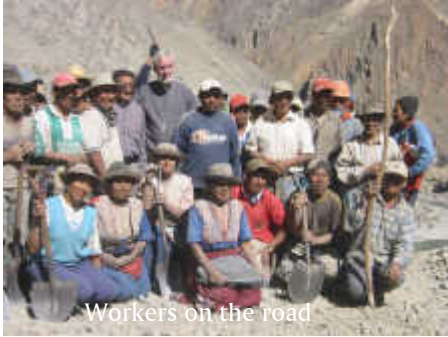


NOTICIAS DIOCESE OF PERU

NEWS & INFORMATION ABOUT THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF PERU - SEPTEMBER 2005 - No.6

BISHOP VISITS VILLAGE OF CHOCO



Workers on the road



Welcome with flowers



Working in the fields



Young mothers

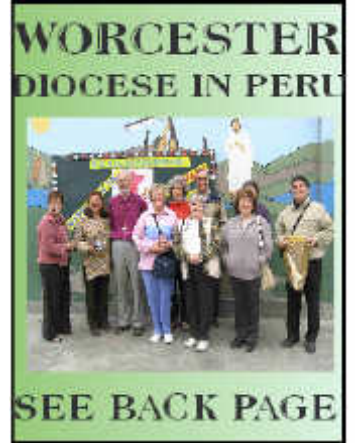


Woman and house ruins



Digging and sowing

Far away in the mountains the village of Choco is called *The Hidden Jewel*, and with its fruit trees and streams, its flowers, mountain terraces and welcoming people, it does appear to be a paradise. But the paths which lead to it, carved precariously into the mountain side, are not for the faint hearted. Often passing 2,000 feet above the canyon, people, mules and donkeys carefully pick their way. It is spectacular to say the least and the people live as they have for centuries. But like so many villages of the high Andes, they have been largely abandoned. There is a doctor and nurse, but they serve seven other villages as well and are often gone. There's one primary teacher but for a secondary school you have to leave the village. And their beloved church is opened only once a year, when the priest comes to say Mass, if you can afford to pay him. The Alcalde (mayor) is young and has responsibility for the seven villages in the area. Like many others he lost family in the avalanche of mud, rocks and water which swept through the village on the night of January 28, 1998. It's a landmark date for them. One lady (*photo bottom right*) showed us the ruins of her house. She lost her husband and three children, but somehow escaped herself. Since the disaster the villagers are trying to bring a road. They leave home at 4am and walk five hours before the day's work, men and women, young and old. Working together is part of the culture. It's been that way for generations, digging and planting fields high up on their terraces. August is the time for sowing to begin and the people are often on their land at 3am. Everyone works and even toddlers learn to be useful from the beginning. The people are deeply religious and Padre Alejandro's visits have been deeply appreciated. They long for guidance and we were asked over and over again for the Anglican Church to be there. It was the first time in their history that a bishop had visited the village and by a special act of their Council he was made a "Beloved son of Choco". During the visit there emerged a clear sense that catechists from each village should be called out and trained to serve their people. The new mission centre in Cabanaconde, the nearest town, must serve that aim and by God's grace become a centre of hope, service and prayer for this forgotten Andean people.



Mayor and Padre Alejandro



"Beloved son of Choco"



Church and people

BUILDING IN VILLA EL SALVADOR



With the support of link churches, the construction work in Villa El Salvador is forging ahead. In little more than a month the new walls are about ten feet high and parishioners are beginning to see the layout of their new church. The Rev Juan Carlos Marces was among the workers on the first day helping to demolish the old building and can be seen in the photo below wielding a sledge hammer. Much of the work is being done by members of the congregation and their families, supervised by a civil engineer and the Rev Misael Varillas. The first phase of the work includes the building of the church, classrooms and other facilities. They will be connected to the first floor of the pastoral house, which will be converted into sacristy, kitchen and office space. While building works continue the congregation is meeting in a local community centre close to the church.



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ST MATTHEW'S – A GROWING SCHOOL



Step by step St Matthew's School is taking on a whole new look. With the purchase of the middle plot of land doors and windows have been put into the side of the building, bringing better lighting and ventilation to many of the classrooms. It also means that children no longer have to go from one area to the other via the street and the whole school has a new feel to it. And it's not just the building: there's a growing sense of pride in the school itself. A parent committee is actively helping with the provision of

facilities and classroom equipment. Specifically they are working to buy a public address system and music centre for use on bigger occasions and for dancing lessons. Traditional dance is an important part of what the school offers. When building equipment is eventually cleared away, parents will cooperate in creating a garden area behind the classrooms on the central plot, with grass, flower beds and climbing plants. The school year in the southern hemisphere finishes in December, but we already have enrolments for 2006, a clear sign that this school is a rising star in the area. And the Mission, which meets in the ground floor of the main block, is preparing candidates for baptism, first communion and confirmation. Their aim is to buy a neighbouring plot of land (\$13,000/£7,500) and begin the construction of their church.

STRATEGY AND PLANNING



The Diocese is in a period of strong growth and the number of Anglican congregations in Peru has gone from nine to twenty six in a few short years. There are also invitations to begin missions in fifteen other areas and the Bishop has challenged the clergy to consider where they will plant new churches next. In response to the "spider plan", (where a parish has a central church and a number of mission congregations, equivalent to the body and legs of a spider) the

clergy have been divided into areas in which to work and plan together. Called *vicarías* (deaneries), there are now meetings to pray and strategize together. The two *vicarías* in Lima are called the Transfiguration and the Epiphany, both manifestations of the Lord.

The two great strategic needs for the expansion of the Diocese are manpower and finance. The new seminary will begin in Lima in the new year and as time progresses respond to the first of these needs. The second, finance, has still to be worked out, but the Bishop is anxious to develop a strategy which will enable the mission of the Diocese to respond more readily to the Lord's call.

There is also planning on a broader basis and permission has been given by the Province for the appointment of a missionary bishop for the southern region, based in Arequipa. Several other possible "apostolic regions" are possible, in the north, based on Trujillo, in the jungle region based on Iquitos, a central region, and Lima with its 10 million plus inhabitants.

CHURCH AND SACRAMENTS

The Rev Ron Jackson from the Church of St Luke of the Mountain, Los Angeles, California, has recently



taught a course on the Church and Sacraments for clergy, lay ministers and catechists. Father Ron is an old friend of the Bishop whom he first knew through the ministry of SOMA (Sharing of Ministry Abroad). His deep spirituality and clarity of thought made a great impression on all the hearers and was a great blessing for them all. The course was given in both Lima and Arequipa.

DEACON TO STUDY



The Rev David Gonzales has gone to the Seminary at Matanzas in Cuba for two years.

Until his departure the deacon was in charge of the Mission of Jesus the Nazarene in Pamplona Alta. He had a wonderful send off on his last Sunday (August 21) and there were many signs of affection and love for this kind pastor. Brother David has a genuine spirit of St Francis of Assisi and many people said how much he would be missed not only by the people and children of the area, but by every cat and dog, for whom he always had a concern!



Lay Minister Pat Blanchard will be in charge of the mission from now on. It is a tough assignment

but one she is happy to take on. Remember her in your prayers.

HELPING 1,500-2,000 PEOPLE WEEKLY



The Diocese of Peru is deeply committed to holistic mission. This means both preaching the Word of God and serving the poorest and marginalized members of society. This we do through our congregations in their daily lives and witness and through our social outreach projects. All churches in the Diocese are required to be involved in social outreach work in some way or other - we do not believe this is an option for Christians. At the same time we are aware that whatever we do is a drop in the ocean of the millions of people who live in poverty in the cities and rural areas of Peru. For example 78% of people in the Province of Puno are classified by the United Nations as living in poverty, and 41% in extreme poverty.

Through its various projects and programmes the Diocese helps between 1,500 and 2,000 people every week. Our overall annual budget for social action is approximately \$240,000, and admin-

istration costs are kept to less than 10%.

Our work and projects includes: a medical centre; a mobile medical unit with tents; a children's centre for 250 children, and a second to begin soon; a ducks project; vegetable gardens project; a small-loans scheme; two schools in Arequipa (St Luke's Primary and secondary); two schools in Lima (St Matthew's Primary and Holy Trinity Nursery); St Andrew's Pre-university Academy in Arequipa; two children's homes (St Joseph's and beginning soon Holy Family); the Arpillera sewing projects; commercial cooking classes; prison ministries in Arequipa and Lima; a social worker programme and a students' grants scheme.

PLANS FOR FOUR NEW SOCIAL CENTRES



The new San Pedro mission and social work centre - Dos Cruces

We plan to build four new centres in areas of extreme poverty in the south of Lima. All will be multi-purpose, including a space to be used for worship and service of whatever sort the local community needs - a day care centre for children, a soup kitchen, medical centre, a pharmacy, etc. The first one, San Pedro, (photo left), is almost completed and the Municipality is keen to give us land in San Francisco de la Cruz, San Gabriel, and La Rinconada - an area of extreme conditions, 20,000 people and no facilities.

Sometimes I am asked where help is most needed.

The fact is that the need is so great that to pick out any one area is arbitrary and whatever donors give is welcome. All gifts are welcome and we make money go a long way. The building (photo above) has so far cost us \$8,000 (£4,500). It will probably cost us twice that to provide the facilities we believe are necessary - public showers, sinks for washing clothes, a kitchen, a consulting room for medics. If you would like to be associated with one particular project we are happy to keep you informed on a regular basis or to welcome you as part of a mission team.

CUSCO'S MISSION CENTRE OPENS



The Mission of St Peter and St Paul (the green and white building)

The Mission of St Peter and St Paul has moved into its first mission centre. Situated two blocks from the University on a busy street, it is surrounded by photocopying shops and cheap "ceviche" restaurants where students come to eat raw fish marinated in lemon. There are close links with the University and one of the aims is to begin a chaplaincy, so it's a perfect location. The main worship area holds up to 50 people and local carpenters have been asked to make an altar, lectern, cross and chairs. The leader of the congregation is Catechist Juan Jose Bravo who, besides building up the congregation, is planning ecumenical meetings with Roman Catholic and evangelical Christians. A group of young people is already using the space for liturgical dance. Their leader is Oliver, a young artist who makes fine jewellery in silver and gold for Cusco's tourist trade. Cusco is a major tourist attraction and surrounded by mountains, its red pan-tiled buildings provide a stunning setting for the capital of Andean culture.

THANK YOU PAT



Our love and prayers for Pat Bygrave, who recently returned to England after many years in

Peru. Pat first met her husband, Billy, in Buenos Aires and later they moved to Lima. When the first bishop came in 1972, Pat and Billy were among his helpers. Pat has served faithfully in the Good Shepherd and the Diocese over all these years and is much loved by all our communities. At the last Synod there were moving tributes from her great friend Helen Doig and from the Vicar General, the Very Rev Julio Montoya.

NEW CHILDREN'S HOME



Thanks to a generous donation we have been able to buy land for a second children's home in Arequipa, to be called The Holy Family.

MARRIAGE



Congratulations to Max and Mirja who were recently married in Switzerland. They live in Oxford, UK.



WORCESTER DIOCESE COMES TO PERU



A group of seventeen people from the companion Diocese of Worcester spent two weeks in Peru during the month of August. Led by their Suffragan Bishop, the Rt Rev David Walker, the group visited parishes, missions, schools and social outreach projects in Lima and Arequipa. Their primary aim was to see the Diocese of Peru at first hand, to develop relationships with parishes that already exist and to look at ways in which more churches and groups might become involved. Among the visitors were representatives from Worcester Diocese's one hundred and six Church Schools and they were particularly anxious to see how links with our schools of St Matthew and St Luke might be developed. The first week was spent in Lima and part of the second in Arequipa, before members of the team went off to sightsee in Cusco and the Colca Valley.

At St Matthew's School (photos left) some of the teachers gave a dancing exhibition, an event which inspired the visitors, for later in the week they put on an "English Evening" with shepherd's pie, musical items and English country dancing - a real hit! The group also brought with them an Aston Villa football shirt signed by a Peruvian footballer, Solano. This proved to be very popular with boys, and Bishop David put it on for a photo with the senior class (bottom right).

Another highlight was the pachamanca evening at the Bishop and Judith's house - a traditional way of cooking meats, potatoes, and other vegetables underground. (middle photo right)

Bishop David spent three weeks in the Diocese before the group arrived and as well making many visits, preaching and celebrating the Eucharist in Spanish, he also met the Diocesan Council (top right). His wife Sue joined him later with the main party from Worcester.



DIOCESAN N.G.O. IS LAUNCHED



COMUNIÓN-PERÚ

The Diocese is creating an NGO - a non governmental organisation. As social outreach and development work grow in the Diocese, it is felt that this step will enable us to work with greater efficiency and also expand into new areas of service. Its name is to be *COMMUNION-PERU*, first because of its clear association with our worldwide Anglican Communion, and secondly because *communion* is the translation of the Greek word *koinonia*, which within its meaning has the key ideas of *holding things in common, common life, fellowship, sharing, participating with someone, giving, companion, partner, sharer*. All of these ideas reflect our conviction that as Christians we are called to stand alongside others and serve - like our master, who came alongside us to share life and in fellowship to serve and give his life as a ransom for many. (Mark 10:45)

The chief officer of the NGO will be the Rev Jaime Siancas, a priest of the Diocese who was formerly a Franciscan. As such his title will be *DEACON*, which in Greek means *servant*, for our aim throughout is to shape the organisation around the notion of service. The Bishop will be president and the board members will be made up of senior clergy and laity of the Diocese.



INFORMATION

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