



The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

Isaiah 9,2

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APRIL 2018

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Light and Darkness

A lot has happened since the last newsletter. But the highlight was certainly the visit of Beat to the tribe Awajun in Pachacutec. Unfortunately, the trip to the tribe of the Yora in November or December should not work in any way. That was once more daunting. We have already made several attempts to visit this tribe. But unfortunately always somewhat denied me until now. Once, the contacts could not be established, the other time the landing strip is in too bad condition to fly, once again it has too much rain and last time there was no pilot who would have been allowed to land there.

But in January we traveled by the land route to the Awajun. This village was also far away at the Rio Potro. That means we traveled about 20 hours over the road to Yurimaguas and went there for 10 hours on the boat to San Lorenzo. Here we had a meeting place agreed. Which actually worked very well, although the village had neither telephone nor radio connection. A young man named Elifas, he grew up blindly in Pachacutec, was given the opportunity to study in a blind-purpose education in Lima. And he coordinated the journey for us, as a middleman. So we received a warm welcome and the next morning we started early. We traveled until half past eight until we found a suitable place to stay overnight. The next morning we left early. Now the journey was difficult because the water level was very low. They had to avoid sandbanks and tree trunks, again and again so we don't capsize or get stuck with the boat. They have done this with great skill. And after another 4 hours we arrived happy and tired in Pachacutec.

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It was a very warm welcome. The joy was great that for the first time they now had a Bible course in their village. Already the first evening they wished the opening service. Actually, 10 to 12 people were expected for the course. The more we were amazed as there were always around 40 participants interested during the 16 days.

And we experienced so many encouraging moments. Many people wanted to take Jesus Christ into their lives and reconciled with siblings and other villagers.

But actually the need was also big. People have been plagued by a curse for 25 years. There are just over 400 people living in this village. And every year around 30 mostly young people take their own lives. This means that practically every family is confronted with this need. There are families who have already lost 3 children, the fourth was found at the last moment, and has survived.

One day we called the whole village for a fasting day. The church leaders decided that we would meet at 6:00 in the morning for the service and this would last until 6:30 in the afternoon. And there were a lot of participants, the church was overcrowded. And we heard tremendous testimonies. About 10 young people repented of a failed suicide attempt and invited Jesus Christ into their lives.

We prayed for the church leaders who are often called when a suicide is in his death throes of poisoning. They almost break under these impressions when these young people in the last moments repent and want to undo everything. But unfortunately all help comes too late very often. Please pray with us that this suffering comes to an end.

We thank you for the opportunity you give us to be light and salt in the jungles of Peru. We thank all the prayers, the sympathy, the faithful support and all the signs of love. You are part of this vocation, the Lord will reward you richly.

Now we are in the middle of preparing for the next courses here at the station. These are carpentry, small animal breeding and Bible courses planned. A total of about 70 applications were examined and accepted. Experience shows us that about 60 percent of the interested parties really come. In fact, we also have just accommodations for a maximum of 40 families and 10 single people.

Our family is doing very well. We are all healthy. Also during Beat's 4 weeks absence, Dorothea helped out in the infirmary and with computer problems. And we are pleased to announce that in late summer we will be coming to Switzerland for a few months.

With kind regards and God's blessing

Family Aregger

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The visit to the tribe Awajun in Pachacutec



The team that traveled to Pachacutec



On the boat to San Lorenzo



My home for two weeks



Children playing



Farewell service



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Forgiveness

In very sad moments, we also experienced great bright spots. So one brother in faith told me that a year and a half ago his cousin was murdered for jealousy. And instead of taking revenge as expected, they would have blessed the perpetrator and forgiven him. However, his brother had been shot dead 10 months ago because of land issues. And though his family also went through forgiveness, he felt so far away from Jesus. He used to preach sometimes, but that was no longer possible. I prayed with him and asked if he was willing to write a letter to the murderer who lives freely in his village and to express the forgiveness that he himself was allowed to experience in Jesus Christ. He considered for a moment and then he said with bright eyes: „I do that, and I know that I can preach again later.“

Very often we feel overwhelmed. We immerse ourselves in a world so foreign to us. We are so grateful for these siblings, who are hardly able to read and write, but we feel very much attached to them through the love of Jesus Christ, and we marvel at these faith heroes who are a light in the darkness of those days.



Lessons



Children's program



A trip with our visit from the Simmental



Elisha turns 11 years old