



# Mark & Jen's Jungle News

April 2023

Dear Friends,

We are excited to share about our ministry in Peru and the ways that our donors and prayer partners are making a difference.

We are now hosting a 40-minute zoom meeting on the second Thursday of every even-numbered month to share insights and challenges, take Q&A, and pray together.

Please join us at 4 pm on June 8, August 10, October 12, and December 14. The link is always the same: <https://zoom.us/j/5039830360>.



## Women's Drug Rehab Shelter Opens

This month, Pastor Roy and his wife, Rocio, finished the addition of a large bedroom and bathroom to their home so now they can help women who are addicted to drugs until the main women's rehab center is built. The inauguration of this shelter included a doctor and his staff who offered to help the women who would come to the shelter.



*Pastora Rocio (far left) discipling the first 5 women at the interim shelter for the Women's Drug Rehab Center*

Within one week of the inauguration, five women (ages 14-35) had been enrolled in the drug rehab program. Pastora Rocio calls each woman her daughter (*hija*) and models God's love for them day and night. These women have begun to smile again, think more clearly, and have hope for restoring their relationships. Hallelujah!

## Our Trip to Peru

Mark and Jennifer traveled to Lima, Peru at the end of March to renew our residential visas and to meet with our assistant, Ruth, and her husband, Gabriel (see photo). We are pleased that our Peruvian staff and volunteers are running the ministry programs without our physical presence in Peru. We also recognize the need for us to continue providing direction and oversight to them virtually.



## Back-to-School Campaign

The school year in Peru runs from early March to mid-December. Each year, our staff and volunteers in Peru identify families who cannot afford to buy school supplies and uniforms for their children.

Charles and his three younger siblings are from one of these families. Their father traveled to the border of Brazil to work on a farm, but he has not called or sent any money yet. Their mother works washing clothes (by hand) and cleaning homes, but her income is barely enough to feed their family. Charles and his siblings were elated when they heard that they could go school shopping!

Thank you to donors who provided school supplies for 47 children, like Charles and his siblings. Without uniforms and supplies, these children would not have been allowed to attend school.



*Charles and his younger siblings walking to school with their new uniforms, backpacks, and supplies*

## Alexandra Welcomed into a New Family

Alexandra is a kind, intelligent ninth grader who lost her mother at a very young age.



*Alexandra (second from right) enjoying her new family*

Alexandra's father was absent most of her life, so Alexandra lived with her elderly grandparents in a makeshift shelter behind their very small home. Her grandparents always hoped for something better for Alexandra.

The parents of one of our scholarship students offered to let Alexandra live with them if our ministry could build an extra room in their house. Alexandra loved the idea of being part of a family with four siblings, and Alexandra's grandparents were very grateful.

Our ministry helped Alexandra to:

- Build a room so she can study and sleep with privacy in her new home (\$442).
- Buy school supplies, a uniform, shoes, and a backpack so she can attend high school (\$79).
- Buy prescription eyeglasses so she can read the white boards at school (\$102).

Alexandra shares, "You have been a great blessing in my life. Thank you for giving me new hope." Thank you to donors for making this possible. We rejoice in this opportunity to serve!

*Alexandra wearing her new eyeglasses*





## Scholarship Student Invited to National Symposium

Jeremias, a nursing student in our scholarship program, was invited to represent the state of Ucayali at a national symposium organized by the Ministry of Health to discuss new strategies for the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis. Jeremias is passionate about his career and about helping tuberculosis patients since his older sister almost died of tuberculosis two years ago. Jeremias and the other 16 college students in our scholarship program are amazing!

*Jeremias participating in the national tuberculosis symposium*

## Ricardo Receives a New Leg

We bought materials and components for 7 more prosthetic legs, thanks to donors who responded to our Needs List in December. Ricardo is the first patient to receive a prosthetic leg. Ricardo's leg was amputated 4 years ago due to gangrene after Ricardo stepped on a rusty nail. Ricardo has been offered a good job at a local municipality.

*Ricardo walking with his new leg*



## Our Family

**Liana** turned 7 years old in January. She enjoys second grade and recently learned to write in cursive...so fun! Liana loves art, especially painting, and she is looking forward to playing volleyball at her school next month.



*Liana and Silas*

**Silas** turned 10 in March. He has wonderful friends and loves fourth grade, especially math and recess. Silas plays on a club basketball team, which has greatly sharpened his skills and increased his passion for the sport.

Silas and Liana made heartfelt decisions to get baptized at church on Easter Sunday. Afterward, they testified that God had touched their lives in a profound way and that they would never be the same. We will always remember that glorious day!



*Silas getting baptized on Easter*

**Mark** enjoys serving as the CFO of Jungle Ministry, as well as working part-time for ManukaGuard. We are amazed at how Manuka honey can be an effective, natural remedy for sinus and digestive problems. We love it!

In his free time, Mark teaches Liana to play the keyboard. He also sings hymns and plays games with the kids, like Skyjo, Catan, Cribbage, Chess, and Ticket to Ride.



*Liana playing "Part of Your World" on the keyboard with Mark*



*Jennifer substitute teaching in Silas's 4th grade class...the kids are wonderful and very energetic!*

**Jennifer** loves sharing about God and praying with people on the street, on the phone, and at church. She relishes her time reading the Bible...the Word seems deeper and more beautiful every day!

Jennifer is happy to finally be down to 40 hours a week with Jungle Ministry. She cares deeply for the scholarship students, indigenous leaders, and low-income families with whom we work in Peru.

In her free time, Jennifer enjoys running, reading, and volunteering at Silas and Liana's school. Jennifer is regaining strength and mobility in her right shoulder and hand (after being diagnosed with frozen shoulder), as she stretches and exercises each day. Please pray for continued healing as Jennifer follows her rigorous physical therapy routine.

We have included our Ministry Needs List with this letter. Please feel free to share our Needs List and newsletter with friends and family who might be interested in supporting us or learning more about our ministry.

Thank you!

Mark, Jennifer, Silas & Liana

