



**February 2023**

Dear friends,

It's the regular time for us to send out a newsletter, but it seems even more necessary now. Several of you have reached out to see if we are safe. Thank you! If you don't know what I'm talking about, that just means you are not engrossed in international news. =)

To begin, our students and our family are safe. Peru is experiencing civil unrest and political upheaval for more than a month; we had a couple of weeks of peace over the holidays. The South (including Cusco) and Lima are at the heart of the protest demonstrations that have resulted in dozens of deaths and hundreds wounded. We grieve the loss of life and the violence that occurs. We pray for families and those who are closely affected.

The protests cause more of an inconvenience for us than a threat to our safety. Other than a few days when all roads are blocked in the city, we have attended all of our summer activities.

Protestors in the streets only mean detours and delays through narrow streets. Next, the highways throughout the country are blocked; currently, no vehicles enter or leave the valley of Cusco without special passage from the protestors. This results in a break in the supply chain. Today, propane arrived after delays of over a week. Gasoline and diesel tankers are also stopped on the highways. Each day there may be one or two gas stations open with lines down the street. Price increases for food are astronomical. In some cities, there are no vegetables to purchase; chicken is limited because of limited chicken feed. Our circumstances (mainly a safe neighborhood and financial stability) mean we are less affected than many others in the country. Please lift everyone in prayer.

The situation does not show signs of easing. Despite all of this, ministry continues. People still need to know the saving grace of Jesus Christ. It is only in him that perfect peace can be found. Current Casa del Maestro (CdM) students continue their studies and work. This week, we hope at least seven new students will arrive to begin the year-long Academy—we hope they don't have travel issues. Albino and Yoni (CdM director) will pour into the students daily; students will have classes in everything from basics of the faith to driving.

*Would you like to receive these updates digitally? Please email Kelli at [kgilmore@rca.org](mailto:kgilmore@rca.org) to be added to the email list. You will receive more timely updates from the missionary you support and help us be good stewards of our resources.*



*Thousands traveled hours from surrounding counties into the city of Cusco; some continued to Lima.*



*Propane gas is the preferred fuel for stoves and hot water heaters in nearly all homes. Today, Albino's brother stood in a line estimated to be about 5,000 people. We have reserve tanks that should last us a few months.*

Better than their classes will be the encouraging community of like-minded students; they will share life lessons learned.



*Left: Gasoline tankers lined up outside the city to deliver. We waited in two lines to fill our car's tank at the beginning of closures in January, and now we stick closer to home.*



*Right: Visiting Albino's aunt.*

Thank you once again for your encouragement and prayers. CdM ministry would not be possible without your partnership. Please stay in touch and let us know how you are doing.

Blessings,  
Albino, Sandy, and children



*Students hanging out.*