



March 2009

Katie Rains, Editor

Peru Celebrates Artisan Day 2009



Members of the Bridge of Hope team gather in front of the Hotel Antigua, where the fair trade store is located.

Artisan Day 2009 took place on Thursday, March 19 and with its observation came great celebration and awards for the Joining Hands fair trade program, Bridge of Hope. The day was sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Commerce and Tourism to promote and strengthen Peru's artisan sector. Joining Hands-Peru helped pass the law that established Peruvian Artisan day in 2007

and is now advocating for a specific clause addressing the importance of fair trade.

Festivities commenced with an official invitation to the governmental palace located in the Plaza de Armas, Lima's center square. The Bridge of Hope team was accompanied by artisans from a few artisan cooperative groups from Lima. There were many artisans from various areas of Peru at the palace displaying traditional art. All gathered in a great hall where President Alan Garcia addressed the importance of utilitarian art to the economy.

The Bridge of Hope team wanted to show their appreciation and pride for their artisans by holding a celebration at the fair trade store located in Miraflores. On Saturday, March 21, around 50 people came together for just that purpose, from artisans and team members to tourists and community members. Artisans had the opportunity to share their craft with all in attendance.

The following week, the Joining Hands office received a telephone call from the Municipality of Miraflores. As a result of the Artisan Day celebration held at the store, Bridge of Hope would be receiving an award that week, along with two other organizations, for its commitment to fair trade, artisans and Peru. Once again, the Bridge of Hope team gathered with artisans, this time in the municipal building of Miraflores.

Mayor Manuel Masias Oyanguren spoke saying "The city is so proud. You all, the artisans, create pieces of art that serve as cultural windows into Peru, work carrying the value of your expression of history, culture and artisanship. You are the fundamental actors in this new city that takes pride in what we are." Dionisia Ramos presented Mayor Masias Oyanguren with a llama made by artisan group El Mercurio in Huancavelica.

"Finally, we feel recognized for our presence. We have been participating from within Peru but (were) never recognized from within Peru. We are so happy and so proud and that helps us continue moving forward in our efforts and our work," said Bertha Flores of cooperative group Mana.



Dionisia Ramos receives award from Mayor Manuel Masias Oyanguren of Miraflores on behalf of all the artisans in Peru's Bridge of Hope.

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Joining Hands Web Site:

<http://www.manosperu.org>

Bridge of Hope Web Site:

<http://fairtradeperu.com>

La Oroya Web Site:

<http://www.savelaoroya.org>

Partners for Just Trade:

<http://partnersforjusttrade.com>

Fair Trade Artisan Tour:

<http://www.greenamericatoday.org/programs/fairtrade/tour.cfm>

Justice For Putis:

<http://www.pazyesperanza.org/firma>

Artisans knit, sew and more while sharing laughter and stories during the Bridge of Hope Artisan Day Celebration.

The Dry Forest of Carabayllo

The so called “Dry Forest” of Lomas de Carabayllo is an extraordinary place that is located in the upper part of the San Benito settlement. There, amid the sandy and rocky hills is a wonderful stream about 4 miles long, surrounded by a chain of hills, which capture the intense humidity during the colder months when a great winter fog sets in due to the ocean currents that influence the climate of Lima. These conditions have allowed the formation of a natural ecosystem called “Lomas vegetation.”

This part of Lomas de Carabayllo is located in the great desert of the coast of Lima. In fact, Lomas vegetation is a unique phenomenon which is characterized by it’s mantle of vegetation composed by a diverse presence of plants, mosses and shrubs that are scattered throughout the valley of San Benito. This natural phenomenon occurs in only three areas in Peru which are known as “the hills”; the Lachay hills, the hills of Ancón and the hills of Carabayllo.

At present, the situations that threaten the “dry forest” of Lomas de Carabayllo are nearby mining, trash removal of construction materials, the invasion of the nearby town and the accelerating climate change. The youth of Día del Pueblo are working to turn this area into a national preserve much like they have done in the Lachay hills. These hills are located 105km north of Lima and have become a nature reserve where the rich biodiversity and ecological processes that have developed are studied by scientists.

YAV Spotlight: *Meet Mike Sinklier*



Name: Michael Sinklier
Nickname: In the US - Mike, Mikey. In Peru - Miguel, Miguelito, Mickey, Mi (pronounced like the English word “my”)
Age: 22
Degree: Applied Mathematics
School: Grand View College

YAV Placement Job: Teaching English and working with a youth group that operates their own radio in Lomas de Carabayllo

Future Aspirations: Still undecided but perhaps a college professor or high school teacher or writer or ESL teacher.

Major Inclinations: I’m inclined to read good books, watch good movies, exercise (when I’m in the US), and meet new people.

Favorite thing about Peru: The beaches

Favorite food: Homemade Pizza

Favorite quote: Character is like a tree and reputation its shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing. -Abraham Lincoln

One thing you miss about home: The quiet.

Joining Hands Welcomes New Mission Co-workers



In February of 2009, with renewed energy and enthusiasm, the Joining Hands office in Peru welcomed four new mission co-workers from the PC(USA); Alexandra Buck, Jed Koball, Sara Armstrong and Rusty Edmondson. These four, along with nine other mission co-workers, are part of the largest orientation group of new mission personnel in recent years. Appointments began in January of 2009 with a three week orientation taking place in Toronto, Louisville and Atlanta. Buck and Koball were welcomed at the beginning of February while Armstrong and Edmondson joined the team near the end of the month with their dog Jenni and cat Cinco.

Armstrong and Edmondson, married fourteen years, will serve in Peru as delegations and partnerships coordinators. They will organize, coordinate, and translate for Presbyterians visiting from the United States, helping to ensure that these visits reflect the mutual mission priorities of the partner churches. They will serve at the invitation of the Evangelical Presbyterian and Reformed Church of Peru. Armstrong earned an undergraduate degree from Smith College in Northampton, MA, and a Master of Divinity degree from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago while Edmondson is a graduate of New Mexico State



University, where he studied agricultural engineering.

Buck will be working as a project facilitator with the fair trade Bridge of Hope project. As the goal of Joining Hands is to move beyond a project-based model of development, Alexandra’s priority is to work with the existing Joining Hands network to develop a campaign to support trade justice. Prior to her mission appointment, Buck was a young adult intern with the Presbyterian U.N. Office. She holds a bachelor’s degree in Hispanic and international studies from Macalester College in St. Paul, MN.

Koball was appointed as companionship facilitator for the Joining Hands Network here in Peru. He will be facilitating the relationship between the Joining Hands Network-Peru and PC(USA) congregations. Koball served as a Young Adult Volunteer in the Philippines from 1996 to 1997. Prior to re-entering mission service, he was interim associate pastor at Larchmont Presbyterian Church in Larchmont, NY. He also has worked in Nicaragua with Bridges to Community, a not-for-profit community development organization. Koball earned a bachelor’s degree from St. Andrews Presbyterian College in Laurinburg, NC, and a master’s in theology from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago.



News From La Oroya...

In late March, Doe Run Peru shut down 95% of its operations in La Oroya, Peru claiming to feel the effects of the economic crisis and declared that it would enter into bankruptcy if the government did not provide a bail out of nearly \$100 million. Having lost a private credit line, Doe Run claimed it was unable to pay off debts to its suppliers, and in order to avoid imminent fiscal death, it suspended the work and pay of 3,500 employees.

Joining Hands-Peru organized a response from concerned civil organizations. Through media posts, the group raised the consciousness of law makers as a united front emerged in opposition to a government bail out using taxpayer's money to intervene in a private industry matter.

Hearing the outcry of the civil society, the workers' unions, particular congress persons and other professionals, the state did not intervene with a fiscal bail out. Instead, Doe Run Peru was forced to open a new line of credit from within the private mining industry in the amount of \$175 million so that operations could continue at the plant. Not only did the state deny the bailout, they are also assuring the environmental program that Doe Run Peru is mandated to follow will be completed within the allotted timeframe of 2009.

Fair Trade Artisan Tour

Partners for Just Trade and Green America invite you to celebrate World Fair Trade Day with artisans Evangelina Pizarro and Ayde Riveros. For the first time these artisans will travel from Peru to share their stories of how Fair Trade has radically changed their lives. On their US tour – *Resonating Change: Connecting Communities Through Fair Trade* – Ms. Pizarro and Ms. Riveros will give first hand accounts of how the purchase of Fair Trade products directly improves the lives of farmers and artisans in the global south. The tour will travel throughout Colorado, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois during the first three weeks of May 2009.

The stories of Evangelina Pizarro and Ayde Riveros represent those of so many women around the world. Both were forced to relocate – in search of a better life earning more money or escaping violence – and despite their move, still found life difficult. Through Fair Trade they found a way forward--exporting jewelry and hand knit products, their quality of life has increased dramatically.

Please join us as Ms. Pizarro and Ms. Riveros share their stories, how dignified work has provided economic stability in their lives and social stability in their communities, which exemplify the impacts of Fair Trade. For specific dates, cities and locations please visit <http://www.greenamericatoday.org/programs/fairtrade/tour.cfm>.



Ayde Riveros



Evangeline Pizarro

Peru Mission Network

**Fostering and Coordinating
Mutual Ministry in Partnership**

www.perumissionnetwork.com

Justice for Putis: Sign the Petition

In December 2008, Peace and Hope, a Peruvian Human Rights Organization, launched a campaign called "Tell Me Their Names" that aims to collect the signatures from citizens of Peru and the world in order to pressure the Peruvian Defense Minister to hand over the names of soldiers involved in human rights violations during the armed conflict (1980-2000), in particular to the case of Putis, Ayacucho where more than 100 people were massacred in 1984 (see the December issue of LaRetama for more information).

The case of Putis is being investigated by the Public Ministry, and on the 10th of December 2008 a letter that expressed concern over the lack of attention given to the case of Putis and signed by hundreds of people from all over the world was delivered to the Defense Minister. The letter asked for the cooperation from the Ministry and most importantly to hand over the names of the military personnel involved in human rights violations (that for the moment are only known by their nicknames). The Minister replied to the letter claiming that the information does not exist, which is a clear case of trying to cover up what has happened and frustrating the course of justice for the family members of the victims who have been waiting for 25 years to know the truth.

To sign the petition and contribute to the fight for justice, please go to the web page of electronic signatures at www.pazyesperanza.org/firma.