

Sprouts, Touts and Louts – October 15, 2012



Greenhouses in Chani, Sicuani, and Santa Ana, Bolivia, are complete, have new water lines, and are all growing vegetables and flowers! A fourth one, in Cusijata, should be done and planted within the next two weeks.



The mission hired an agricultural engineer, David Kantuta Mayta, to teach people from churches, schools and the local municipality who will be working in mission-sponsored greenhouses the best way to start seeds, transplant sprouts, make compost, and grow, harvest and market vegetables and flowers. David is also doing hands-on training sessions at the 3 operating greenhouses.

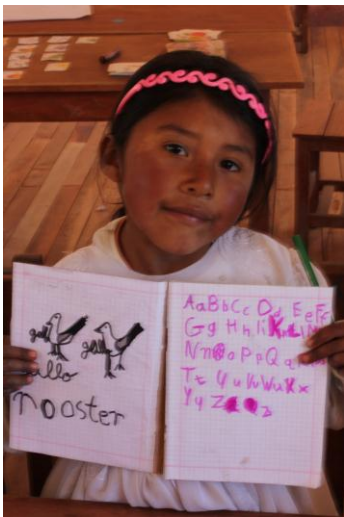
To watch a 26-second, one shot-a-minute, time-lapse video of the Chani greenhouse being worked on click here: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U_D7jattgBk&feature=youtu.be (Thanks to Ryan Kolegas, who shot the video.) We can't wait to see the first produce get packed up, sent to market and sold!

Mission Team from Oklahoma



We had the opportunity to welcome a mission team of ten folks from Oklahoma here to help build a senior center in Achacaya, near La Paz. I (Deb) tagged along with them for a half-day tour of Tiahuanaku, center of an ancient civilization that thrived from about 600 B.C. to about 1200 A.D. (More on this site and its history in the next, Tiahuanaku-exclusive newsletter.)

English Classes



Ryan Kolegas, 26, a friend we met on a Tennessee mission trip, arrived in mid July and has been teaching English to students -- and teachers -- at rural Cusijata School. On the Copacabana Peninsula, word is out among school teachers, parents and local officials that Mision Fronteras provided an English teacher for Cusijata School. Now everyone including the mayor of Copa wants the mission to provide English teachers. It's a socialist country: everyone expects to get the same that everyone else gets.



Just as the idea of teaching the local teachers struck us, we learned of a new long-term volunteer, Katie Yaun, our godsend. She's a certified English as a Second Language teacher, speaks Spanish well, has an extensive background in education and administration, is interested in Latin America, *and*: has agreed to work with us for a year, starting in March 2013! With Katie in charge, we aim to teach Bolivian teachers how to teach English. We hope to pair that with a small lending library of learn-to-read English/Castellano/Aymara books that will cycle through schools on the peninsula.

President Evo Morales Signs Agreement with Bolivian Methodist Church



Before the 90-minute bus trip to Tiahuanaku, the Oklahomans and I joined about 1,000 other people at the Instituto Americano in La Paz to witness the signing of a “convenio” between the Bolivian government and the Bolivian Methodist Church. We sat in the second row. The convenio will make it easier and substantially less expensive for American Methodist missionaries to enter, travel and work in Bolivia. The government will also partner with the Methodist Church to help support the church’s educational and agricultural endeavors. To my amazement, in his speech President Morales openly dinged the Catholic Church in Bolivia for “condemning” rather than helping the people of

Bolivia. He touted the Methodist Church as being a model church dedicated to improving the quality of life in Bolivia and helping her people become more independent and self-sufficient.

Miners Block Roads to La Paz

From early Sunday, Sept. 23 to Thursday the 27th, angry miners blocked all eight major routes leading to and from La Paz. Ryan’s girlfriend, Veronica, and brother, Adam, were to have arrived in La Paz on the 22nd, but were delayed by flight problems in the U.S. Instead, they landed a few hours after the blockades started. They and Jeff, who was in La Paz to meet them, were stuck until Tuesday, when a few minibuses took off-road routes around the blockade on the road to Copa. Normally, the trip takes about 3½ hours; that time it took 6½ hours. But they made it safely to Copa.



The friction behind the protests is that a new group of miners has started mining only the veins of silver or gold, leaving smaller, hard-to-get deposits behind. Stripping a mine of its veins renders it too expensive for another company to mine only small deposits. The greedy-grab miners also make no effort to restore the land after they’ve cleaned out a mine.

Traditional miners and the new group held a heated protest in La Paz about a month ago. A dozen or so were positioned on a rooftop about a block from where we stay when in La Paz. Many others were on the Prado, the main drag through the city. A miner in the street lit a stick of dynamite and threw it on the roof, killing one miner and injuring 9 others. They suspended the protest for two days to mourn and bury the dead miner. They resumed with the blockades.

Mision Fronteras Founders Return

Bev and Scott Pressman, who founded Mision Fronteras (officially the Perú-Bolivia Lake Titicaca Border Mission), flew into La Paz last Wednesday. They will visit an international pastoral training program that their Boise, Idaho, church sponsored. We are enjoying catching up, tapping them for advice, and sharing some great meals together. Which reminds me



Mision Fronteras Cookbook Soon to go to Press

Mojsa: The Perú-Bolivia Lake Titicaca Border Mission Cookbook will be ready to go to press by the end of October! Stuffed with 200 recipes, including traditional Andean dishes as well as American favorites, the book will be available for purchase by mid- to late November. It's been great fun testing and trying recipes from the many folks who contributed. We're including loads of cool photos (thanks mostly to Ryan!), and dozens of little squibs and stories about food, cooking, history, lore and life in the Lake Titicaca area. We'll be selling hand-crocheted cotton hot pads as optional purchases to go with the book. We hope you'll consider buying a book or some handicrafts to help support the mission's work.





As always, an Andean mountain of thanks from Jeff and Deb and the folks whose lives you have touched by your continued support!!!!

Visit our website at: www.misionfronteras.com

Mision Fronteras is now on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/mision.fronteras.7>

To make a 100% tax deductible donation to the mission, please go to:

https://secure3.convio.net/gbgm/site/SPageNavigator/gbgm_donate.html?type=1001&project=3021288