

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

## September 2018 Ministry Update



Preaching at our mission, relocated to San Juan de L.



With the deaf orphans on an excursion around Lima



Baptizing Ezekiel upon his profession of faith in Christ



Our family at my Peruvian citizenship ceremony

For more pictures & info, visit [ReachAndTeach.org/sep2018](http://ReachAndTeach.org/sep2018)



### A productive trip

We returned to Peru on July sixth, after a trip that was productive on so many levels. We were able to report to our supporting churches, attend my brother James's wedding, watch my siblings so my parents could be in Peru for the church's anniversary, and get all Zulema's US residency paperwork taken care of. The trip was also a great "dry run" for our family as we prepare for a full deputation beginning in March of next year.

### The Mission Formerly in El Agustino / Now in San Juan de Lurigancho

Back in Peru, we have been working hard in the ministry. The work in El Agustino has grown, but the Baptist church where had met for over three years was forced to relocate, and their new location was a good fit for our ministry. God was good to us, opening a new door at just the right time at the nearby *Iglesia Bautista las Flores* in San Juan de Lurigancho. Pastor Jorge Espinoza and his church graciously received us, allowing us to meet each Thursday in their facilities. We praise the Lord for his provision. Many Deaf live near our new location; Several first-time visitors have come in the three weeks we have been at *Las Flores*.

### Discipleship

Since arriving back in Peru I have resumed discipleship meetings, especially with Moises and Guido, two faithful young men with a demonstrated burden for souls and a sincere desire to serve the Lord. These young men are future preachers and teachers who will reach their own people; pray that they will stand firm in their faith through the inevitable trials and temptations they will encounter on the road to service.

### Spiritual Growth

Ezekiel, one of the deaf teens in our ministry, has struggled spiritually emotionally this year. God used a traumatic experience in his life July to get a hold of his heart and mind. One Thursday evening, Ezekiel was returning from our mission work in Callao with his brother Jacob and Pastor Frank, who oversees the work there. Ezekiel began jogging and got a bit ahead of the others. Frank and Jacob hurried to catch up, but when they turned the corner they found Ezekiel pinned against a wall by a security guard, who mistook Ezekiel in his hoodie for a thief or troublemaker. The situation cleared up quickly, but the experience moved Ezekiel deeply and caused him to realize how much he needed the Lord's protection and Godly supervision in his life. He decided to be baptized, and he has been gaining spiritual victories in his life. He is much more responsive to counsel and help than he has ever been. Pray for him to continue to grow spiritually.

### Projects and Vision

There are places across Peru with no Gospel ministry for the Deaf, and we have a responsibility to preach the Gospel to every creature. We are currently organizing mission teams to embark on "circuit preaching" ministries in some of these areas in the provinces of this country. We are also praying and preparing for next year's deaf camp. Lord willing, we will have deaf and deaf ministry leaders from all over Peru with us in January 2019 for a time of challenge and growth.

### Various Blessings

Thank you for your prayers for the three expecting mothers in our church. Little Cesia, Hinata and Benjamin have been welcomed into our church family. I received my Peruvian citizenship in July (finally)! This is wonderful as it facilitates paperwork and enables me to come and go as needed. This has been a great answer to prayer. Our family is living by faith each month, trusting God will meet our needs. God has been so good to us, with several unexpected financial gifts coming just when it seemed there was no way we were going to be able to cover the bills.

### Deputation Plans

As our family grows and our ministry opportunities expand, we need to be fully supported. I am calling pastors and scheduling meetings for our 2019 deputation. Pray for us as we seek to return to Peru fully supported as quickly as possible. If you can help us during these next few months, it will be a great blessing.

God bless,  
Joseph and Zulema Kotvas, JJ and Esther

\*\*\*

# Special Request

\*\*\*

**Dear pastor and church family,**

As I share in the enclosed prayer letter, we are returning to the US toward the end of February to raise the support we will need to continue on the field.

Would you consider helping us in the interim?

**Either a one-time love offering or a monthly gift over the next six months would make a big difference.** We have many upcoming expenses, including plane tickets, car payments and insurance, deputation setup expenses, that simply don't figure into our current monthly income, not to mention our rising cost of living.

Some of you are already supporting us regularly. Thank you! It is because of partners like you that we have been able to serve the Lord these four years of ministry in Peru. Would you prayerfully consider increasing our support, specifically for this next year? This will give us the boost we need until we can raise additional funds.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not mention that **my brother James and his wife Ann are also coming to Peru as missionaries with Macedonia World Baptist Missions, and they will be coming to the field for a six-month survey trip beginning in October.** If you are interested in supporting them, that would also be a tremendous blessing.

I have been awed by God's wonderful provision thus far, with unexpected love offerings, donations and windfalls just when they were needed. I know he will continue to provide for us as he has promised.

*But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

*Philippians 4:19*

Thank you!



Joseph S Kotvas,  
Your missionary to the Deaf in Peru, South America

(904) 335-8563 | joseph@reachandteach.org | www.reachandteach.org



\*\*\*

\*\*\*

\*\*\*