



Message Ministries & Missions Inc.

Mission Update – August 30, 2010

"Sharing God's message of hope in action"

GOD IN THE GARBAGE DUMP by Pastor Guy Weatherly - Message Ministries Board Member



The smell hit me first. Then came the burning sensation in my eyes as I looked at the unending rows of shacks wrapping around the largest garbage dump I ever saw. It's more than a garbage dump, it's an entire region located outside of Lima, Peru. In an area called Lomas de Carabaylo.

Children born here have few choices for their future. The public schools are good but students are required to purchase uniforms, books, materials and must find a way to get there every day. The main source of income is the dump which is surrounded with a security fence by the owner who charges a fee for people to cull through the public garbage in hopes of finding things to sell.

One by one people of all ages go through the gate and at the end of the day one by one they file out lugging huge bundles of scraps. One bundle may be paper which they have sifted from the piles and carefully separated into stacks-another bag for rags, another for old clothes, and another for pieces of plastic. Then there are bundles of pipes or small sections of carpet or maybe leftover fence.

This is their life, sifting through other people's garbage, selling it for salvage and paying the "man" his cut. It is fertile recruiting for gangs that offer a much easier path to the "good life". Crime pays better than salvage sales and running with a gang brings the added perks of acceptance and protection. It takes a special child to stand against that kind of temptation and try to find an honest way to make it. One who did was a kid named Sosimo and I was hearing his story from the man himself.



As a child he lived at the dump working non stop every day to build up an inventory of potential salvage. At night he made his way through the dusty paths of the slum to a police sub station. It was there he got his best meal of the day served in a metal cup, usually warm soup. The years went by and Sosimo grew to be a savvy young man turning his salvage operation into a small business. He moved into one of the shacks, married and had children. Then he became restless. His drinking accelerated and his hard earned money vanished into destructive appetites which brought his family to the brink of destruction.



It was then that a young man in the neighborhood went to Sosimo and explained the greatest news ever told. He heard that every person on the planet has blown it and we are separated from God. but God himself came in human form as Jesus, died for our sins and offers life in heaven after we die and a new life on this earth! Upon hearing and understanding this Sosimo gave his life to Jesus and through the love and power of the Holy Spirit became a new husband, a new father and a new businessman with a mission. He wanted to help children in the dump area to have a place to hear about Jesus, food to eat, get a chance to go to school and learn how to make an honest living so they could help others.

This was the story I was hearing from the one that lived it. As Sosimo finished his story he was flanked on either side by the man who led him to Christ, his Pastor and three volunteer cooks. They were waiting on the first wave of children that would come for breakfast, hear a story from the Bible and sing songs to the Lord. Some of them would be on their way to school! We praised God for being able to be a part of this and we are currently getting the resources to finish a small addition to the Church and nutrition center so children (and some parents) can learn new skills to build a future and win their community for Jesus.

God loves a garbage dump - He does miracles there!