

Subject: Peru update - March 2022

Date: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at 9:01:19 AM Pacific Daylight Time

From: Jungle Ministry

To: sueharris777@gmail.com

Mark & Jen's Jungle News

March 2022

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your friendship and support of our family and ministry. We are excited to see how much is already happening in 2022, and we have great expectations for all that is to come!

Love,
Mark, Jennifer, Silas & Liana



Celebrating Mark's birthday

Claudeth Graduates in Law

Claudeth is a genuine, intelligent young woman who speaks Shipibo as her first language. Claudeth is the third of 10 children; she grew up in an indigenous village along the Ucayali River. When Claudeth finished 10th grade, she traveled 500 miles to Lima, the capital of Peru, so she could work (to help her parents financially) and finish high school.

We spoke with Claudeth via cell phone when her sister, Dalixia, was working for us at the Ministry Center. Dalixia had told us about Claudeth's academic excellence and her dream of going to college. After we talked to Claudeth and reviewed her scholarship application, we realized she was a perfect fit for the scholarship program.



*Claudeth with her
parents at graduation*

Claudeth's parents were reluctant to let their daughter go to college because they depended on her income. Their fears were relieved when we explained that the scholarship program would help them financially, as needed, while Claudeth was in college. The next month, our Benevolent Fund bought a house (\$2,182) for Claudeth's family, as well as bed frames and mattresses, so they would no longer have to sleep on the floor of their aunt's house. Claudeth's parents continued to work in agriculture to provide for their family.

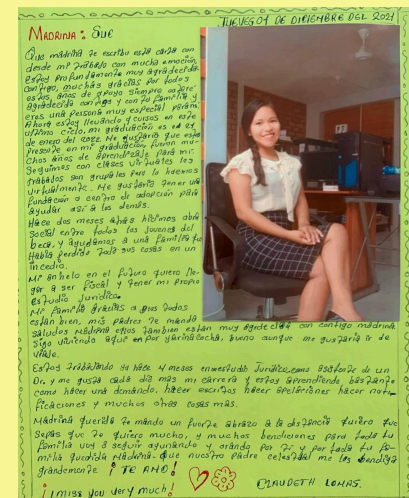
During Claudeth's 7 years of college and Law School, our ministry helped Claudeth's family with food, clothing, school supplies, and Christmas gifts. Claudeth participated enthusiastically in scholarship retreats, Bible studies, and community service projects (see photo).



Claudeth (left) with other scholarship students cleaning a local waterway

Now Claudeth works at a law firm. She dreams of bringing love and justice to her society, and especially to the marginalized indigenous people. In her most recent letter, Claudeth shared with her supporter, "I am writing this letter to you with great joy from work. Thank you very much for all these years of support. I will always be grateful to you and your whole family; you are a very special person to me."

Claudeth's most recent letter to her supporter



Thank you to donors who have supported stellar students, like Claudeth, over the years!

Back-to-School Campaign

The school year in Peru is from mid-March to mid-December. After two years of online classes, children are eager to attend in-person school. Parents are excited, but many of them are struggling to buy school supplies for their children.

Fortunately, churches, ministries, and individuals throughout the city are reaching out to these families. Our ministry has one



staff person and 8 trained volunteers who are identifying needy children and delivering supplies. These leaders have the joy of sharing the Good News with these families and offering to pray for them.



Deysi, Maria, and Victor (with their grandmother who helps raise them) showing their new shoes and backpacks filled with school supplies.

So far, 216 children have received school supplies, backpacks, and/or shoes from our ministry. The average cost is only \$32 per child (compared to \$50 in previous years) because school uniforms are not mandatory this year. Many of these children have a parent who is ill, deceased, imprisoned, separated or unemployed. We have given food boxes to some families; other families will receive building materials to make their homes safer and drier in the months to come. Thank you, donors!



Ingrid, Maria, Adriel, and Sofia receiving their school supplies, backpacks and shoes. Their dad's daily wage of \$7 at the lumberyard is not enough to buy these items.

Peruvian Leadership Thrives

Our staff and volunteers in Pucallpa are amazing! They have stepped into their leadership positions and are doing an excellent job running programs like benevolence, micro enterprise, evangelism, discipleship, college scholarships, orthotics and prosthetics, and drug rehabilitation.

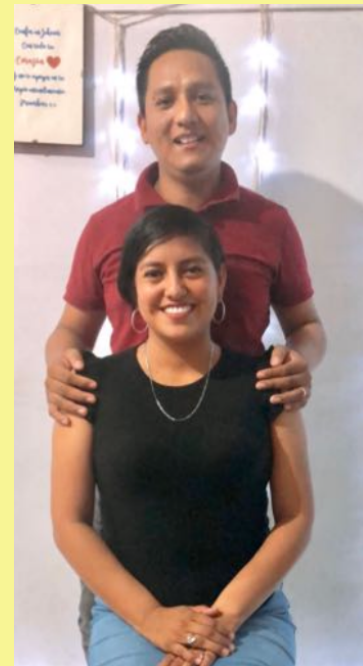
In addition, the pastors and leaders of *Luz Divina* church (see photo) are flourishing in youth ministry, hospital and jail visits, prayer ministry, and outreach to satellite churches in the jungle.



Pastors and leaders of Luz Divina church

Ruth is our stunning program director who shines in her multi-faceted job. She disciples college students in our Youth Scholarship Program, runs the Benevolent Fund, administers the Micro Enterprise Program, trains leaders for the Back-to-School Campaign, and hires professors for the Bible Institute. Ruth is in steady communication with the scholarship students about their classes, tuition payments, personal needs, family challenges, and future job opportunities. The students appreciate how Ruth shows genuine care and concern for them. To us, Ruth is a friend, sister, administrator, and co-laborer for the Kingdom all in one!

We rejoice to see Peruvians, like Ruth and *Luz Divina* church, serving in wonderful leadership positions for the glory of God.



Our program director, Ruth, with her husband, Gabriel

Ministry Highlights

Thanks to donors, over the last 3 months we have been able to:

- Donate a pediatric wheelchair for 12-year old Mia who was born with cerebral palsy (see photo).
- Buy a boat motor for Pastor Antonio from the Shipibo tribe so he can share the Gospel and distribute New Testaments to indigenous



villages in the jungle.

- Provide college tuition for 22 students.
- Cover critical medical expenses for 10 children and 8 adults.
- Buy 5 beds, 5 mattresses, 5 sets of sheets, and 5 mosquito nets for 7 family members who were sleeping on the floor.



Milton showing Mia her new wheelchair

Sulmira Walks Again

Sulmira is a diabetic who lives at her friend's house in a poor area of the city. Two years ago, Sulmira developed an infection in her toe which spread to her foot and could only be controlled by the amputation of her lower leg. She visited Milton's workshop and shared, "My grown children cannot afford [to buy me a prosthetic leg]. I cried a lot, asking God to touch someone's heart to help me. I don't like sitting all the time. I like to be active. I want to go back to work."

Sulmira's children contributed \$113 (18% of the cost) toward the purchase of materials so Milton could build a leg for Sulmira. Donors helped with the remainder. Thanks to this team effort, Sulmira is walking again!



Sulmira thanking Milton for her new leg

Family Highlights

As a family, we have made it a habit to serve a person (or a group of people) every week, usually on Sunday afternoons. So far, two of our most memorable moments have been:

- On a cold, rainy day, we took food to a homeless camp; we talked with the people, offered to pray for them ("yes, please!"), and told them how much God loves them. As we were leaving, a woman named Mississippi asked if we had any *dry* socks. Silas took off his socks and handed them to me. As I was holding out the socks for Mississippi, another



homeless woman kindly said, "I have extra socks that I can give her. Don't worry about giving her your socks." We were proud of Silas for having freely offered his socks.

*Liana, Mark and Silas
taking food and firewood
to a homeless camp*

- We stopped at WinCo to buy cupcakes for a school party. In the checkout line, we asked a lady, "Can we pay for your groceries?" She looked at us with a blank stare. We continued, "We would like to pay for your groceries. We love God, and He loves you very much." The lady started crying, "Life has been hard lately. Thank you so much." We prayed for the woman on the spot, invited her to church, and handed her a \$20 bill. We were deeply moved by this experience.

Other recent family memories include: Liana jumping on a bungee trampoline for her 6th birthday and losing her first tooth; Silas playing laser tag with 7 of his friends for his 9th birthday; Jennifer serving as a substitute teacher for Silas's 3rd grade class; Mark taking a fabulous public speaking class online; and all four of us skiing on Mt. Hood with Jennifer's parents. We are in awe of God's grace that enables us to grow during different seasons of life.



*Jennifer serving as a substitute
teacher for Silas's 3rd grade class*

Mercedes Visits Oregon

Our Peruvian friend and co-pastor, Mercedes, visited us for 10 days in late December. It was a wonderful time to reconnect with her. We enjoyed cooking together, riding bikes, playing games, shopping at a variety of stores, touring the state capitol, visiting Silas and Liana's school, seeing Christmas lights, and catching up on ministry in Peru. Mercedes liked trying new foods, like burrito bowls and Belgian waffles. It snowed for two days, so Mercedes had the thrill of going sledding and throwing snowballs for the first time in her life...a dream come true!



*Mercedes and Liana
enjoying the snow*

When Mercedes first arrived, Jennifer asked excitedly, "So how is everything in Pucallpa?" Mercedes responded in a serious tone, "Pucallpa has become more violent than ever; people are being assaulted in their homes and on the streets for very small sums of money. Children and teenage girls are being kidnapped. It is not a good place to raise your kids now."



*Mercedes and Jennifer in
Portland, Oregon*

This was difficult for us to hear, but it also confirmed what we had been seeing and feeling the last few years that we lived in Pucallpa.

Moving Forward as a Family

We are grateful to everyone who has been praying for God's continued guidance for our family and ministry. After a lot of prayer and wise counsel, we feel that the Lord is leading us to reside permanently in the United States for the foreseeable future. We do not make this decision lightly, nor do we know exactly what this means for Jungle Ministry down the road. What we *do* know is that our leaders in Pucallpa are doing a fabulous job without our physical presence, and we will continue to support and disciple them remotely.

Mark and I will be in Pucallpa from April 13-17 to visit with our leaders and scholarship students. We are excited to reopen the Ministry Center (our house) after two years of quarantine. Our program director, Ruth, and her husband will be moving into the Ministry Center to run classes, meetings, and youth gatherings. The Ministry Center will also provide housing for visiting pastors and teachers who support churches and ministries in our region.



Liana and Silas

Giving Opportunities

Checks can be made payable to "Jungle Ministry" and sent to:
Jungle Ministry
3605 NE 16th Ave.
Portland, OR 97212

Credit Card donations:

[Click to Donate Online](#)

Here are some additional ways to make an impact with Jungle Ministry:

A. Give an Item on our Needs List

Click to see/print the [Ministry Needs List](#)

B. Amazon Smile

Select Jungle Ministry as your charity on www.Smile.Amazon.com (instead of www.Amazon.com), then 0.5% of your purchases will be gifted to our ministry.

C. Employer Matching

Jungle Ministry is registered with Benevity to receive matching donations from employers. Please let us know if your employer uses Benevity, or another platform, to match employee donations.

D. IRA Distributions

Gifts from IRA accounts must be received by December 31 each year to qualify as a Required Minimum Distribution (or QCD).

E. Stock Donations

Jungle Ministry's EIN is 83-2908866. We have an account at Charles Schwab. Click to see [Stock Giving Instructions](#)

F. Donate Airline Miles

Contact us at JungleMinistry@gmail.com to donate airline miles to help missionaries around the world.



Contact Information:

Jungle Ministry
3605 NE 16th Ave.
Portland, OR 97212

JungleMinistry@gmail.com

www.JungleMinistry.org

Call or text: 831-320-8978

Links:

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Liana

Jungle Ministry is a registered 501(c)(3) Charity. Tax Id# 83-2908866

See our 4-minute "Jungle Ministry" Video



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