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Spreading the Fire



STEVE BREMNER
steve.bremner@gmail.com

Greetings my fellow Jesus revolutionaries,

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I trust all is well with you and your loved ones as you receive this newsletter.



You may recall a few months ago I mentioned an opportunity to go to the jungle of Northern Peru in May to a place called Iquitos, but that I was going to be going to Ecuador instead. Well, praise God: an affordable opportunity came up and I joined Ron Smith just prior to writing this on a 2 ½ day trip to Iquitos to visit some of the *Feed My Starving Children* programs *Fire Peru* has started out there. A lot of you have given generous donations to help me head to Ecuador to accompany Ron to a pastors' conference next month. I'm blessed that instead of an either/or decision, God has worked it out so far to do **both**. Please keep that trip in prayer as I'm still trusting God for a *little bit* more to make it completely affordable at this point.



During this recent trip to Iquitos, I got to make some new connections for future ministry opportunities, including one with a fellow missionary I'd only previously been acquainted with through Facebook (praise God for internet technology!). I'm going to put the idea out in writing now, but don't know what the Lord has in store: I'm very open to the idea of moving there. It would be very difficult to adjust to having internet even slower than I have in Lima (hindering my podcasting and blogging), and some of the normal and

familiar amenities. However, in the following months I would very much like to return a few more times, and with the help of airline deals, this would cost me less than \$200 per trip. I will keep you posted as it's trips like this that I'm trying to increase my support base for.



Also, in recent weeks we've had several people from our Centro de Fuego church going and doing witnessing in a manner we call 'treasure hunting' on a weekly basis. In this method, we first meet, then pray for a few moments and ask God to reveal specific people and things to us who He would like us to talk to. Then, we write down on a piece of paper different things He speaks to us. Examples would include things like "red hat" or "yellow shirt" or an object like "flowers" or "a bell." The purpose of writing it down is so we can't second guess



In USA

FIRE International • P.O. Box 5306 • Concord, NC 28027
(704) 782-3566 • Fax (704) 782-3897
e-mail: office@fiworks.net • www.fire-international.org



In Canada

Calvary International Canada
149 Westmount Dr. North
PO Box 20081
Orillia, ON L3V 6C7

ourselves over the fact that God spoke these specific things. Then what we do is go looking for people who may be wearing one of these specific items or carrying one of these objects or something else to help indicate which person God has on His heart for us to pray for—who His treasures are.

I've been doing street witnessing and handing out tracts frequently for nearly 8 years, and I have to say that treasure hunting is by far the most effective means of evangelism I've ever participated in. One day a few weeks ago a lady in our church saw a 'burgundy sweater'. We wrote it down despite the fact that it's summer in Peru and one would not expect to find someone wearing a sweater. But lo and behold, we passed a guy on the street carrying a sweater/jacket of that color, and told him about our list and that God was thinking of him that morning. He told us some of the difficult stuff he'd been going through. He had been praying to God about sending some kind of sign about what to do, and then he went for a walk and ran into us. He deemed it a literal answer to prayer and came to church the next Sunday we had service.

Another guy wearing a yellow shirt, walked right past my witnessing partner and myself, and at first we thought he ignored us. But when we looked back, he was waving at us and then sat down on a bench and waited for us to come to him. He let us share the Gospel with him, and told us we were sent from heaven and that the reason he stopped to talk to us was because he saw light shinning off of us and wanted to see who we were and what we had to say. That excited me to hear!

We've also seen some miraculous healings, such as a man with knee problems who began to walk normally; a street vendor allowing us to pray and telling us she felt no more arthritis pains in her joints and then giving her heart to Christ. We've seen a few decisions for Christ and this has resulted in several first time visitors to our services, including a prostitute that some ladies invited as a result of this method of evangelizing in the streets.

I share these testimonies not just to update you on my life in Peru, but also to get YOU pumped up and encouraged about sharing Christ with people in your own life because it's so much easier than we oftentimes think. One thing about treasure hunting is that it is helping some people in our church realize how EASY it is to hear from God for themselves and to minister to people. If you have a chance, I highly recommend listening to the latest *Fire On Your Head* podcast I did with Leno Dukic, a fellow FIRE missionary who recently visited us in Peru, called "*Are You Winning Souls?*" and hear some more first hand testimonies and get stirred up.

Thank you again for your time reading this. Thank you for your friendship, prayer, and support.

Blessings and fire on your head,
Steve



Left to Right: Living conditions near one of the feeding programs we visited in Iquitos—flooding causes the houses to float; moto taxi, our primary method of transportation; me recently posing for a shot on the coast of Lima.