

# The Tarma Times

News from the Crouse family in Tarma, Peru  
April 2009



## A Time to Dance

How do you cap off two weeks of hard work in church construction and children's ministry? You contract an orchestra and dance!

This month we hosted a team of ten from Spring Arbor, Michigan who came to continue the church building in Yanamayo that another Spring Arbor team and local church people started last year. They were able to accomplish quite a bit including pouring a cement floor, making stairs to the second floor, and laying block for the second floor walls half-way up.



Yanamayo girls hug the rag dolls the team brought them as gifts.

In addition, they organized a children's rally (complete with an Easter egg hunt) and taught arts and crafts activities. All that called for a celebration! The church people were happy to help the team members kick up their heels and say thank you to God for what He had accomplished through all of them.



Church members and team members dance together to the music of the orchestra.

## Celebrating in Huacapo

The small church family in the mountain community of Huacapo celebrated their anniversary this month with a service and meal. We were thankful to be included in this special time to remember God's faithfulness to them for another year.

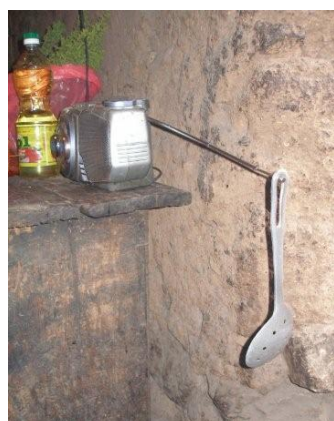


Becky enjoys the company of the ladies at Huacapo.

## Celebrating Easter

Thanks to materials brought by the Spring Arbor team, children at the local Tarma Shalom church were able to experience some special Easter activities. They learned anew about the Easter story through Resurrection Eggs that have objects inside (like a spear, crown of thorns, and a stone). They also really enjoyed finding Easter eggs, although two were hidden so well they never found them!

In the busy-ness of our daily lives, it's easy to forget what God has done in and through us. We lose sight of the fact that Jesus died for our sins and came back to life so that those sins may no longer have power over our lives. Celebrate with us today the wonderful knowledge of that fact, and may it put a little spring in your step.



The Vox Dei radio upgrade allows the signal to reach Huacapo at 12,000 ft., with a little help from this "antenna."

Thank you for your faithful support to us. We celebrate the gift you are to us and the Peruvian people.

Your partners in Peru, Becky, J.R., Marissa, and Alena Crouse



These Tarma Sunday School kids found their Easter eggs!

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You can also send your gifts electronically at:  
<http://www.fmwm.org/missionary/index/crouse.php>

### Praises

- Safe travels, good relationships, and work accomplished by the Spring Arbor team – thanks to our missionary colleagues, Pastor Garry and Pat Cruce, for their help with the team!
- Joyful Easter celebrations
- Encouraging birthday for Becky

### Prayer Requests

- FM women's conference June 5-7 in Tarma
- Tarma friends battling alcoholism
- Preparations for coffee harvest and upcoming home assignment
- Health and safety, particularly in travel (J.R. travels just about every week).
- Wisdom for parenting and homeschooling

### Upcoming events

- May 23: Becky directs a training workshop for area Sunday School teachers.
- May 20-23: J.R. participates in a Community Health Evangelism training session.
- May 24-June 2: We host Marvin DeVisser (Spring Arbor FMC) and his daughter and son-in-law to help with some projects in Tarma.

We are very thankful for all of our wonderful ministry partners who give sacrificially and with joy. Commitments to our support stand at 92% and monthly giving is nearly on target. If you would, please consider partnering with the Peru church as it seeks to touch thousands of lives for Jesus. Support is lagging for the budget that assists the Peru church with its growing ministries that need a helping hand in this initial phase (actually this is happening to many of our co-laborers in dozens of countries). To find out more click on:  
[http://www.fmwm.org/give/country\\_support\\_accounts\\_status.php](http://www.fmwm.org/give/country_support_accounts_status.php)

## Cooking in Tarma

In all the places we've lived, I've had to adapt my grocery shopping and cooking practices to deal with the reality of the situation. Here are some things you might find different if you cooked in Tarma.

1. Vegetables and fruits are bought fresh from outside vendors. Purchases are soaked in bleach water before use.
2. Whole plucked chickens are displayed in the market hanging from their feet. You pick your chicken, tell the butcher what parts you want, and he chops it up with a butcher knife on the spot. (I usually let him keep the head and feet!) Other meats are sold similarly.
3. Mayonnaise, ketchup, spaghetti sauce, and many other food items are sold in plastic bags rather than in bottles or jars.
4. Most bulk items are sold by the kilogram, including eggs. Depending on their size you can get a little over a dozen eggs in a kilo. Eggs are also packaged in plastic bags, so transport them home carefully or you will have scrambled eggs when you get home!
5. Most convenience foods like boxed cereals, baking mixes, canned vegetables and soups, and salad dressings are not available in Tarma. So, I've learned to make items from scratch, although we always keep a wish list for when we're visiting the big city or when somebody wants to send something in a care package.
6. Cakes will fall in high altitude if you don't alter the recipe. After two and a half years, I'm getting the hang of it, although sometimes I'll still have a batch overflow the pan in the oven.
7. We have a choice of at least 25 varieties of potatoes available in the local market. We can also buy fresh pineapples from the nearby tropical area for 30-60 cents each. We're privileged to have a great variety of fresh produce available, and have the option of eating Peruvian or American style food. Come join us for a meal!