

Hi! Well, last week was a busy week but I hope you got the albums of pics from here. Tim offered to send them out to you all so I am sure you received them.

We went to a part of Chulucanas that was invaded by a group of people looking for a home. They live in houses made of straw mats for walls and banana leaves for roofs. Ed and I looked at their homes and couldn't believe that they are fighting to keep these shelters. They said they deserve to have a HOME for their children. Bishop celebrated a Liturgy with them to remember the 2nd anniversary of them living there. He is trying to help them keep their land. It is nothing but a barren strip of dirt. There are no bathrooms so they have a ditch by the place. When it rains, the children PLAY in the ditch!!

On Sunday we went to the Campo with Dan. After a bumpy ride over mud roads and through rivers that took 1 and a half hours, we arrived. The people had been waiting for an hour. They blew off the cherry bombs when we arrived to announce the Bishop's arrival. The liturgy was beautiful. The people were well prepared. They appreciate Dan so much! He is definitely an advocate of the poor and they know it!

After Mass, we went to the rectory and ate some sort of fat banana that tasted like yucca...very interesting. Then we headed to Malacasi, another church. By this time we were 1 and a half hours late and the people were waiting in church patiently. Can you imagine that in the States? Ed and I walked in Church. We always try to sneak in the side and stand along the wall since the Church is full. We walked in greeted by everyone on both sides of the Church facing us and clapping us up the center aisles. How humbling it is to see the people so appreciative of having a Sunday Liturgy and welcoming strangers into their parish.

After the Liturgy, we had to eat again! This time we had a soup made of some sort of water ? and a piece of a chicken who had been exercising a lot! Ed was feeding the skinny dog under the table. Then we had a plate full of rice and various items... We try not to eat outside the house but couldn't avoid this meal!

Ed spent a day at the Asilo fixing screens with the Augie volunteers who are here. Then he and I went back for a 6 hour day of replacing screens and putting up slats so the Seniors won't break them with their wheel chairs. Hopefully, this will alleviate the fly problem there! When we got ready to return there wasn't a car again so we began walking the 5 miles to town. Thank God a car came by. I was lucky and sat in the front with two men. Ed ended in the back end of a station wagon with the bags and another man. But it sure beat walking in the sun!

We were without water for 3 days. Once our buckets were empty, Ed was carrying water down the street from the Bishop's house. I can handle many things but I do like getting a shower once a day....didn't happen!

Our other big nuisances right now are the grillos (like cicadas) that have inundated the town and our house. They are ugly and attack like a bomber. They are everywhere and you can't walk down the street without crunching all the way! Also, we have peloteros (like june bugs) and they are like kamikazees...they head right for the forehead, I think. The rain in wonderful and the farmers are having a great year but the rain brings these ugly creatures that are a royal pain!! We gave a talk last night and had to keep dodging the attackers!

Our Bible study is going great. Our couple groups are continuing to flourish. Ed is still trying to get the men to come to the Thurs. meeting. We sent individual invitations for this week so we will see. Pray for success for this....that would be 5 or more. HA

Last Sunday I met one of my English students to go for an eye exam at 7:30 in the morning. His mother couldn't go because she was working in the mountains. We finally saw the eye Dr. at 12:30. He definitely

needed glasses. He told me he hasn't been able to see for 3 years. He needs glasses so strong that they couldn't give him full strength or he would be too dizzy. So he will need a new pair next year but it's a start. He can pick them up today. I am anxious to see what a difference it makes for him in school. He is 13 and in the second year of HS...that's like 7th grade in the states.

Probably one of the biggest needs here is medical. The people don't have money for medicine so they walk around with ear infections, cancer, in need of an operation, etc..but have no money for it.

A man paid a downpayment for surgery. The Dr. opened him up and started the surgery. Then he went out to the family and said he wouldn't finish until they paid the remainder. They didn't have the money so he left the guy on the table, open, and went home. The family had to go around town and look for money and find the Dr, pay him, and then he went back and finished the surgery!!! They don't know about law suits around here! Noone has money, so noone bothers. Well, you are probably good and bored and I need to go check on some girls who are going to study at the CEO Women's Empowerment Center this year.

God bless and keep us in your prayers!  
Ed and Pat Geiss