



JOSEPH & ZULEMA KOTVAS MISSIONARIES TO PERU

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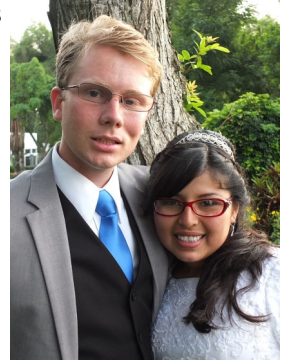
Reaching deaf and hearing souls for Christ and nurturing them in the Word of Life, equipping them with the spiritual tools they will need as they go out and reach others.

Dear friends and family,

Thank you so much for your prayers and support this year. We couldn't do this ministry without you.

Zulema and I were married on January 3 of this year. We're thankful for God's precious gift of marriage and family! Our honeymoon was spent in Ecuador and the Galapagos islands. I had the opportunity to visit several different churches in Guayaquil and Porto Viejo, preaching and sharing my testimony.

Everywhere we went, it was refreshing to meet Christians who treated us as brothers and sisters. Many thanks to Pastors Simon Rodriguez, Jonathan Ramirez and Michael Lanchang and their wives and congregations. An exception was the beautiful Galapagos Islands themselves; there is **no Baptist church** there. Pray for Ecuadorian Pastor Franco Loyola; his ministry intends to start one this year with the Lord's help.



Back in Lima in February, I had the opportunity to coordinate a **vacation Bible School** during four days across two locations. By the end of the week I was able to lead fifteen children to the Lord. Thanks to Mrs. Lily and the young people from Grace Baptist Church in Chiclayo for a wonderful Creationist program.

Towards the end of February, a group from Efata traveled to Chiclayo for the annual **Fires of Evangelism conference**. Zulema and I traveled with the young people and coordinated interpreting for the Deaf. After one service, I was thrilled to lead one man to the Lord. A grandmother in our church had prayed for years for her son to be saved. **Her prayers were answered that evening.**

School started in March, and I've been teaching three hours a day in the fifth grade classroom with eleven students. They're a challenging bunch, but I enjoy teaching these deaf children and teens the Bible, science and math every day. One fifteen-year-old student in the class transferred in this year with limited Sign Language. **Pray for him to understand the Gospel.**

I'm praying about an opportunity to start a new bible study in El Agustino, an area of Lima almost an hour and a half away from Efata. There are so many Deaf there, and no good ministry reaching them. Last week, I spoke with José, a Deaf young man there who had **no idea who Adam or Eve were, or what the word "sin" meant.** Pray that I can find a good church there with interest in allowing us to use their facilities.



I've saved my most personally exciting news for last. **This December, a new little Kotvas will be joining our missionary team!** Zulema and I are overjoyed to be expecting.

I know some of the churches I visited last year were waiting for me to get established on the field before beginning regular monthly support. If you haven't already, I would ask that you **prayerfully consider financially supporting our family** as we serve the Lord here. Again, thank you for your prayers and your support. **May God richly bless!**

Joseph and Zulema Kotvas
Missionaries to the Deaf and Hearing in Peru, South America