Dear Friends,

I sincerely hope that you are well and bearing up in whatever situation this newsletter finds you. I'm grateful to report that I continue in good health and encouraged by the Lord’s work here in Loreto and I'm pleased to be able to share some of this with you!

For those of you who have been following the work of the Training Centre for a while now, you may already anticipate that October is a Pastor's Training Week month and we are in the middle of that week, as I write.

I've been especially excited about one particular session this week. As you may know, one of the strands of our training course syllabus is called 'Living Well' and it encompasses creation stewardship, health and hygiene and productive projects. We encourage the pastors, who are invariably un-paid by their congregations and whose congregations are either living at or just above subsistence level, to make plans and act with faith, to improve the material condition of their own families, as well as to plan projects that will be beneficial in their churches. This can be a hard-sell for a number of cultural reasons, even though the Bible speaks quite explicitly about the value of work and providing for your family.

Nevertheless, Pr. Humberto Nogueira (pictured below at his fish-farm and above at the Training Centre this week), from the town of Samito, on the Nanay River, had been particularly encouraged by this teaching, probably because he already had something of an survivalist-entrepreneurial streak in his character. Since completing the course a couple of years ago, every time we visited him we saw a new project in his home, like a new bread oven or a new vegetable allotment. Another time he explained that his church was embarking on a fish-farm project. After visiting him again to see how the project was going and to talk to him in-depth about what his plans and ideas were, I knew we had to invite him back to the Training Course, not as a student but as a speaker and to share his testimony with our current students. This is only the second time that we've felt confident to invite a student back as a teacher and we continue to pray for more opportunities to do this.

At the end of this week we will also be thanking two of our UK colleagues for their work supporting the Training Centre during about a decade, since its beginnings when the site was just grass and trees and the Iquitos Baptist Association was just a group of pastors with a vision. Pr. Neil and Lori Brighton are moving on to new projects and this Training Week may be the last one that Neil will be principal speaker at. Fittingly, he is teaching on the End Times!

We hope to give them a good send-off (cake will certainly be involved) and to show them how important their contribution to the Training Centre, as a project supported by BMS-World Mission through individual churches, individual volunteers and Insight Teams (and Action Teams), has been.
Perseverance has also paid off in our plans to add English teaching to our gamut of capacity-building activities. This week will be my second week teaching English revision classes at Nauta's Technical College, working primarily with the students and teachers of the Tourism Course. It is great to finally be able to respond to this need in a wider way. I hope that the relationships built through this assistance will enable us to run more effective short courses at the Training Centre during the holiday months, preferably with the participation of some of the college's teachers. Not to mention that when we are running our own courses, we have greater freedom to share faith and the Word with the students. Your prayers for me and the students (or should that be 'the students and I'…?) are greatly appreciated!

Some useful conversations have also been had with the college Director about a collaboration with the rural nursing technician course (my paraphrase of the course title) to help the Training Centre acquire an educational medicinal plant garden. This is a project that has been on my mind for a long time, but this is the first year that the College is running this course which includes teaching on identification and appropriate uses of local medicinal plants. The Lord always knows the best timing for His projects.

Finally, we are all looking forward to the arrival of our Action Team in two weeks' time. They are Erin, Jacob and Sophie and I will be meeting them off the plane in Lima and accompanying them to Arequipa where they will stay for a month of intensive language tuition before moving to Iquitos in November.

Please pray for them as they prepare to travel and for us as we prepare to receive them.

Thank you all for your prayers and support.

Love,

Laura

If you would like to support Laura-Lee Lovering by prayer and committed regular giving, visit bmsworldmission.org/partners or call 01235 517617 for a 247 Partners leaflet.