

# IMPACT

News Report ~ June 2010

Tarapoto, Peru

*The eye-glass clinics continue to be a blessing physically and spiritually for people. Janet Luebke prays with a woman by using an interpreter. Who had the greater joy - Janet or the woman receiving Christ?*



I am reminded of the U.S. Postal Service commercial that once used the words inscribed at the James Farley Post Office in New York City, "Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds". As our team arrived in Tarapoto, Peru, we were threatened with rain, heat, wind, and the gloom of night. Rain was in the forecast and signs of downpours were evident all along the road from the airport to the city center. The Lord, however, showed Himself strong in all situations that our team encountered. Not one event was rained out or postponed due to rain! No rain stopped the Gospel of God!

Through scores of different creative events, thousands and thousands of Peruvians heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ. From our ministry to murderers and rapists in prison, to the most innocent of children at elementary school, all were touched by the powerful love of Jesus Christ. God blessed us with a team of 24 mature and spirit-filled Christians who just rose to every challenge with the goal of salvation for all. In every event someone turned their life over to Christ.

How moving it was to have Mayor Christopher welcome not only me, but the entire team, with a formal presentation and beautiful declaration for each team member. Indeed, we felt quite welcome in Tarapoto even though I know the devil was against us. Alfonso, my interpreter, said to me one night that he had noticed witches around the park grounds casting spells on the crowd and all of us in leadership. Those spells were broken and hundreds and hundreds of people came to Christ each night at the park!

## **Eternity Minded Ministries was able to see:**

- 3,000 pair of eye glasses given (a new goal for our ministry)
- 1,700 baskets of food given to the poor
- 2,000 discipleship books given out to those making decisions for the Lord
- 286 University students giving their lives to Christ at the University
- 350 Pastors and leaders fed and encouraged at the Pastors Conference
- 1,500 plus decisions for Christ made during the week-long festival

The harvest was indeed plentiful as Pastor Gomez said, but now comes the work of discipleship. The slow process of bringing these many new believers to maturity in Christ now takes place. Pastor Henry and his committee are already working on this huge task. One way that we can help them is to have new Bibles available for each new believer. One Bible costs \$3.00 and we would like to provide at least 1,000 Bibles for the committee. If you would like to aid in the discipleship of these new believers, may I encourage you to provide Bibles in the Name of Jesus.

On a personal note, I want to thank you for your prayer. You may know that my dad was dying when I left for Peru. I have never been so distracted before, but I have never been so lifted up in prayer either. It was my prayer that my dad would live until I got home and that he would recognize me. God honored my prayer and that of my dad's, and I arrived home in time. When I walked into the room, he heard my voice and saw my face and burst into tears. He could not talk but I know what he was trying to tell me. I told him that close to 2,000 people made decisions for the Lord in Peru and he cried even harder. My dad loved the Gospel!

It is impossible to share in a report all that God did in Tarapoto, Peru through Festival de la Amistad, so I hope the pictures will tell the story a bit better than I can. I also hope that you take time to read my memorial to my dad on the back page. He was an evangelist before I ever was and he led by example. Thank you for touching the city of Tarapoto, Peru with Eternity Minded Ministries!

With Eternity Very Much in My Mind,

  
Dan





Over 4,000 people were treated at the medical clinics staffed by doctors and nurses.



Rev. Floyd Roseberry enjoyed giving out food baskets to the poor. Over 1,700 of these baskets were distributed.



Many elementary schools were open to us. Here, Sondra Keena and Jessica Wellington tell the story of Christ's love through puppets. We are always blessed to have Sondra and her puppets as part of our team.



EMM received a very warm welcome from Mayor Christopher. He helped provide police, security, fire safety, and other essential personnel to help make the festival a success.



Gary Losey, Festival Director, stopped by to see how the 'hair salon' ministry was going. Hundreds of needy young women had their hair washed and cut, and heard the message of Christ.



God works miracles! Dianne Conwell prays for the healing of this woman's eye. Glory to God - it was truly healed and she wept with joy.



How can you have a festival in the park without fireworks? Each night while the music group Radical People sang, fireworks lit the sky.



Dan spoke to students at San Martin University regarding misconceptions people have about God. At the conclusion of his message, 286 students opened their hearts to Christ.



The food baskets were filled with rice, beans, oil, sugar, flour, and an invitation to the festival.



New glasses and a new life! These women gave their hearts to Christ. Notice the discipleship book called Adelante under her arm.



Dan Owens was able to share with 350 pastors and leaders from the region. Dan's theme for the two day event revolved around two words, 'Holiness' and 'Discipline'.



Although many people came forward at the festival to receive Christ, others came for prayers of encouragement, healing, and other needs. Josh Lee, a veteran of other EMM ministry trips, prays for a dear woman who needed prayer.



Sharing Christ at a University is always a strategic event. This young man could end up becoming a leader in Peru while promoting the Gospel of Christ.



EMM provided over 18 eye-glass clinics throughout the San Martin region. Jon Watters never tired of giving eye glass tests or of sharing Christ.



Dan and Alfonso, his interpreter, shared the message of the cross to thousands at the San Martin Park. God held the rain back and hundreds came to Christ that night.



Peruvian medical doctors, dentists, and nurses met with hundreds of patients in order to bring health to the city of Tarapoto as part of Festival de la Amistad.



Dan's neighbor and friend, Mike Madding, hands a woman a basket of food and tells her about Jesus. Mike once said he would never go on a mission's trip but God had other ideas. After leading many to Christ, Mike is already asking about the next festival!



God continues to bless EMM with great ministry teams. This team was made up of people from 3 different states and represented 11 different churches; yet, they worked as a team.



As an ex-prison warden in California, Mike Madding was able to speak the language of the inmates in Tarapoto's prison. Mike shared a captivating story about his time as a warden and how he came to Christ. Dan followed up with a short message and an invitation. Many came to the Lord.



Now retired, Rick and Judy Riker joined us for the first time on a ministry trip. Rick was able to pray for needs and blessings for many each night at the park.



The band shell at San Martin Park was a great location for Festival de la Amistad in Tarapoto, Peru. Music, worship, drama, drawings for gifts, street vendors, fireworks, and the sharing of Christ's love made for a wonderful celebration.



Tarapoto, Peru is a beautiful area with many rivers, mountains, and waterfalls. The team took a much needed morning off to hike trails and to take pictures of the beautiful nature all around them. Some even went for a dip in the pools under the falls!



From Lima came the group Radical People and they did bring energy. These are great young men with a tough background but a new heart for God. This was the third time EMM has worked with them in Peru.



Each elementary school received balls for the children to play with. Gary Losey's daughter, Janelle, brought many balls as gifts that were made possible by children who gave money in her home town in Illinois.



The publicity for Festival de la Amistad was very well done. From scores of street banners, to the 80,000 hand bills, to the thousands of posters, and radio and television coverage - all pointed people to the various events throughout the week.



EMM set a new record for the amount of eye-glasses given out during one of the festivals. Here, college student Brody Luebke gives one of 3,000 pair of glasses to a woman.

# RICHARD JAMES OWENS

JULY 11, 1936 – JUNE 11, 2010

The asbestos that my dad worked around for much of his life finally caught up with him. After a few years of health issues, the doctors finally reached a diagnosis two months ago that he had asbestosis. We have all been shocked at how quickly he has deteriorated; and to say that we were not ready to let him go is certainly an understatement. It's strange that now at almost 54, 73 years of age just seems too young to me for him to die, and my mom would agree.

My dad ended up being a different dad from the one I grew up with. After dropping out of school, he married my mom, June, at the age of 16. He worked hard from that point until his retirement to provide for his family and prove himself to the world. As a longshoreman, he worked for years at the Oakland and San Francisco waterfronts and then in construction. In 1985, he started his own company called "Accents in Wood". He was known for being a craftsman of perfection and integrity and never lacked for work. The years of carrying chop saws upstairs and working on his knees trimming out oak baseboards finally took its toll on his body and he was able to retire at 59.

Dad came from a Catholic background, but it did not 'sink in' and my parents did not really raise us by going to church. In those early days my dad was an impatient man with a volatile temper and my two sisters and I often got in the way of that temper. We knew that he cared for us but we also knew that we needed to walk a tight rope. But that all changed.

While doing a project for a church in his mid-thirties, my dad encountered Christ in a way that he had never done before. Yes, he was born again and the 'old' Richard became the 'new' Richard over time. The changes were subtle, but they were real, very real. On a night when he could have hit me, he just talked to me and said to not let it happen again. I knew that very night that I was not dealing with the same dad. Love began to replace anger; well, for the most part.

The impact of Christ in his life made such a difference that he wanted to share Christ with others. If you have read my book, [Sharing Christ When You Feel You Can't](#), then you have read stories of my dad's evangelistic endeavors. My dad had a passion for hard work and sharing his faith with others. While at my mom's house this past week, waiting for my dad to cross over to the next world, the phone rang. I happened to be the one closest to it so I picked it up. A familiar voice said, "Hello Dan, this is Jimmie". My dad led Jimmie to the Lord many years ago while working together in construction. They soon became good friends as my dad not only led him to Christ but also disciplined him. When I told Jimmie that my dad was near death he cried and cried. He could hardly get the words out, "Tell your dad I love him and I will see him in glory." Jimmie is just one of the many names we found written in the front of my dad's Bible, along with the date of his conversion. Yes, my dad will see many in glory because he led them to Christ - friends, family, neighbors, and strangers. Dad would talk to them all about the Lord.

There are many people who love to help with the humanitarian work that we do, but up until his last days, my dad cared more for the evangelism. He knew first-hand that Christ could make a difference. When my dad was once asked why he came to Christ he said, "I knew I was losing my family and I did not know what to do. I needed help". No one loved his family more than my dad and that included his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

As a special tribute to my dad, I am establishing the **Richard Owens Evangelistic Fund** for those who want to see people come to Christ just like my dad did. I can think of no better way to honor his heart and life. This fund will be used not only to preach the Gospel, but also to disciple new believers starting with our very next festival. The next time my dad hears of souls coming to Christ, he will be rejoicing with the angels in heaven!

Thank you for honoring my dad's life with your gift.



1985: Dan and Debby enjoy their first trip to Hawaii with Dan's parents, Richard and June Owens.



1990: Richard and June Owens at their cabin in beautiful Truckee, California.



2009: Dan and Richard enjoy a Hawaiian luau in celebration of Dan's sister, April's, 50th Birthday.

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