

### Tuesday, November 1

We have completed one leg of the journey and are in Miami. We have a couple of hours to kill before we board a plane again. It's a long night of travel. We decided to spend some time in the Word and together in prayer to continue to keep our focus and prepare ourselves to be used by the Lord.

We had a blast wandering around the new international terminal in DFW and riding the SkyLink around. We also met a group on the plane from DFW to here that is also going on a mission trip, and will be building churches and leading Bible studies for the kids. They seemed like nice people.

### Wednesday, November 2 (early morning)

We are now in Lima awaiting our next flight. We suddenly have a whole lot of time on our hands. According to our itinerary, our flight supposed to leave at 7:45am, but when we went to check in we were informed that the only flight this morning had left at 6:10am! (We were just arriving at that time!) When asked why it had left so early, they told us that the flight time had changed 2-3 months ago. But we just got our tickets a month ago...so it doesn't make any sense. So, now we don't leave until 1pm and won't arrive in Iquitos until 4pm or so. So we lose this day for getting anything done. It will be the same on Friday when everyone else comes, so we won't be able to leave out on the boat on Friday as planned.

But, knowing the Lord is Sovereign, we just accept the change and continue on.

### (Early afternoon)

We decided to leave the airport and go explore Lima for a little while. We went to the Plaza de Armas and then to Larca Mar (the mall by the ocean). We explored a postal museum next to the Plaza de Armas that had way more stamps on display than we could take in. We laughed about how we were told the shops at Larca Mar would be open at 9am and very, very few actually were. We were told by someone else that most open between 9 and 11, but more like 11am. In other words, whenever they decide to open.

We had coffee by the ocean, at a restaurant overlooking the ocean. It was quite peaceful and relaxing. I said that maybe God knew we needed some time to relax before we started going full throttle.

We are now back at the airport awaiting our flight to Iquitos. We are both tired and ready to get on our way and arrive at our destination.

### (Evening/night)

At last, at last, we are in Iquitos. It has been such a long journey. We were in the process of traveling, in some form of transportation or in an airport, for over 24 hours. Needless to say, we are very tired!

We sent an email to warn the others what would happen, so they would be prepared when they began traveling. Since we arrived here so late, we were unable to really get anything productive done. Jeff did get to meet with the man we rent the boat from and get things rolling there. Tomorrow will be a busy day.

Pedro found us and later Richard joined us and we all went and had pizza for dinner, followed with ice cream. Then it was back to the hotel and bedtime.

### Thursday, November 3

This morning was spent running errands and gathering supplies. After lunch, we went to look at the other boat that is being built. They wanted to have this one finished for us to use by the time we got here this time, but weren't able to. It will be ready for us to use in March. It is so much bigger with plenty of room to hang hammocks and bigger observation decks.

After that, we went to the boat-manufacturing place to talk to them about bringing the price down on the boat we are wanting to have built. They are agreeable to making adjustments and will draw up new plans for us. Part of the large cost is getting the motor. We will be looking into getting a motor in the United States, but they are hesitant about that since the people trained to work on the motors only know certain ones.

Then we went across the Nanay River to look at land. There is a Christian community there that will allow us to purchase land there for only 50 soles and we can build a house there for only \$3,000. They are willing to let us do this and have a place to dock the boat and a place for groups to stay. We are excited about the possibilities for the future.

We had dinner later in the evening, and then headed back to the hotel. It was a long and busy day and we got a lot accomplished.

### Friday, November 4

Today has been quite a day. We finished gathering food and supplies this morning and started getting things loaded on the boat. Once that was done, we still had a couple of hours before the group arrived, so we went down to Belén, which is the real side of Iquitos. We walked down the roads there and then took a canoe ride a ways and stopped in one area and got to see the giant lily pads.

We then went back to the hotel so that Jeff could go with Javier to the airport to pick up the group. Their flight was supposed to arrive at 4:10pm like ours did, but was delayed and delayed. The air traffic controllers had gone on strike and the military had to be brought in to direct the planes. They finally arrived here around 8pm. They were so tired!

While waiting for them, we had dinner with Richard and Claudia, and their pastor friend Teopodo (sp?) and his wife Elina. It was a lot of fun. They are really enjoyable people.

After the group arrived, we took them to get something to eat and to buy snacks for the trip. Then we went back to the hotel and headed for bed. I'm sure the group was very glad to finally get showers and go to bed.

#### Saturday, November 5

We are now on our way down the river. We left early this morning. Now we are getting settled in and organizing our home for this next week. We got more hammock hooks put up so that everybody can sleep in hammocks.

It's so peaceful. I know I say this every time, but I love being on the river like this.

#### Sunday, November 6

We arrived at Pebas last night and gave everybody the grand tour. We saw Albertano and gave him the message to pass on to the other villages that we would be back there around Tuesday.

We met p with Pedro's mom and dad and some of his sisters and they walked around with us. We gathered in the middle of the town and spent some time in prayer.

Then we headed back to the boat and had our devotional time. Carol spoke on the passage in Ecclesiastes about there being a time for everything. She said this is the time, it is the time to see God work.

And then it was a very late night with everybody getting showers. Because of the water pump being slower, we took showers out of a large bucket. We laughed about it being a new cultural experience.

This morning we went back into Pebas for a little while to get more bread and blankets for those who got cold last night. Then we set off down the river toward s San Francisco. We arrived at San Francisco in the early afternoon and then went down the river to a tributary called Cochiquinas and to a town also by that name.

We went to the schoolhouse and it was mostly children with a few adults. We sang a few songs, then David shared his testimony, then Raúl shared his, and then Jacob preached with Jeff translating, then Richard closed out with the invitation. Eleven children and eight adults accepted Christ! It was awesome to see the Spirit moving! Then we played soccer and played with the bubbles with the kids.

We then headed back to San Francisco and were invited to join their service tonight. We sang for them the song Gloria Sea Ti in both Spanish and English. It was a great service.

### Monday, November 7

Today we woke up to a very rainy day. We had breakfast and hung out for a while until the rain stopped. We went ashore to San Francisco so people could call home. Then we came back to the boat and had lunch. After lunch, we went down the river to a new village called Santa Isabel de Pichoma. We did a similar service like we did yesterday. There were 21 adult decisions and 25 children. Chris did the follow-up discipleship talk. We made balloon animals and played with the bubbles with the kids. The adults played bingo for a little while, too.

Then we went back to San Francisco again for the night. We went into the village to play volleyball. We actually played a different kind of game, in a circle trying to keep the ball in the air for as long as possible. We had so much fun!

On our way into the village, we saw a parrot and it was talking. They let us hold it and it was so fun to hear it saying Spanish words and then it said an English word! It was so funny!

After playing volleyball, we started talking to some of the children that were around. Jeff shared the gospel and Richard led them in prayer. There were about 20 children that were there. Of course, it's hard to say how many were actually sincere, since some tend to do it just because everyone else is doing it. But God knows and is Sovereign over all of that.

Devotions tonight were great. David led out and shared from what he had been reading in his times with the Lord. He read from Joshua and talked about how the Lord instructed the Israelites to build a memorial with 12 stones and challenged us to remember what God has done, and what we will take back with us to the United States. Then we had a glorious time singing hymns and worshipping the Lord.

It has been such a glorious day and God gets all the glory.

### Tuesday, November 8

This morning we went down the river to Condor. We split up the adults and kids this time, so Sarah and I went outside with the kids. We sang Cristo Me Ama and then shared the Wordless Color Book. It was really hard because they didn't seem to be listening. I am not sure how much they understood. They all raised their hands and prayed to receive Christ, but I don't know how many were actually sincere. There were about 40 children there. I can't help but feel inadequate and feel that maybe I didn't translate well enough. I don't know. There were 6 adult decisions, and the first to accept Christ was a drunk man. David said that he was praying that God would break the bondage of alcoholism and that this man would be the first to accept Christ.

Then we headed back upriver to Remanso. We led them in Alelu, Alelu, Alelu, Aleluia, Gloria a Dios. It was a blast! Then Richard spoke, David gave his testimony, and Richard finished up and gave the altar call. Ten adults responded and gave their lives

to the Lord. Then Chris gave the follow-up discipleship talk. We made balloon animals for the kids and then went back to the boat.

We are now on our way back to Pebas and enjoying the chance to relax for a few hours.

### Night

We are now at Pebas. Raúl came with us here. We went unto Pebas to get more bread and coffee (very important items!),

Jacob led our devotion time tonight. He read out of Ephesians 3 and talked about how when we are tired and worn out, the Spirit renews us and refreshes us and gives us strength. Others added that God gives us strength to do His work. We may think we are inadequate and weak and not able to speak the right words, but God takes it and does marvelous things. His power flows through us and accomplishes His purposes.

### Wednesday, November 9

This morning we woke up to another rainy morning. Later in the morning we went over to Santa Lucia. We got to see the progress of their church building and actually had a service inside. We sang a couple of songs together, then they had us sing for them. They wanted us to sing something in both Spanish and English, so we sang I Love You, Lord/Te Amo, Rey. Then they let Raúl share and sing, then the kids sang a song, and the adults sang a song. It was all such a blessing.

Then, Gabriel, The man leading the service, read out of 1 John 1 and preached on it. But he was preaching works righteousness. The Lord spoke to Jeff and he knew he had to get up and correct this. He preached a powerful word and did a great job of reminding them that we are saved by God's grace, not by works. We found out later that a group of Swiss missionaries had come through and taught them this false theology.

Then we looked at all the crafts and shopped for a little while. We also bought a monkey and now have him on the boat with us. He's a different kind of monkey than we had last time. His name is Pepe. He seems really skittish though.

We then went to Piri to say hello, but everyone was out working. We are now on our way upriver to our next destination.

### Night

We are now docked at a town called Huansa. We were invited to come to church there (Pedro went to see if we could come.) so we joined them for the service tonight. It was interesting because the men and women were separated, men on one side and women on the other. Pedro led us in singing songs and we also sang a couple of songs for them. Then Richard preached a great sermon out of 1 Peter 1. Then we closed out in prayer and headed home.

I was a bit distracted during the service, though, because these big rats kept running back and forth along the back wall and ceiling. I was hoping Carol wouldn't see them, but she eventually did. Her eyes got really big!

#### Thursday, November 10

What a day! We continued upriver to Aysana, which is where we dock in order to walk into the jungle to Pampo Hermosa. It was quite a trek. I think everybody enjoyed it, but we are very tired now.

We taught them a couple of songs and Chris gave a talk on discipleship, encouraging them to be reading the bible and meeting together to grow in their faith. We made balloon animals for the kids and then trekked back to the boat.

I, of course, slipped into muddy waters and was covered in mud from the knees down. Richard was exclaiming over how I was covered in mud, but laughed when I told him, no this is normal for me!

We ended up letting the monkey go. He just wasn't adapting well to being on the boat and was extremely touchy about being petted or messed with. We think it may be because the ones who had him before were so rough with him. So no more monkey for us on this trip. We considered buying a bird on our way back to the boat this afternoon, but decided against it.

We are now traveling upriver to the Napo River now to visit Mangua and Central America. Everyone is already getting showers and resting.

#### Friday, November 11

We continued upriver this morning and went up the Napo River to Central America. After our trek through the jungle, we arrived there and found many people gone. One man who was still in the village informed us that someone had died and everyone was down at the funeral and burial. We decided to put together a love gift for them, so we left them a Bible, bubbles, candy, and a monetary gift. Since many are still very afraid of gringos, most of the people would not come back into the village while we were still there. One woman came and talked to us, though. She is one of the ones who came out the last time we were there and accepted Christ. She told us some stories about people getting murdered, and said that many of the people in the village still believe that gringos will come to steal the faces off their children. We encouraged her in her walk with the Lord and prayed for her.

We then returned to the boat and began our journey back to Iquitos. We stopped at a town called Indiana for the night. We went into town to get more food for breakfast tomorrow morning. Of course the kids were following us everywhere and clinging on to us. Sarah and I had a blast with them. One of the boys was looking at a necklace I was wearing that has Joshua 1:9b on it: "Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified, do

not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” Of course he couldn’t read it since it’s in English, but I translated what I said. He pondered on it for a little while, then a little later, he asked me if God would really be with him. Seeing the opportunity, I began sharing the message of the gospel with him, and all the kids that were gathered around. Some listened very intently, some just listened out of curiosity. When I led them in prayer, approximately 5 of them were sincerely praying.

It was such a spontaneous opportunity and an incredible moment. This is by far, my favorite moment of the trip.

We finally got everything we needed and returned to the boat. It tore at my heartstrings, as the kids were so disappointed that we had to leave and kept asking me if I was going to come back.

Devotions were really good tonight, as they have been every night of this trip. It was a fitting end. Chris shared the verses that his son had put together for him and asked us to meditate on each one and share what each verse has meant on this trip. The Lord is so good and gets all the glory for this incredible trip.

#### Saturday, November 12

We have arrived back in Iquitos. The morning on the boat was spent getting everything packed back up and ready to be unloaded upon arrival. Of course, we had to have our Inca Kola toast to end the trip!

This afternoon, we went out to the zoo and played with sloths, anacondas, parrots, boa constrictors, monkeys, and baby crocodiles. Lots of pictures of “I can’t believe I’m holding this...!” We also went back to Belen and went on canoes to see the giant lily pads. And of course the day would not be complete without souvenir shopping.

We also went back to the boat manufacturing place and Jeff met with them and discussed more about the possible plans and trying to bring the costs down. Carol, David, Sarah, and I were all sitting outside while the rest of the group was in the meeting. While we were waiting, a man came and joined us and started talking to us. He said he recognized Carol. He was trying really hard to speak in English, and said that he had been trying to learn English. It was really fun talking to him, half in Spanish, and in English, and all of us trying to help each other communicate what was trying to be said.

It’s been quite a day. Tomorrow we head back to Lima and then back home.

#### Sunday, November 13

We left early this morning on our flight back to Lima. When we arrived, we left our stuff at the missionary house and then set off to explore. There are some ancient ruins nearby and we decided to take the tour. Our tour guide was a sweet girl who did her very best to give the tour in English. She was nervous at first, but then saw that we wouldn’t judge her for mistakes and relaxed. She did a great job. This ancient

civilization did a whole lot of human sacrifice and it was always women who were sacrificed. Makes me glad I wasn't living there then!

We also went over to Larco Mar and also down to the ocean. Then we went to the artisan market and spent the rest of the evening shopping. After a delicious chicken dinner, it was back to the missionary house to await our ride to the airport. We are now getting ready to get on the plane and head home. I know we are all tired and ready to return home to families. It was been an incredible trip and God has done many wonderful things.