



Greetings from Lima!

Well, I think it's pretty safe to say that 2020 was not the year any of us expected! Despite it's many challenges, 2020 has been a year of growth for all of us.

Way back in March, Will started half-day bilingual preschool, which after 6 short days of in-person classes, turned into a online at-home program. His teacher, Miss Dani, captivated his heart and truly has made virtual preschool fun. Since 3 year olds can't really use Zoom on their own (although, Will probably knows more about the platform than we do now!), nor are they adept to independent study, one of us accompanies him for his two daily Zoom calls and video lessons sent by his teachers. While it was not our plan originally, to accompany Will to preschool, it has been a joy to see him interact with his classmates and teachers and see how much Spanish he has learned over these past few months. Daily, we are proud of his accomplishments.

Also in March, the country of Peru entered a mandatory quarantine that was much stricter than any restrictions put in place in the United States and lasted a total of 107 days (ending on June 30th). For the first few months of quarantine, the entire country was shut down and the only reason we could leave our apartment to go grocery shopping, to the pharmacy or to the bank. No restaurants were open (not even for take-out or delivery) and anything that was not a grocery store or pharmacy was closed. The border was closed and all flights and land crossings were cancelled. Masks were required 100% of the time when outside of your house, only 1 adult could leave the house at a time and for the first 65 days of quarantine, Will was not allowed to leave our apartment at all.

Health-wise, Peru was not doing well. When the quarantine started, there were approximately 100 ICU beds country-wide and they were quickly filled. By the beginning of July, that number had substantially increased. For many weeks, Peru fluctuated between spot 5 and 6 on the world scale of percentage of population infected with Coronavirus, and the country has been at the top of the deaths per population ranking for months. It wasn't until August, that the country had a better grasp on the virus and positivity trend started to go down. COVID-19 hit Peru hard and its wake will leave years of financial recovery for the country.

As time goes on, restrictions have loosened and we are able to leave the house as a family. More stores and restaurants are open for delivery and in-person shopping and dining. The international borders have reopened and people are moving around more than before. Thankfully, despite all of this, our numbers are still going down.





With our ministry partners, Paths of Hope, we have adjusted our original plans to fit our new reality of staying at home and transitioned from in-person gatherings to virtual meetings. We both have been able to participate in online trainings that we would not have been able to do had they been held in person. Billy has also been meeting with a few young men (virtually at first, now socially distanced) to walk alongside them as they navigate sickness, living on their own or starting their life over after being released from prison.

Over the past 6 months, Paths of Hope has started a partnership with Health Bridges International to develop and implement a peer mentorship program for young adults who have graduated from a children's home. One of the things we have noticed is that as young adults leave a children's home, there still is a need for continued guidance. Billy has started working with one young man as the program is being put together and training him to be the first peer mentor for other aged-out young men. Likewise with Health Bridges, we are developing and implementing a staff training curriculum that is evidence-based and rooted in best practices for the two children's homes in their care. COVID-19 has given us time to work on developing these two projects, but has also slowed our progress.

As we look towards Christmas, we are remembering the greatest gift that God became man and dwelt among us so that we might know His love forever. Because of this, we are truly blessed.

Would you please join us in praying for these few things:

- For Will, as his school year ends on December 18th and summer vacation starts. He will begin pre-kindergarten in early March 2021!
- For the Paths of Hope ministry programs that are growing and adapting to a new normal.
- For connections with new financial supporters, and for the continued support and encouragement from our current supporters.
- For Peru, as the economy is rebuilt after the devastating toll COVID-19 has taken on the country and for the families that have lost somebody due to the virus.

We are thankful for each and every person who is supporting our ministry – whether it be through financial giving or prayer support. We would not be able to do what we do without your help!

With love and a big hug,

Billy, Kate and Will Greenman

Merry Christmas!

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR UPDATES AT 12DEGREESSOUTH.COM FOR MORE STORIES (AND LOTS OF PHOTOS!) OF WHAT WE ARE DOING IN LIMA.

