

PEACE THROUGH SERVICE

December 2007
Trial version



Father Alex's Christmas message

Christ-Like this Christmas

Whatever one's religion or beliefs, Christmas is about the birth of Jesus Christ and is a celebration of all that He means to Christians and non-Christians alike. Christmas is a time for all humanity to wake up and celebrate good will, understanding, love and peace with all creation.

The life of Jesus starts with a humble birth in an unknown little village. This is not really the best place to start if the plan is to influence humanity once and for all. Jesus lived over two thousand years ago when technology was unknown- no mobile phones, no faxes, no internet, no satellite communications, etc. Using today's criteria, He simply has no way to make it to the top. So what is Jesus all about?

Jesus is the answer to attaining innermost peace of heart and never-ending real joy. He is the hope and the only way for justice, equality and peace, as opposed to slavery, hunger, war and death, to prevail. His message goes beyond belief, culture, race, gender or age. His magic word is compassion. Can we imagine what change compassion brings to the world? Can we imagine if compassion replaces the gods of our time; gods like human wisdom, self-sufficiency, democracy, politics, economic miracles, super-powers, religious fanaticism? Can we keep it simple and replace complex solutions with common sense which flows naturally out of compassion? Do we require so much wisdom to understand what the sick, the hungry, the naked, the abused, the impoverished, the excluded, need? It is all about being Christ-like. As we read in the gospels, moved by compassion, Jesus heals the sick, feeds the hungry, gives peace of heart, and finally gives his life on the cross. Christmas is a reminder of this reality. Jesus is not born on the 25th of December every year. He was born, lived, died and resurrected once and for all. Let us give sense to our Christmas celebration this year. Let us go far and beyond the 25th of December. The people who need us are around us all year, year after year, all the days of our life. Let Christ be born again this year through our compassion towards those who need us. Let us put compassion in our beliefs, in our politics, in our education, in our work, in our rest, in our families, and in our vision of the world. Like Jesus, let compassion be our magic word too wherever we are, in all we do and say.

May you have a blessed Christmas together with all your family and loved ones. May the peace of Christ accompany you through all your life, in your vision for the future and in your daily needs here and now.

Fr. Alex Busuttill mssp

We thank all of the many people who have donated time, talents, supplies, and money to help our people. Please know how much you have blessed us with these gifts and how much we appreciate your constant prayers.

News and Events

❖ *First Holy Communion-*

After much preparation over fifty children received their first holy communion on Saturday, December 8th. In January the community will continue to grow as another celebration for first Holy Communion will be held.

❖ *Medical Mission with Health Bridges International-*

Representatives from the medical clinic from Alto Cayma joined Dr. Wayne's medical team in combination with Union Biblica and held a campaign for 4 days in Kusi, in addition to one day in Carabayllo providing care to underserved populations. Over 1200 patients were seen, ranging from infants to elderly. They were treated and given free medicine and dental care, accordingly.

❖ *Eye Clinic-*

Plans to open the eye clinic and eye glass shop are scheduled for the beginning of January 2008.

❖ *Clinic Refurbished-*

Clinic staff painted and placed new flooring in the old section of clinic, giving it a new facelift.

❖ *Bible distribution-*

Father Alex created a program to provide Bibles to the community. Twelve dollars are donated from individuals in an organized group to subsidize the cost of sixteen dollars Bibles, of which local parishioners will contribute four dollars. Without the program, most people could not afford to purchase a Bible. Thus far, 300 Bibles have been purchased. If your organization is interested in sponsoring this project, please contact Father Alex at peruletter@hotmail.com.

❖ *Water Purification-*

Water purification system was installed and over 500 Liters of clean water per day is provided to the kitchen and child day care program. We are currently working on ways to distribute the filtered to water to homes in the community.

❖ *Donated Items-*

Donations, freight shipment, through the Mormon Church from the community of Bishop Richard Monnie of Portland Oregon have been received and organization for distribution is currently in process.

Donations of physical therapy equipment from Dr. Beau and Deedra Weil were also received, distribution in process.

❖ *Christmas Preparations-*

Christmas preparations are underway for the children, women and elderly groups.

❖ *Web page-*

New web site is being developed and in its final stages. Once it is complete, we will be able to share the web address. A second web page will be started in January.

❖ *Volunteer House-*

Currently living in the Volunteer house are year-long volunteers Susan Tang and Dennis Tsakonas, who have been here since April and Karen Falkenstein, who arrived in November. Three medical students from Seattle, Washington Corraine Wang, Catherine Coy and Danika Odana were here from December 10 through December 14.

❖ *Exercise Class-*

Susan and Karen have started exercise classes for the medical staff in the clinic and a physical therapy class for people with physical disabilities.



Medical Campaign in Kusi.



HBI medical team at Lake Chinancocha



First Holy Communion



Working hard in the kitchen with the new water filters



First Holy Communion



Organizing the donated clothes.

Since this is our first edition we would appreciate feedback! Please email comments, suggestions and ideas for other additions to peruletter@hotmail.com