

**News and Prayer Requests from
Julio & Norma Montoya in Lima, Peru**



The hole



From Isabel Montoya, daughter of Julio and Norma, director of the child day care centre and primary school run from Julio and Norma's vicarage home

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We want to give thanks in the name of Our Lord, for all your effort in helping us and supporting the work, which we are doing for our Lord.

Today [21 July], in the morning, I received the news that the ceiling of the class of the 4 year olds fell in the night. All the tables were broken and much cement and stones fell. I was very upset, I wept a lot, thanking God that the children were not in the classroom. If they had been I would have endured something terrible with them, but thanks to God that he sent his angels while the children were there.



The rubble

Today, Monday, the children in the 4 year olds class returned to the church and we are setting up a provisional classroom for them. We have to demolish the ceilings and repair them. I do not know how we shall do this, and we are asking you to help us and be able to tell our donating friends what has happened, that the Lord touches their hearts according to his will. We are combining our family's pensions so that we can pay the wages of the teachers and what according to the law is also due to them for national holidays. What you send us is to improve the meals and the lunches of the children in the child day care centres. Thank you for sending us what is a great blessing for us.

We are following Christ and we teach the children, teenagers, young people and families to follow Him, fulfilling the Great Commission to lift up the Word of the Lord. The work with the children is beautiful. They receive the Gospel and they believe in their hearts. The work with the teenagers is more difficult because of their need. They are victims of poverty and being abandoned by their family. We visit them in their homes, in their estates, in the school, and we support them in every way we can, always showing them the love of God in everything that we do, although we cannot enroll them in order for them to study, i.e. the three young ones which we cannot help (Alexis, Jerel and Marcos) because we do not have grants for them. But we are praying much that through you and other people you can look to one another and support them with grants to study.

We are organising a spiritual retreat, *Camp Dare... To Follow Him*. We have made things like chicken patties and 'dungeons' [!!!] to sell, to collect funds for our camp. Compassion International is helping us with 50%, but, although we are short of being able to take more young people to meet the Lord, we have 30 children that are not sponsored by Compassion and 7 live in extreme poverty; they have no family; they do not have the means to buy to eat, they

do not have clothing and they are into gangs and drugs. We support them with a meal 3 times a week. There is much to do, and we support in all 30 children between 5 and 17 years who do not have godparents [*godparents are expected to support in Peru*], and we are searching for funds to support them and to show the love of God. In spite of everything that they are living through, we love them and accept them without distinction. At times it is very difficult, but God controls every situation, thanks to Him.

Thank you for your love. The Lord bless you greatly and your families. A hug.

In reply to our enquiry about costs by phone on 22 July, on 23 July Isabel wrote:

Hi, brother Gerry and sister Evelyn, greeting you in the love of Christ and thanking you for your support and love.

Estimate for a provisional repair of the ceiling and passageway

Labour and repair = USD 3,500. The ceilings of the downstairs and the second floor [UK first floor] ought to be changed because they are very bad.

Estimate to change the ceilings and make security columns and reinforce the walls of the whole house

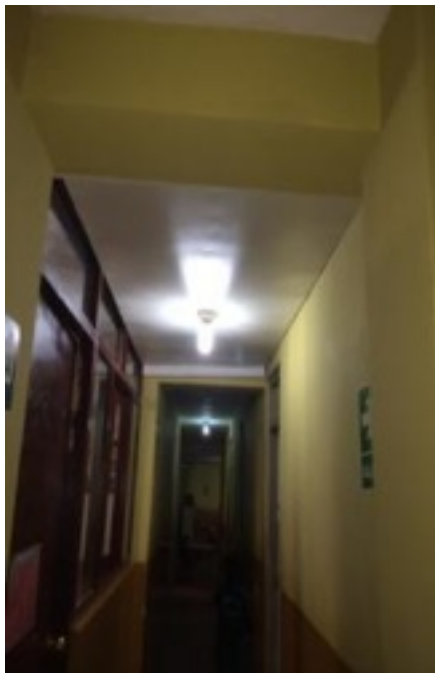
2 ceilings of the first and second floors [UK ground and first floors] 100 m² and passageway. Labour and construction materials.

10 columns with footings for security. plastering and construction materials. USD 17,000.

I say goodbye in the love of Christ.

Blessings, brothers and sisters.

In Christ, Isabel Montoya.



Passageway

We responded briefly before going on holiday that the costs exceeded our initial expectations. While we were on holiday Isabel wrote [4 August],

Hi, brother Gerry and sister Evelyn. Greetings in the name of Jesus. Over and above, all the ceilings in the house of the first floor and second floor have to be changed, to throw them away and have new ones, with a new structure, strong columns for the whole house except those which are in the newly built part, walls, plastering panels, floors on the ground and first floor. Manual labour and completing works. To throw away very much more than at present, because at present only the plastering panels of the ceilings are being replaced. The estimate is all which it will cost us to repair the house with a new and secure infrastructure. Besides the second floor would be lifted above the vicarage for more classrooms. The cost which I sent is the real total of all this would cost us.

And for repairs we have to throw out ceilings of a classroom which did not fall, of the passageway, of my office which were weakened with the fall, though they were already very weak. Today I was cleaning the remaining classrooms and arranging to do this. To sort them out for December, I was hoping to throw out a ceiling of the first floor classroom, dining room, Erika's room and the passageway. All this is very weak and with the humidity from the heavy rains it became weaker still.

But we do not have money for this. So we shall have to sort out in a rapid way **only** the ceilings of the ground floor (school) to receive the children this Monday [11 August] who return from their two weeks of holiday. We were not able to do anything during last week because of lack of money, but today my father lent [some] to begin the works which are urgent!!, to throw out those ceilings and cover them with Nordex or drywall, the classrooms of 4 and 5 year olds, the office and the passageway because we have to have them ready for Monday. I have fear for the children. They were taught in the church for one week and afterwards departed for the holidays. Now we want to arrange the whole matter, so that they can be fine these coming days.

Thank you for your prayers, beloved brothers and sisters. A thousand blessings on you and your families. Our camp was extraordinary, of great help to our young people. We sold chicken patties for two weeks, but thanks be to God for his provision. Compassion International came up with 1000 soles [GBP 256] for the camp and this helped us a lot. And it was a time of much blessing and we were able to take our children. We were not able to take more but those which were there were as the Lord planned it. It is his work and we are simply workers. Thanks for your prayers and support. We love you dear brothers and sisters.

Many blessings, In Christ Jesus

Isabel Montoya

On our return from holiday we read the above email and replied on 13 August that the necessary work appeared now much larger than was listed in the estimates sent in July, and asked questions about a possible need for independent assessors of the necessary work, the responsibilities of the builder in light of his recent workmanship, the liability of the diocese who own the vicarage and the school, a recent donation which might in part contribute to this need of the children, and a concern that Julio is having to find finance. Isabel replied to this enquiry on the same day:

Hi brother Gerry. Thanks for your reply and letter, following which I shall reply to each question.

If you read the first letter [23 July] in the first letter I explain in a rough and ready way what has to be done. For the refurbishment everything is as I explained in that letter, except that in the later letter [4 August] I explain with more details. We have not altered nor added anything in the construction. The estimate is the same and the refurbishments are what I explained from the beginning. We have not increased anything from what I have told you already. As for consulting others, I have personally had experience of one with the first roof of the church, which fell after 5 years following the consultancy advice, because the material which they put on was not the material recommended for this zone. But if you would like him to come and take a look, at the damage and all that it will cost, I have no problem if this would help.

I consulted and worked with an architect from the Ministry of Education to make plans. He made the plan and the modifications when we opened the school in 2004 because then this was a house (where we were living and had rooms and a lounge) and the architect of the Ministry made the plans and modified the whole house, at that time making as a school only the ground floor with the approval of the Ministry of Education. Here if the work is for a school an architect comes from the Ministry and inspects the construction and verifies that it is done in line with the plans. He comes and we pay him his travel expenses only (because architects have a very high tariff). What is more, there are reassurances which are needed, in accordance with the vision of the work, cost, area, and the number of people who would be coming into the place and other things like electricity, water, sewage, security points in case of earthquake, air, light and other things. We have talked through these aspects and other matters which are necessary for the construction. We have not planned to make any improvisation, although in the case of construction and modification the estimates are not exact because always unforeseen things arise. No one can say exactly what one can cost in a construction. But we could not have an improvised estimate; it would not have been possible to have sent an estimate if the costs had not been calculated beforehand.

Concerning the builder, he is a master of works, as are the architect and other collaborators. What the builder constructed are the classrooms in the part behind the house and they are in perfect condition.



The builder working on the rooms at the back of the house

We have to improve and change the ceilings which remain in the front of the house, since they are very old in construction and we have to place new columns which are very secure and strong, ceilings and floors and toilets and windows and much to repair. All this costs a lot of money I know, but it is something we just have to do to safeguard the life of the children and to continue with the work of the school helping the most needy and weak and unprotected and the children who are the most vulnerable.

To my knowledge Shalom [*a recently opened care centre nearby for disabled children and their families*] cost more than 120,000 dollars in modifications in the new house. But it is ironic because we do not have all the contacts who support Shalom. We do not have this quantity of contacts who would support us, although for us Peruvians it is more difficult to search for donors. But we can work and pray much that, through those who visit us and might know what we are doing for the Lord just like yourselves and the friends and other who support us, we could recover funds for this end.

Yes, the Diocese is in charge but it has no disposable funds. What is more the projects of the diocese have their own donors and everything arrives designated and we are obliged, each one, to seek for donors. The diocese will lend us this week 3000 soles, [*GBP 770*], (which we have to repay if there is a donor who wishes to help. They recover the loan, and this is fine because we have to repay anyway). Because we did not have money, my father lent from that which you sent 1,500 soles, [*GBP 285*], for the repairs which we are doing. We have covered with timbers the ceilings of the classroom for the 4 year olds, of the office and the passageway, which are the most affected and at this moment we are fitting out a large room on the third floor in the new

construction, which is the part behind the house. One has to put a ceiling, floors, windows and doors so that the children can go up to these classrooms till the end of the school year, because it is very dangerous to be here, and we cannot take them to the church because the ceilings are bad and rain comes in. What is more there was an earth tremor in the early morning on Tuesday, and this has us more frightened and we are doing simulated protection exercises each day with the children.

I hope my reply is good for you and friends. I am sending photos for your information.

Thanks for your concern and support.

Blessings and hugs,

In Christ

Isabel Montoya