

Dear Family and Friends,

This is just a quick update about the rain situation. It really is quite serious. A few cars have been buried or deposited in drainages below bridges. Some houses have filled with mud and rock, destroying much of the belongings inside. The highway to Lima was cut off by a giant flashflood/mud flow. A bridge in the north part of Arequipa has been severely damaged causing problems for all the traffic going to Puno, Cusco, and Colca. Another bridge in our part of Arequipa was destroyed cutting off one of the families that normally attend our Wednesday night Bible study. And just yesterday we went to Uchumayo to help out Sonia and her family. She and the two girls attend our Saturday Bible study. They are not Christians but are faithful in attendance. Her husband does not attend, I believe because of his work schedule. Anyways, as you will see in the photos, a mudslide (or better said, a sandslide) entered their house and filled up 2 of the 3 rooms halfway with sand. Fortunately they heard the noise of the approaching danger and climbed up to higher ground and weren't killed or swept away. The family has almost nothing and much of what they had was destroyed. It looks like the clothing will be salvageable. The furniture was destroyed. The food was destroyed. The school supplies for the new school year that starts very soon were all destroyed. The cash that was in the house was destroyed. And now the local mayor and the president of the cooperative want to move her to another property that is safer. The problem is that the other property has an owner. This will only cause problems and possibly put the family in risk of violence. Angela was able to visit a little with Sonia, while I pushed a wheelbarrow. We also left some donated clothes and food with them to help out for a little while. To top it all off, this village has only one entrance and it is a railroad crossing. Because of the rain, the train derailed in the railroad crossing blocking the only entrance and exit for the roughly 700 persons that live there. That doesn't include the 300 or so others that, like us, have property there and enter regularly.

Please pray for Sonia and her family. They are sleeping in the community center for now while they clean out the house. Although we desire that they can return to their house soon, we especially ask prayer for their salvation, without which, nothing else matters. Also please pray that we will have good weather and roads to make the trip to Tapay in Colca Canyon next week and also for the meetings in Tuti the 7th and 8th of March.

Finish Strong,
Jeff and Angela Anderson

L to R with Angela:
Jaime and Brenda
(Sonia's daughters)
Anderson and Jesús
*(Sonia's nephews, and
yes Anderson is a first
name here in Peru.)*





Here you can see where around 3'-4' of sand was deposited, lifting up the bed and destroying the dressers.

Here we are hauling the sand out of the house. We are standing on 2'-3' of deposited sand.
(yes that's me in the middle of the photo)



Another view of the depth of sand deposited upstream from the house. It was partially cut through by water after being deposited.