

PERU DIARIES

A FLIPPING FABULOUS FEB

FEBRUARY

Hello!

February has gone by in a flash. The past four weeks have gone so quickly. I can't quite believe we are now heading into March, our last month. In this month, I have really seen God's leadership in our team and where I have grown in confidence! I am really excited to tell you what we have been up to and what we need prayer for!



Meeting up with our YWAM friends



Camu Camu the best drink ever!



Iquitos has its treats



Puppies over at the training centre, they are so CUTE!



ENGLISH PROJECT

If you remember in last months copy, I wrote about the English projects we were preparing for! ... Well in the first week of February, Erin and I ran our first session! At the first session about 15 kids came – we led a session about introducing yourself and making easy conversation. It was nice to use a bit more English than we normally would with a group of kids. The following week 36 KIDS came, which is obviously a good sign. It was a little stressful at first but we soon adapted and we had lots of fun, this too really boosted my confidence. We run two sessions a week in the afternoons, on a Tuesday and Thursday. We don't have a set criteria to teach them but we are covering the basics - like numbers, colours, family, introducing who you are, places, body parts, hobbies, and daily routine. We make sure they understand each concept we are teaching them by using crafts, worksheets and lots of games. My experience of kids work as a brownie leader and other bits and pieces has come in handy. I really am enjoying running the classes with Erin, seeing the progress in the kids and seeing them have so much fun with what we have prepared is so rewarding.

Alongside our classes, Amy (another missionary based in Nauta) and Laura (our supervisor) have been busy teaching adults English at the Technical College. I have been on photocopying duty and just helping them both prepare for their lessons. As an Action Team we go along and help the students, having them interact with us is helpful as having them hear other types of accents and the language will give them a broader spectrum of English. This too has been good fun, we feel really productive and being an aid to others has been really rewarding.



Teaching about family members



Making colour booklets



Ball games are always a hit



Can we remember all the colours?



Making conversation!



Colouring and drawing your family



Numbers, getting to count to 20



Catch the ball & say how you feel

TRAINING CENTRE

Life at the training centre still goes on, in the mornings I am now quite busy prepping for Laura and Amy's lessons so I haven't been too busy in the garden. But Erin and especially Jacob have been busy in the garden, building steps down to a medicinal plant garden. As well as this Jacob has been working around the training centre doing odd jobs as well as researching plants. To be quite honest I'm not really the gardening type but help wherever I can!



The cat likes the steps



Jacobs handiwork



'Helping' in the garden



The centre is beautiful



Jacob hard at work

COMMUNITY

I really have felt the love of community in the past few weeks! I enjoy going to Church at Campamento and being able to build relationships with them has been really worthwhile. We're pretty much used to the Peruvian way of greeting which to me shows being part of a fellowship, we are normally greeted with a hug and a kiss on the cheek as if I am part of a family. By attending the same church and seeing the same people every week I feel a part of their fellowship.

On Valentines Day, Erin and I attended a 'karaoke night' at the Training Centre ran by the youth of Campamento church and another Church in Nauta. We sang a rendition of 'This is Amazing Grace' we also got to sing it in English so it wasn't too stressful. It was very Peruvian as it started late and went on till about 11 o'clock in the evening, but we snuck off early. The evening was filled with very very loud music, snacks and group games. By the end we were so tired but we all had a great time.



I have found great fellowship too in the other missionaries in Nauta. If you may be aware we live with Laura and Chris. Chris is a retired lady from the states who comes to Peru every six months to be a help to the community around her, she tells us it was her life's dream/goal to come out to Peru to help others and share God's mission here. We live in her house with Laura, she is a brilliant cook and cooks most lunches for us. Her presence in Peru is such an inspiration to me, she has been coming out to Peru since about 2008 and comes out for six months at a time to avoid the cold winters in Ohio where she lives. We are quite used to the knock on the door asking for 'Hermana Chris' she is like a Auntie to the community of La Union and a lot of people know and love her.



Karaoke night!

We too have found great fellowship in the Mcgee Family, I have spoken about them before. Amy and Joel have lived in Nauta for about five years with their 14 year old daughter Carmen – they work for another mission organisation 'Jungle Masters'. They have come from the States and have shown us great kindness in letting us go round to their home, play games, watch films and pet their dog 'Whiskey'.



Cute doggo

Obviously I won't miss out on Laura, our supervisor while we live in Nauta, she really has taken us under her wing. She first met us when we first arrived, she helped us settle into Arequipa and now she is our supervisor in Nauta. Laura has been in Nauta for 8 years so certainly knows her way around and the language very well. Laura has been so kind to us, but keeps us productive with lots of tasks to fulfil. Looking back on our experiences we would have been a bit lost without her and as she said 'we are best buds now' so I really take my hat off to her!

We have great fun on our weekends off! Most Sundays we go to Church, then go out for lunch with Laura, Chris, Amy, Joel and Carmen followed by a film night. On the Saturdays when we don't go into Iquitos we lie in, watch films (again Jacob is a massive film person) and go round for a games night at Amy and Joel's. We also have gone to the pool quite often which is just down the road we have gone with a few friends from church and the Mcgee family.



Jacob making a splash



Don't ask how we all got on!



This was actually relaxing.



fun playing volley in the pool

As a team we celebrated Pancake Day or 'Shrove Tuesday', we cooked up some great pancakes and had good fun flipping them. As we go into Lent, as a Team we shall be doing a daily devotional focused on understanding the love of God, rejecting the message that we aren't enough for God and how we need to remember that Christ died for us as we are. I think this will be really helpful for us as a team and for ourselves, we have been doing devotions together throughout being away but as we go into Lent we shall stick to our new devotions until Easter which shall take us right up till we are back in Birmingham. I shall keep you posted on this! The Devotional is easy to be found, if you want to join in, on the bible app under plans and it is by Tearfund called Enough: Lent Devotionals.



We all had fun flipping, Jacob was by far a professional in this

Pancakes with all the trimmings, so good oof

WHATS NEXT

So what's next for Team Peru, well we only have one month left which seems absolutely crazy to me! To think five months have past is mad, anyway. We have two weeks of March left in Nauta, this will include the last week of the adult English classes and a training week. If you are aware the BMS training centre put on weeks for minister training every two months so we shall be running another kids club during this week we already have plans for a theme, possibly on the fruits of the spirit. We also will have to say our goodbyes to Nauta! Then the last two weeks are based in Iquitos so we will be back with Dave and Michele as our supervisors. This first week will include visiting the Churches Dave and Michele work with and which we too worked with during November and December saying goodbye and leading services. Dave and Michele have given us the last week in Iquitos as a holiday week, so we have lots of exciting plans of visiting a monkey sanctuary and popping out to our favourite cafes before we fly home on the 29th of March.

PRAYER POINTS

- I would really appreciate you praying for strength, going into March we are bound to be getting excited about going home. But please pray for strength to push on, to enjoy the time we have left and to live in the moment as I know I will miss Peru so much when I get home.
- i. On that note, please pray for safe flights, we have two flights.
We fly on Sunday the 29th of March and arrive in the UK on the 30th of March.
Please pray that we will arrive home safely. I have left the flight number of our flights so you can check on how we are getting on, to do this you can just google our **flight number** and it should show where we are.

IQUITOS – LIMA (LA2241) LIMA – GATWICK, LONDON (BA2238)

- Please pray for the training week in March that the kids will come along and that we will have the confidence to deliver fun and exciting content for each session.
- Please pray for the fellowship of Campamento the church have been so kind to us. Please pray for their ministry as they care for the youth of Nauta.
- Also, pray for the Mcgee family and Chris, they have made the experience of living in Nauta so much fun and the memories I have made have been incredible. So pray for them as they continue to live and serve out here.

WHAT I AM THANKFUL FOR

- I am so thankful for rain! A bit of a random one but recently we have had times when it hasn't rained for a few days. The tanks we use to flush the toilet, shower with, wash the dishes with and any other water related tasks had ran out as it had not rained. So I am thankful for when it rains it means I can wash my hair and do other simple things which involve water. Also when it rains it cools the temperature down so its not so hot.
- Fellowship, as mentioned, I am so thankful for the fellowship of the people in Nauta. They truly have made me feel so welcome and at home.
- Erin and Jacob, I am thankful for my teammates without them this whole experience would have been so different and definitely not as fun.
- Equally, I am so thankful for the support from back home. To think nearly a year ago I had started fundraising - without the support from family, friends and kind strangers I wouldn't of got here. And still, I am receiving the support that is keeping me going for the last leg of my journey.
- Finally, I am thankful for God's timing – I tend to worry a lot while I am out here but have realised God's timing is always perfect. God really has provided me with the things I need out here, I am learning to be more patient with myself and others around me. Understanding that God will never let me down is something I have really seen this month and something I am thankful for.

Well that's a wrap for February, I hope you have enjoyed this latest update. I can't really get my head around the fact that we have one month to go. To think I will be writing next months copy on a 12 hour flight home, is crazy! I shall stick to writing Peru Diaries over the months when we are on Tour as I'm sure there will be lots of exciting memories to write about then. Thank you so much for reading, I really enjoy telling you all about our experiences and it's a nice way to reflect on the past month. I have quite a long mailing list now but thanks for letting me share my experiences with you.

All my love,

Soph x