the house in a fluffy pink dress, and line up her dolls on the couch to call them by name. We marvel at how two siblings can have the same high energy level but directed at such different interests!

Micro Enterprise

Sara is 81 years old and runs a small restaurant outside of her home to support herself and some of her grandchildren. She is known for her delicious grilled fish and plantains. Sara was concerned that fewer customers came during the heavy rains because the thin plastic roof over her restaurant was leaking. Our Micro Enterprise Program contracted with a carpenter from our church to build a steel roof over Sara's restaurant for \$194 (included labor and materials). The project was finished in less than a day, and Sara now serves customers rain or shine!



Sara's restaurant has a new roof

College Graduates Total 26

In the last few months, 4 students in our Scholarship Program have graduated from college: Lady (Psychology), Carlos (Civil Engineering), Dalila (Business Administration), and Romario (Obstetrics). We are very proud of them! Lady is teaching at a high school, Carlos is driving a taxi while he applies for engineering jobs, Dalila is working for a natural medicine company, and Romario is



Jennifer, Carlos's dad, Carlos (graduate in Civil Engineering), Carlos's mom, and co-pastor Mercedes

working at a pharmacy while he finishes his Obstetrics thesis.

Of the 26 students who have graduated from the Scholarship Program, 17 have steady jobs, 4 are in job transition, 1 is looking for a first-time job, 1 is married and parenting two young children, 1 is applying to the Police Academy, 1 moved to the U.S. and is learning English, and 1 passed away.

We have 23 college students in our Youth Scholarship Program this year. All of these students have sponsors (praise the Lord!), although **three of them still need a laptop (\$500)**. Thank you to everyone who supports these students!

Thank you for your prayers, encouragement and financial support. We hope to see you in Oregon in June. For more updates and photos of our ministry and family, see Mark's Facebook page (search Mark Morris, Pucallpa) and www.JungleMinistry.Shutterfly.com/pictures.

Blessings,

Mark, Jennifer, Silas & Liana



Tax-deductible donations:

- 1) Make a Check out to: World Outreach Ministries, Inc. / P.O. Box B / Marietta, GA 30061 (write "Mark & Jennifer Morris" in the memo line)
- 2) For Credit Cards, donate online at: www.JungleMinistry.org
- 3) For gifting Stock, contact World Outreach: (770) 424-1545, wom@worldoutreach.org