



WISHING YOU AND YOUR FAMILY A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

**STATE OF EMERGENCY IN PERU:** Many lives around the world have been affected by COVID-19. Peru is no exception and has been under strict quarantine measures for nearly 9 months. In the midst of the pandemic crisis, Peru's legislature just voted to impeach the nation's president, leading to political turmoil and unrest. Still, amid these hardships, the Lord is working. Our Rooted in Grace & Love team still has special permissions to deliver food to remote villages. As we continue to receive support and donations, we can continue to reach families with food, clothing and supplies. Over the last several of months, hundreds of families have been visited by our Peruvian team members. In fact, the Peru mission team will connect with even more families in 7 new designated villages!

**HEATH FAMILY UPDATE:** 2020 has changed our family's plans but not our hearts for the people of Peru. We have been in the States since April and are amazed at how the Lord continues to be faithful and use us even from another country. We continue to encourage and provide leadership to our Peru team on the ground. There has never been a better time to share hope and the Good News of the Gospel! The work is still great and international borders as of November have opened. Our board is continuing to monitor the situation in Peru as the unexpected impeachment of Peru's president has left the country with increased instability. Our hope is to return in January to help our team. It is remarkable to see our local Peruvian brothers and sisters take on leadership roles and continue to serve and share Christ. We have heavy hearts to see this mission grow and want to serve the people in Peru. *Our family is praying as we have not received 3 of our 8 updated passports to be able to return.* We are praying and trusting God as the months continue to unfold. He has always provided and been faithful in taking care of our ministry and mission; we will keep trusting!

**ROOTED IN GRACE & LOVE ADDING NEW TEAM MEMBERS & NEW ROLES:** Over the years, the Lord has truly blessed Rooted In Grace & Love with amazing volunteers and partnerships with incredible churches and individuals traveling thousands of miles to serve the people in Peru. We would like to take a moment to highlight a very special person on the Rooted In Grace & Love mission team who faithfully serves, loves, and ministers not only to the Peruvian people, but to hundreds of volunteers who pass through the mission doors.

**Lucinda Valer** has been an AMAZING asset to our team. The Lord has used her to reach hundreds and hundreds of families desperately in need physically and spiritually. We are pleased to announce that Lucinda Valer has accepted the role as **Director of Missions** for Peru.

God has gifted Lucinda with the ability to find new villages, individuals, and families in need. When it comes to sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ, Lucinda is a natural. She has strong passion and a huge heart to win as many lost souls to Jesus Christ as she can. Lucinda has not let the threat of the pandemic stop her. She has been on a mission to reach out and help the people in Peru, and to share the gospel. Lucinda reminded us as she accepted this role, that she so appreciates the encouragement, but that she knows this is just an earthly title (Director of Missions). She shared with us that she is the Daughter of the King and that she finds her identity in CHRIST alone. For this, we are blessed.



Another enormous way that the Lord has blessed our Peru mission is by sending workers to carry on the tasks during this difficult pandemic. **We are so excited to introduce you to the Palomino Family! Michael, Nohemí and their daughters Elena and Emily will join the Rooted in Grace & Love team in early 2021 as full-time missionaries serving the people in Peru.** Their testimony of God's goodness and calling in

their lives is shared below. Please read their story and pray for their family as they transition into their new missionary role.

**“FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT”**: Michael and Nohemí Palomino were born in different cities in the mountains of Peru, both from families without real knowledge of God and marked by a history where violence and emotional, physical and spiritual abandonment was normal. They met in Cusco when they were 19 years old and studied gastronomy together. They were passionate about the love of food and table service, but with only one goal, to obtain material things.

Michael and Nohemí were both 20 years old when Elena, their first daughter, arrived. This gave meaning to their lives. However, they were also scared by the idea of having a baby at such a young age, since their desire was to give her love, a family, material things, security, etc. At the age of 22, they decided to marry and appease the conscience of living in sin. Soon Emily, their second daughter, arrived. She completed the family. But, with the passing of time, Michael and Nohemi's relationship deteriorated from all the emotional wounds, bad habits, and baggage from the past. With all this and their excessive dedication to work to get material things, they found their marriage and family suffering greatly. They began to focus on trying to live together only to fulfill the promise of giving a family to their daughters; the love between them was fading... **BUT GOD.**



The Lord, full of mercy, came into the lives of Michael and Nohemí at a point where everything was already prepared for separation. God showed them both His unconditional love through people who loved Him. After a year of discipleship from a missionary couple, they decided to give their lives to Jesus, truly being transferred FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT (Col. 1:13).

Since the moment when they met the Lord, their hearts became burdened for the great commission (Mt. 28: 16-20). They felt a calling to preach the Good News and to serve the church. In 2016, they began to pray about studying in Paraguay at the Instituto Bíblico Asunción seminary. After a year of prayer, they took the first steps of faith in following Jesus to where He was calling them.

During this four-year study in seminary the Lord has worked in different ways in the lives of each one of the Palomino family members. He has healed past emotional wounds, changed their perspectives on marriage and parenting, and brought forgiveness and love within extended family relationships. The Lord showed them His goodness and they have grown in the knowledge of Him, strengthening their faith and trust in Him. **Their heart is to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Please join us in praying as their family finishes their studies in Paraguay in December and transitions back to Peru in early January.**

**HOW TO BE INVOLVED BY GIVING AND PRAYING:** Lastly, many of you have been asking for ways to be involved and about fundraising events. Sadly, we will not be able to safely hold a concert or conference this year due to COVID-19 restrictions. We fully plan to continue those events when social distancing is not a factor anymore. There are still some great ways to support Rooted and our mission through prayer and giving.

•**5k Race for Peru**: Saturday, January 2, 2021 at Beulah Baptist church

•**Food for Families**: Giving \$50 will provide food for **one family** that we are trying to reach. **Our goal this year is to be able to reach 100 families a month.** We know we have a lot of work ahead of us. Lord willing in 2021, we hope to reach thousands of individuals with the HOPE that is found in no other name, but **Jesus Christ.**

If you would like more information on partnering with us to support the ministry, please contact us @ [sean.heath@rootedingraceandlove.org](mailto:sean.heath@rootedingraceandlove.org).

Your tax-deductible donations are greatly appreciated and can be made to:

**Rooted In Grace & Love**

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