

Dear Leader,

I want to give you a brief report of the progress of the Ayacucho Initiative here in the Andes mountains of Peru. Donna and I have finally reached, what we believe to be, our base city to spread the gospel of peace to the people of the Andes mountains and beyond, Ayacucho. We have finished recently almost three months of sharing our vision with individual and church supporters in the US, the vision to lift up the people of the Andes spiritually, emotionally, and economically with the gospel of Christ so they may know His peace. In early January, we did a two-week refresher course of Spanish in the city of Arequipa. We are now moving into our apartment.

After two years of seeking God, listening to Peruvians here, getting counsel, and considering our strengths, I have decided that the best way to apply the gospel and serve the people here is to have an American English Academy of excellence. So much could be said here, but I will simply say at this point that English is a very strong perceived and real need for the economic advancement of the people of this developing country with extreme poverty. Here is a real hole that we as Americans can fill for these people in the name of Jesus. And with some training, I am sure that Peruvians can be employed also with integrity.

The Ayacucho Initiative is a church planting movement. I will be trained in church planting for two days every three months this year (Continual training is a must to stay fresh and growing). We plan to host at least six ministry/mission teams in 2017. This year is a year of entering their culture. It will be primarily given over to understanding the **changing** culture and worldview of the people in the city and country-side of the state of Ayacucho (Ayacucho is both the name of the state and city like New York, New York) before we launch out with our small group ministry and later with our public worship service. In fact, we will host up to ten people for the month of July to do observations and interviews of the people. Though we will host a medical team (which we plan to do more of over the years), this year's teams are tasked mostly with doing interviews and observation. One of our values is cultural relevancy (1 Cor. 9:19ff). Donna and I have already started building relationships with eight non-believers. One atheist is willing to learn English through reading the Bible. His name is Ali. We will disciple both new and older believers.

We stand in need of your prayers for spiritual strength and wisdom. We are raising the funds necessary to rent, and later purchase, a building for the American English Academy. Though this ministry will be self-supporting in the future, there is quite the start-up cost. Friends, we're here to stay...if you will continue to support us and pray for us...we will then have even more confidence that this will be a very fruitful ministry for our Lord and the lifting up of the spiritually, emotionally, and economically oppressed people of the Andes.

Blessings!
Rick Martin