

THE

McKendree FAMILY

MISSIONARIES TO THE
Peru, South America

DEAF 1ST



September/October 2016

Dear Pastor and Church Family,

"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: John 11:25 What a comfort those words have been to me personally, especially in the last two years. As many of you may remember, my Mom passed away last year, and my Dad passed away this past July. The Lord allowed me to have a part in my Mom's funeral, and also preach for my Dad's funeral. Little could I know that just a short time after our return home to Peru, the Lord would once more put the responsibility of a funeral on my shoulders. For quite some time now, many of you have been praying for a Deaf lady named Mary Luz. The Lord brought Mary Luz into our lives on New Year's Eve 2015. During the next few months, Mary Luz and Nestor, her fiancé, would occasionally come to church. We would also see them during the Sign Language classes we were teaching at that time. Then one Sunday afternoon, we returned home from lunch to find Nestor waiting for us. With great urgency, he asked me to go with him to Mary Luz's house to visit her. Mary Luz was home after having been to the emergency room. They had paperwork from the doctor that they needed explained. Mary Luz was scheduled for an appointment with the doctor for the very next day. I asked Sarah if she would be willing to interpret for Mary Luz during her appointment. She agreed and met them at the hospital on Monday afternoon. I have asked Sarah to tell you about her time with Mary Luz:

"After the initial greetings, I sat down with Mary Luz and Nestor to wait for our turn to see the doctor. Mary's mom was also there. It was a time to get to know them better...I felt I wanted to know more about the lady for whom I would be interpreting. I am sure we must have been quite a sight to those around us - a white lady, a Deaf lady, and a Deaf man "chatting" with our hands, laughing occasionally at a joke or teasing remark. The Lord wonderfully opened the door for me to witness to Mary (as well as Nestor) while we were waiting, but she didn't understand. The sign for "Heaven" meant nothing to her. My heart cried to the Lord for a way to help her understand. He so graciously answered, and I began to explain how Heaven is God's house. We must have His permission to come live in his house. We can only get this permission by accepting Jesus into our hearts.....Jesus died on the cross to take our bad and give us permission to live in God's house. I saw "the light in her eyes" that told me she understood, but she didn't ask. When we finally got to see the doctor, the news was not good. I interpreted as the doctor carefully explained, 'You have cancer...a tumor. You have - at the most - until Christmas...to live.' After that first appointment, Mary Luz, Nestor, and I spent a lot of time together at the hospital - waiting for appointments, waiting at the pharmacy, waiting to find out about a trip to Lima to help her. About a month after that first appointment, Mary Luz was admitted to the hospital. The pain had increased. After doing some tests, the doctor determined that Mary would need to have dialysis - not as a cure, but to give her a little more time. Once again, I interpreted what the doctor said, and I explained very simply and carefully what it all meant. Mary had a decision to make - accept or reject dialysis. That day, though, while sitting on the edge of her hospital bed, Mary Luz made more than just the decision to accept dialysis. Mary made the decision to accept Christ as her Saviour. As I stood watching Mary try to sort through it all, she started signing - to herself it seemed at first. Then, with joy dawning in my heart and tears springing to my eyes, I realized she was signing to Jesus. She was asking Him to forgive her, to come into her heart....to give her permission to live in God's house! And there was a change in her countenance that day - a peace, a smile, hugs and "I love you's" for me that hadn't been there before."

On Wednesday, September 21, 2016, Mary Luz entered into God's house. Mary wasn't just a Deaf lady we knew. She wasn't just a Deaf lady who came to our church. Mary Luz was our friend and sister in Christ. What a privilege it has been during this time to be her Pastor! Thank you for doing your part to help us reach Mary Luz for Christ! One day, we will all get to rejoice together in Heaven!

To the Deaf 1st and Whosoever Will,
Matt, Sarah, Martha, Ian, & Phebe

Prayer Requests

1. Thanks to all who prayed fro the Deaf day here in Iquitos we passed out 500 tracts in a combined two days.
2. Please pray for the deliverance of the drinking and drunkenness culture of our city
3. Pray for our family to stay close to the Lord and one another as we labor here In Iquitos



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