

## **A Summer Mission Trip to RiverWind's Training Center in Peru**

I wanted to share a little about my week in Nuevo Italia recently with Dick and Ruth and the RiverWind Team. If you've ever been there, you know that on the first night we get together to go over the week's schedule so everyone is on the same page and knows their responsibilities. As we assembled in a circle in their living room with giant insects buzzing against the screens, I couldn't help but catch a glimpse of heaven. There were people from the rural Midwest, women from the bustling city of Lima; village pastors from remote jungle villages whose native language isn't written; even an old guy from Congo [Dick], coming together for the sole purpose of sharing the truth of the gospel, the love of Jesus and growing God's Kingdom! I was very humbled to be a part of it.

The team included a cohort of men prepping the foundation of the kitchen in anticipation for a team from Christ the Rock Community Church in Wisconsin's Fox Valley. They will build a kitchen which will give physical food to future leaders who will further share spiritual food. Also, two men who God brought together years ago, one from the US, one from Pucallpa, to create signs for the Leadership Center. They don't even speak the same language but developed a spiritual friendship over a common purpose, using their carpentry skills to serve God. Included on this trip was a nurse from Lima who taught prevention, as well as a single woman skilled at loving others by making jewelry who ministered to mothers with her talent. I could go on and on with how God works in and through a myriad of people and stories to weave His ultimate story. The topics of discussion included health, the environment, social issues, maintaining resources, being good stewards, and still more.

Ruth and Dick both need daily prayers. They are the go-to people for constant answers and solutions; from directing the workmen to move a sink three different times in order to leave enough space for a future kitchen wall, to a late-night discussion about nutrition with a Shipibo

pastor who was concerned about his wife's health. Ruth is called on to be the building supervisor, nutritionist, kitchen and meal supervisor, translating recipes and leading her staff in planning food correctly; developing curriculum, organizing it all, leading a teacher's seminar, being a translator, and still more. It is constant and would be overwhelming without a continual leaning on the God of Wonders. God has uniquely equipped both of them for the ministry of Riverwind and I'm thankful for each of you reading this that have committed to use your talents, prayers and gifts to support it all.