

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

## December 2018 Ministry Update



Joseph, Zulema, JJ and Esther



Cesar Quiroz in Ferreñafe



Various Outreach Activities



The SJL Christmas Banquet



Esther turned 1, JJ turned 3!



Three Kotvas Missionary Families, Celebrating Christmas Together

For more pictures & info, visit  
[ReachAndTeach.org/dec2018](http://ReachAndTeach.org/dec2018)

Dear friends and family,

**Thank You** – With 2018 rapidly drawing to a close, we want to express to you our heartfelt appreciation and joy for another year of blessing, collaboration and service to the King of kings and Lord of lords.

**God is good**, and his grace and mercy never fails. Thanks to all those who responded to our plea for an extra help during these few months before we return to the states; your generosity has been a great help and encouragement to us.

**Trip to the North** – In September, I traveled with my brother, James, to the northern cities of Chiclayo, Ferreñafe and Trujillo to encourage the deaf ministries there and encourage the deaf to come to our 2019 Efata Deaf Camp. It was a blessing to see the Lord's work and preach his Word to the Deaf and hearing.

**Pastor Joe is Back** – On November 15, my parents and their five youngest children returned to the field here after almost a year's furlough in the states. I've been leading the deaf ministry here in his absence, and it is great to have the pastor back. We have so enjoyed spending time together as a family.

**Bible Conference** – Our annual Bible conference was a great encouragement to our people, as Missionary Rafael Ramirez of Venezuela, who was trained to work with the Deaf here at Efata years ago, shared how God is working in a mighty way in his country in spite of the Venezuelan crisis. Three deaf young men preached in our preacher boys contest. My prayer is that they will allow God to mold them and use them to reach their people for Him.

**Family Fun Outreach and Fundraiser** – After the conference, we organized a family fun day at the church as an outreach activity and fundraiser for the 2019 Efata Deaf Camp. Every child who came received a personal presentation of the Gospel using the "wordless book" color system.

**Teaching Peruvian Sign Language** – An important part of my ministry here is the preparation of future preachers and church interpreters for the deaf. It has been a joy to do exactly that over the last few months, and a number of adults, teenagers and children in our church have been soaking up sign language like sponges. It was truly special to see them sign a special Christmas song together in church last Sunday.

**San Juan de Lurigancho Christmas Activity** – I have been ministering to the Deaf in central Lima for over three and a half years now, and it was a blessing to again be able to share a Christmas banquet with them with the help of some brethren in Canada, coordinated by brother Gustavo Miller.

**Deaf-Blind Man Receives Christ for Christmas** – This year we had 40 people at the banquet, and Pastor Joe preached a Christmas message of salvation. A deaf-blind man who has come sporadically to our church in Villa el Salvador as well as to the mission work in San Juan de Lurigancho asked Christ to forgive his sins, with a clear profession of faith. Praise God! My brother-in-law, Abraham Ramirez, is working as an interpreter at a state school for the deaf in the center of Lima, and over the past several months, we have seen five Deaf young men saved after visiting our services at his invitation.



**Preparing for Camp** - Our final major activity before our February trip to the States is the 2019 Efata Deaf Camp. At last year's camp, my heart was moved by the many decisions to surrender to the Lord's will and plans. As we have prepared the groundwork for this year's camp, it has been exciting to hear from deaf across the country who plan on attending and participating.

**Sponsors Needed** – As with last year, I have a list of orphans, missionaries and others in need of whole or partial sponsorship for camp. A sponsorship this year is \$55; A half sponsorship is \$28. Would you sponsor someone who otherwise could not go to camp this year? Write me at [joseph.kotvas@gmail.com](mailto:joseph.kotvas@gmail.com). We are looking forward to a wonderful, life-changing week of camp.

**Birthdays!** – All our family birthdays fall between September and December each year, along with Christmas and New Year's, not to mention our fourth wedding anniversary coming up on January third! It's quite a festive time of year. Esther is now a year old and is toddling around the house most adorably. JJ is three and is talking up a storm. God has been so good to us.

**Preparing for Deputation and Furlough** – Amid all this activity, we have been busy calling pastors, scheduling meetings, storing and selling belongings and preparing for our return to the States on February 24<sup>th</sup>. Pray for us as we embark on a new adventure for the Lord, in his name and for his glory. We are weak, but he is strong!

*Joseph Kotvas*

God bless,  
Joseph and Zulema Kotvas, JJ and Esther

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