

Peru Trip 1 Back from the destruction

Sorry, we were out of communication for a few days. We made it back to Lima yesterday and when I finally got internet access, my computer crashed and from what I can gather is toast! I lost all of my photos, but am trying to get some copies of our team members before I head back home. I am attempting to send a few with this email.

We saw a lot of destruction and devastation. The quake affected people from the poorer communities. Lima was not affected. Many of these people have clay adobe houses. These are cheaply built and are not very sturdy. These are what came down the most. As we got closer to the epicenter many major structures were damaged. So far well over 500 people have been found dead.

The government has come in and told most people that it is unsafe for them to remain in their homes, but they have offered them little if any assistance. We did not see the government doing anything in all our trips. For the most part it is just concerned good citizens of Peru and a few church groups.

These people were extremely poor to start with and had next to nothing and now they have even less. A lot of them are sleeping in the streets, some in tents. They are afraid to leave their shells of homes in case someone else will come and lay claim to them. We visited a village called Paracas which is a small fishing village. It was a ghost town. A small Tsunami came on shore, 7' above sea level and then went up 500 or so yards into the town. This scared the people into the nearby mountains. They come down and the local Baptist pastor fixes them lunch, then they head back up.

It is a sobering picture as we traveled.

We are heading back home and will be preparing a report of what we can do as the Body of Christ. I will be sharing this with you in the next couple of days. Please keep these people in your prayers. We have a great group of locals who we will be working with and will be funneling teams through them in Lima and Canache. The first need that will need to be met will be to send medical teams. It is winter here and cold. People are getting sick from living in the streets, especially the children. Pray for what you would be able to do to help out.

God bless and thanks again for all your prayers.