



March 2023

Dear friends,

First, we thank you for lifting Peru in your prayers over the last month. Though civil unrest continues in other parts of the country, Cusco is not greatly affected by the protests. Propane is widely available and back down to reasonable prices. Gasoline and other supplies are no longer held at checkpoints on the highways. The physical violence has also diminished.



In February, celebrations were not dampened. Carnavales were in full swing. Water and spray foam fights are enjoyed by young and old. The unwary traveler may be soaked by a reveler.



The traditional tree celebrates the abundance of the fields (it's rainy season now). The piñata type trees are "planted" in neighborhoods; dances and celebrations occur before the tree is axed down and everyone dashed for the prizes.

At Casa del Maestro (CdM, House of the Teacher) we have a full house. All ten students have arrived for the Academy's start. They are bonding as a group and finding a rhythm in their studies. The newest young man, loosely translated, said, "It is so cool to have friends to hang out with." Beyond the community environment, they are receiving a wide-ranging education. Our older students teach academic classes to prepare them for post-secondary entrance exams. They are reading through Proverbs and participating in basic Christian doctrinal classes with CdM leaders. All good preparation for this new stage in life.

The Peruvian school year officially started, and the Rodriguez family has a 2nd grader, a 4th grader, and a 6th grader. (Don't forget that we are in the Southern Hemisphere, and therefore, we experience opposite seasons from most of you.) We continue to enjoy homeschooling and are happy to continue the swimming classes that began during vacation. The kids also tried out track and field and basketball.

Before we sign off, we invite you to visit. COVID restrictions have ended and it is safe to travel to Cusco. Please reach out to explore what it involves to bring a short-term mission team, families, or individuals to serve with Casa del Maestro.

Would you like to receive these updates digitally? Please email Kelli at 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.

The doors are open for you to teach, do a work project, or participate in an intercultural exchange.

Of course, you can also plan to visit one of the Wonders of the World-*Machupicchu*. We would love to have you!

Many blessings,

Albino and Sandy Rodriguez with the CdM team



*Left: Vocational training in carpentry provided by Albino
Right: Driving lessons provided by Sandy*



Albino and Sandy, Dorian, Tobias, and Felicity