

Kevin, Jessica & Kylie Oates

Lima, PERU

We last updated you all saying that we would be in California on furlough for a year. Well, we want to go back a bit and explain what furlough really is and what we are doing here. This update is one of our longer ones, but we ask that you take the time to read it anyway so that you know what we are doing and how God continues to work in us as we are here.

FURLOUGH? WHAT IS THAT?!

As most of you know, we have been here in California on furlough for the past few months. **What is furlough anyway?** Many think that is a year-long vacation, for example. Actually, it is not vacation. It does include some relaxation and refreshment, which are very necessary in order to get back on "the front lines" of the mission field and be as effective as possible. However, furlough, also labeled "home assignment", has some very important purposes that are not just hanging out on the beach and surfing!

Basically, **furlough is working on the mission field at home**. It is a time where missionaries 1) visit their supporting churches and individuals, 2) re-evaluate financial support levels and raise more, if needed, to return to the field, 3) spend time with family, and 4) receive spiritual counseling and rejuvenation for the return to the field. We are doing all of these things but we want you to know that our *personal* main goals are:

1) Meet with all of our partners in ministry at least once while we are here, relate what God has done in the last 4 years, and catch up on what has happened in *your* lives. We have many people to meet with and have been doing so constantly since March, when we arrived. *If you'd like to sit and chat over coffee, please email us and we'd love to set up a time. (If we haven't gotten to you already!)*

2) Share about missions and our ministry in Peru with small groups and churches. Other than the contacts we have already, we have been focusing on getting to know people within Cornerstone's community groups. We desire not only to attend one meeting to present our ministry and an update in what is going on the mission field, but to attend a few times to get to know people. *If you would like to have us share in your community or Bible study group or church, please write to us!!* We find much delight in informing you all of what is going on in missions and we receive great personal encouragement in conversing with you!

3) Raise financial support. We do not like to talk much about financial support, but the fact of the matter is that we have to raise at least **\$600/month** in support **in order to return to Peru in February**. There are 3 reasons for this:

a) Our budget was set for a couple, as we were over 4 years ago when we left for the field. We now have a family.

b) The value of the dollar has dropped worldwide, about 20% in Peru (last we know of).

c) We have lost some support in the last 4 years. What we started out with is not what we have today. This is normal as people cannot always go on supporting financially forever, especially in the midst of rising expenses and losing jobs and such. This is very understandable, and actually, we have not had as many problems with this as many other missionaries have. We have very faithful supporters, financially and prayerfully, and we are constantly amazed at you guys and how God has blessed us in this way. ***We are very confident that we are doing what God has called us to do, and that He will give us all of the resources we need to continue. However, we understand that we must make known our needs so that God can use His people to provide for missions, so God is nudging you to get involved financially, email us and we'll send you the specific information. (Also, if you will be discontinuing or changing the amount of your financial support, now is the time to let us know.)***

OTHER NEEDS

While we are here, we want to try to get some other things to help in the medical ministry. Maybe you know of a resource or someone who is either giving away or selling cheap some of this stuff:

- 1) an ultrasound machine
- 2) a fetal monitor
- 3) a fetal Doppler
- 4) urinalysis test strips (unexpired)
- 5) a basic, computerized, medical records system, possibly with a fingerprinting system/scanner (VERY basic as our clinic is very basic)
- 6) a little machine to test hemoglobin

*We are still thinking, so this list is not exhaustive. If you come across any other medical supplies, let us know and we will tell you if we can use it! Also, we would appreciate greatly if these things were functional (I.e. not broken).

THANK YOU

On a personal note, we want to let you know that this last few months here have been amazing for us.

--we have watched our children get to know their grandparents and aunts and uncles for the first time;

--we have new things to do with the family that we don't have in Peru (the library, the fair, Sunday School classes, play areas and parks, and Michael's craft store, to name a few). This has helped us as parents to serve our children in more creative ways;

--we have been able to attend Cornerstone Simi, Cornerstone Moorpark and Shoreline (Westwood), as normal people and listen to sermons in English without having responsibility in running the service; we have been able to worship in English, singing songs we know;

--we have been living with some family members, one of the greatest things God has ever done for us;

--Kevin has been able to surf with his brothers-in-law and some friends after not having much opportunity to surf for 4 years (umm...that is a long time for a surfer, in case you don't surf);

--we have enjoyed not feeling as isolated and alone as we have on the field, having people to get counsel from about our ministries in Peru and just hang out with and be ourselves with;

--we have had a few date nights since we have some baby sitters here;

--and so much more, but we don't want to bore you, just to give you an idea of what we have been experiencing and how thankful we are that you have continued to support us and bless us as we've been here.

Your Servants in the U.S. **AND** Peru !!

Kevin & Jessica

New photos: www.photos.oatesinperu.com (Braden's 1st Birthday and some others)

Updated webpages: Kevin (www.aboutkevin.oatesinperu.com)

Jessica (www.aboutjessica.oatesinperu.com)

Braden (www.aboutbraden.oatesinperu.com)

Kylie (www.aboutkylie.oatesinperu.com)

Ministry: www.ourministry.oatesinperu.com

You can also find updates on our blog, www.oatesinperu.blogspot.com with some pictures. Please check there periodically as we also keep our prayer requests updated.

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