

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

October 17, 2017 Ministry Update



Esther Catherine Emerald Kotvas

Thank you for your prayers and your faithful support. I write this update from the hospital room with my wife and newborn daughter nearby. **Esther Catherine Emerald Kotvas joined us on Monday, October 16th, at 4:44pm.** Both mother and daughter are doing very well. Please continue to pray for Zulema's recovery, and for Esther's health and growth.

**We've had to borrow approximately \$2,000.00** to cover Zulema's c-section and hospitalization, but we know that the Lord will provide. If you are interested in helping us with this financial need, please let me know.

JJ is a year and ten months old now, and he is thrilled to have a baby sister. **Zulema and I are so blessed with these two beautiful children.** Truly children are "an heritage from the Lord."

**The mission in El Agustino is growing and doing well, with 35-50 in attendance each week.** We had several more professions of faith last month, and now that between two and five small children are coming every Thursday, I've spoken with a young lady to begin teaching a children's class. **Pray for the deaf in El Agustino;** some of them are dealing with a great deal of spiritual and moral baggage that they need to give over to the Lord.

**My class in the school is learning more words and concepts.** This year I have been teaching third and fourth grade, and it has been a challenge but also a blessing to teach a group of mostly eight-, nine- and ten-year-olds. **Next year I will be working with the high school grades,** giving me the opportunity to invest more in the lives of our teenagers as well.

For the past three months I have been leading an interpreters' workshop at our church. It has been great to help develop our next generation of young interpreters and provide reflective practice opportunities for our more experienced interpreters. **In November I'll be opening a new beginning Peruvian Sign Language class for our hearing church members.**

In August, Zulema and I visited national missionary Wilder Zamora's church in the city of Trujillo to preach their anniversary. Several members of Pastor Zamora's church are asking us for a long-distance video course in Peruvian Sign Language, so **I'm looking to record our lessons here and post the videos online for the ministry in Trujillo.** Pray for that church, as they desire to begin a new deaf ministry.

**Efata Baptist Church just celebrated "family day" on Sunday October 15th, with 360 deaf and hearing in attendance.** It was wonderful to see how many of our church members brought their unchurched friends and family members to the service to hear the Word of God. Pray that these visitors and loved ones of our church members will open their hearts to the Lord.

Pray for all the ministries of Efata as **Pastor Cory Ricker and his family prepare to move to the city of Cuzco to begin a new work with the deaf there, and Pastor Joe and his family are headed back to the states for a year.** I and Efata's team of national pastors will be carrying more responsibility in their absence; my prayer is that the Lord will give us the wisdom to lead well.



The mission in El Agustino



My students



Our "family day" photo – the day before Esther was born!

For more pictures & info, visit [ReachAndTeach.org/oct2017](http://ReachAndTeach.org/oct2017)

God bless! Sincerely,

Joseph, Zulema, JJ & Esther Kotvas,  
Your missionaries in Peru, South America

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