

Dear ones at St. James,

Saludos de Peru! Greetings from Peru! Can you all believe I've been in Peru for 7 months already!? Well, neither can I. Just a few more short months and I will be back with you all sharing my adventures and all my worldly knowledge and insights, haha. But in the mean time I thought I would catch you all up on just a few things I've been working on lately.

In February we held two camps for the adolescents and the children who we work with, who are victims of sexual abuse. We spent three to four days learning bible stories, singing praises, making tie-dye t-shirts, playing games, being silly, and just allowing the kids to act like normal kids outside and away from their home lives. It was a really great way for me to use my experience of many-a summer at Dwight Mission to help benefit the kids here.

As I've mentioned before, I also help out with a group of adolescent girls who meet every Saturday at the office, called the Colectivo Tamar, and we make art projects to help in the emotional recovery of these girls. We just finished making bookmarks from various materials, and soon I will be the one leading the project, teaching the girls how to make friendship bracelet.

I recently added a few more projects to my work load, including working with two individuals (one adolescent girl, another grown woman) both of whom are victims of abuse, giving each separate focused time twice a week to do creative art projects as well as doing some sort of exercise activity. Did you know that you can totally use camp energizers as a form of aerobic workout? It's very useful in getting shy adolescent girls out of their shells and acting a little silly, at least for a few minutes.

I also have the opportunity to work with the few children (8 as of when I'm writing this) that live in our shelter, La Casa de Buen Trato, or The House of Good Treatment, that is located on an organic farm about a half hour outside of the city of Huanuco. I get to spend one afternoon a week with the kids at the shelter, first teaching and helping out with English lessons, and then taking some time to play games and run around. Very soon though the 8 kids we have now will grow to about 40 as we open our new shelter (still located on the farm) with the help of the Hovde Foundation in the U.S., which boasts bigger and better facilities to help Paz y Esperanza serve more young victims of abuse in the community.

Seven months into this journey as a YAV and I've already learned so much about myself, the Peruvian culture, the Spanish language, and God's presence in the world and among the poor, that it's sometimes hard for me to believe how much God is changing me and shaping me into the person and into the disciple of Christ I'm supposed to be. I want to thank you all again for your support on this journey thus far and I ask for your continued prayers for the work being done in Peru, and all around the world.

Dios les bendiga a todos! God bless you all!

Paz de Cristo (Peace of Christ),
Sarah Chancellor

PS – Contact information once again is: Email - sarahyav0910@gmail.com, Blog – with tons more stories and updated much more frequently than these letters, as well as links to all my photo albums: www.sarahyav.blogspot.com. I love hearing from you all back home so don't hesitate in sending me a note or short message!