

Peru? Is that in Africa?

Not all my friends knew where Peru was. It may not appear on the most popular tourist sites but there are certainly other reasons to make the journey from northern Europe to South America, not least because, despite strong church growth in some areas, Peru is home to dozens of tribes still unreached with the gospel.

Remote places

Many in the Amazon jungle practice "animism". The "shaman" are the leaders, witchdoctors if you like, who enter their terrifying world of spirits and dreams by taking hallucinogenic drugs.

It can certainly be dangerous for missionaries, especially non-Peruvians, given the myths and stories passed down about "white people". Danger, along with the difficulty of accessing such places, are classic reasons why so many tribes around the world remain unreached.

That being said, there are some amazing missionaries working here. My big goal was simply to learn and be an encouragement to them. Our team was made up of four girls from America and myself. We stayed for two months and I was completely outside my comfort zone.

Each week we travelled to different parts, by boat and by plane. We stayed with missionaries and just did everyday life with them during the weeks - cooking with them, visiting where they worked, meeting up with the locals.

Some places were super remote, no electricity or running water. The people didn't wear shoes or have beds. They boiled their rice and bits of chicken over open fires. We helped out in any way we could, leading a children's programme maybe or telling Bible stories in, sadly, some very broken Spanish.

Helping hands

Other times we were able to help at a care centre and orphanage for at-risk children. Here we taught English, played with the kids, helped them brush their teeth, celebrated their birthdays. In the evenings, we were invited to each missionary family's home for dinner to hear their stories. This was by far my favourite week. There was a feeling of being genuinely useful while on a steep and inspiring learning curve.

We were able to see both ends of the work - places where there is nothing, tribes where the gospel is yet to take root. We also got to see what happens when the gospel does take hold. Some of the churches were undoubtedly the most passionate churches I've ever been to with none of the trappings, resources or equipment we might enjoy but certainly joy in Jesus. One place we went to had even set up their own Bible training institute in the tribe so they can teach the people to be pastors!

Learning lessons

Perhaps what struck me most was the need for long-term missionaries, people who will commit their lives to this work. As short-termers we drop in and out but the joy of building relationships takes time and language skills that we couldn't provide.

Eight weeks is a long time for a short-term mission trip yet it was enough to allow things to get hard. We all got hit with parasites, there was tension within the team, there was unbearable itching due to mosquitoes, and there were also important family events at home that I missed and yet that's what long term missions is. It's hard and I was glad I saw that side too.

Thank you so much to St Andrew's and to those who supported and prayed for me. That kept me going, taught me plenty and brought me home safely. *Kerry Dudgeon*

Remember you can stay up to date with all the members of our Away Team, by reading their prayer newsletters on our website or there are printed copies at the back of church.

https://standrewsleyland.org.uk/Groups/235408/Beyond_Leyland.aspx

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The **Lancashire Festival of Hope** will culminate with a free multi-day evangelistic outreach event at the **Winter Gardens Blackpool, 21-23 September 2018**. The Festival will feature musicians, dynamic video testimonies, and Gospel presentations by Franklin Graham - *"My message will be the simple Gospel message: a timeless message of God's hope, love and redemption for all people. If anyone is searching for answers, wondering if their life has meaning and questioning if they are loved, I will have good news to share"* **If you would like to attend, we are organising a group booking with coach travel so please sign up at the hubs, on our website or by calling the office.**

"Always be eager to practice hospitality" (Romans 12:13).

Harvest 2018

In his book 'Crazy Busy', Kevin de Young explains what Christian hospitality looks like: "Good hospitality is making your home a hospital. The idea is that friends and family and the wounded and weary people come to your home and leave helped and refreshed. And yet, too often hospitality is a nerve-wracking experience for hosts and guests alike. Instead of setting our guests at ease, we set them on edge by telling them how bad the food will be, and what a mess the house is, and how sorry we are for the kids' behaviour. We get worked up and crazy busy in all the wrong ways because we are more concerned about looking good than with doing good. So instead of our encouraging those we host, they feel compelled to encourage us with constant reassurances that everything is just fine. Opening our homes takes time, but it doesn't have to take over our lives. Christian hospitality has much more to do with good relationships than with good food." This Harvest, please join us in sharing - pick a date in the run up to Harvest Sunday (30th September) then invite your guests, encourage them to give to our adopted charity and have some fun! Be as inventive as you like; coffee and cake, brunch, bacon butties, tea and biscuits or a full blown meal, maybe even a barbeque - it's really up to you. What you decide isn't important. It's all about sharing, which means everyone can get involved in some way. Check out the World Vision web site www.worldvision.org.uk/together. It has lots more information about their work and suggestions of what to do. Please do consider joining in. If you need any more information or ideas please speak to any members of the Reach task team.

David Gibb

#LETSSHARE

SHARE FOOD, SHARE HOMES, SHARE STORIES, SHARE JESUS, SHARE LIFE

Updates to Task Teams

New members on the PCC have recently joined task teams, here are the details - Christine Dean, Stela Stansfield and Lou Walsh have joined the REACH Task Team. Lois Ferguson has joined the SEND Task Team and Ric Turner has joined the BOTT Task Team.

Also, Janet Sutherland is clerk to the PCC helping Sue Taylor in her role as PCC secretary.

If you would like to know more about being in a Task Team or feel you could help serve the church family in some way, (you could be on the tea/coffee rota, flower arranging, welcoming, tidying up, update the website or Facebook page - there are many jobs that get done by volunteers and you probably don't even know about them!) If you would like to know more, please chat to somebody on the staff team or task team members.

Thank you to all our task team members & volunteers for all the work they do!

> ALL ARE INVITED TO BLAST ON SAT 29TH SEPT - PLEASE PRAY FOR THIS EVENT TOO!

SATURDAY
BLAST
HARVEST SPECIAL!

WHAT?
FREE Family Fun Event with Lunch

WHERE?
St. Andrew's Parish Hall
Worden Lane, Leyland
PR25 3EL

WHEN?
Saturday 29th Sept
From 10am-12.30pm

YOU ARE INVITED TO...

Have a BLAST! at our Fab FAMILY Fun Event on Saturday 29th September from 10am til 12.30pm in St. Andrew's Parish Hall. BLAST! is a fun mix of activities for all the family with lunch included. No booking necessary - it's a just turn up and join in event! For more information please contact the Church Office on **01772 622964** or email katy.turner@standrewsleyland.org.uk

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Got a question, feedback or article?

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