

Transformed



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A newsletter of TMS Global



A Quechua woman sells food in a park in Huancayo, Peru.

Good news in the mountains

Two decades of proclaiming the gospel in the Andes

Huancayo, Peru, is situated in a valley within the Andes mountains. For Arthur and Mary Alice Ivey, the most ordinary of events—a walk to the park or a trip to the mall—becomes a breathtaking experience as they are dazzled by a view of the foothills.

Mary Alice says she never gets tired of looking at these mountains. She and Arthur moved here more than 22 years ago with a desire to see the Peruvian people set free from bondage and come alive in Christ. For the past couple of decades, God has been answering that prayer.

Freedom in Christ

Willie is a waiter in a restaurant in Huancayo. He noticed Arthur and Mary Alice and their three kids, who were regulars at the eating place. At the time, Willie was trying to quit drinking and was curious about God. Somehow, he knew the Iveys were Christian. Eventually, Arthur presented Christ to Willie.

“I prayed to see Jesus in my heart, and it started a whole new life for me,” Willie says. He was freed from alcohol addiction and started participating in discipleship groups with Arthur.

“Jesus forgives our sins, and He continues to teach us more,” Willie says. “I would really like for all

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people to know that freedom so that their lives would be much better. The love of Jesus is so great, we just can't understand it. I'm forgiven, and Christ says to me, 'I love you,' and He tells me I'm important to Him."

Willie's neighbors have noticed a change in his family, which has opened the door to share the gospel with them, and some neighbors have accepted Christ. Willie tells his coworkers about Jesus, too.

"I'm so certain that Christ is with me," Willie says.

Discipleship group

We visit a discipleship group in a Huancayo neighborhood. Tonight's meeting is led by Beto, a Peruvian who is Arthur's right-hand-man and is now the official director of the ministry. He discipless people, trains leaders, and leads groups. He also leads a farm project, which the Iveys began to help supplement the cost of ministry.

"My favorite times are when I'm able to teach," Beto says.

As Arthur and Mary Alice transition out of Peru and back to life in the United States, they leave ministry in the hands of Beto and other Peruvians, which was always their intention from the beginning. "We knew that if we didn't multiply what God has given us then there would be nothing that would last," Arthur says.

The discipleship ministry started with three groups of about 12 people in the Iveys' home. By 2019, before the pandemic, it was estimated there were 10,000 people involved in hundreds of groups with hundreds of leaders.

There are now discipleship groups in regions of Peru that the Iveys have never been to. Even in the Huancayo area, there are discipleship groups full of people they've never met.



Arthur Ivey speaks at a Kids' Club.

Kids' club

Arthur and Mary Alice usually no longer attend Kids' Club—again opting to leave leadership in the hands of Peruvians instead. But Mary Alice still remembers the dance moves to the songs played during the meeting.

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She says when she began, she had three goals for the Kids' Clubs: that children would accept Jesus as their Savior and Lord, that they'd learn to depend on Him every day and live like a true Christian, and that they'd be able to share the gospel. "I want kids to know the Lord and to know how special they are," Mary Alice says. "They were created by Him for a purpose."

Come see

About 15 years ago, the Iveys began praying and researching the spiritual climate of the area. They learned there was a history of violence, violence against women, violence against children, human sacrifices, and witchcraft.

They began praying for the people who were caught up in bondage in those things. Arthur says, "I believe a lot of that prayer we had early on affected the



Arthur and Mary Alice Ivey have served in Huancayo, Peru, for more than 20 years.

growth in the ministry. It created a spiritual life that people in darkness were drawn to. So many of the people in our group—I really can't explain how they got there. A lot of them showed up at the door, came with somebody else, or heard about us somewhere. Relationships are the key to spreading the gospel. Here it's kind of like disciples calling their brother. I met Jesus. Come see."

Beautiful feet

"How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news."
Isaiah 52:7, NIV

Many years ago, before coming to Peru, Arthur had a vision. In this vision, he went to heaven, and Jesus came out with a towel to wash Arthur's feet. Jesus said, "Arthur, your feet aren't dirty. If you'd gone to the dirty places of the world, your feet would have gotten dirty." It made Arthur weep, and he never wanted to see this vision again. So he and Mary Alice went and got their feet dirty. And they're all the more beautiful for it. Because of the Lord's work and the Iveys' obedience, there are now beautiful feet carrying the Good News all over the Andes Mountains in Peru.

By Jenifer Jones

Celebrating God's faithfulness

This year TMS Global turned 40! We kicked off the celebration with a January 5-7 event in Atlanta. A large group of TMS Global family and friends from around the world joined us in a multitude of activities and programming for adults and children alike.

The weekend was glorious beyond our imaginings. Attendees shared meals with cross-cultural witnesses. We reunited with old friends and made new ones. And in the gatherings, we heard story after story of what God is doing in hearts around the world—in places like Thailand, Central and South Asia, Nicaragua, Ghana, and the Middle East.

Among the stories we heard was the beautiful one in these pages—of Arthur and Mary Alice Ivey and how, for 22 years, they have served among the people of the Andes making disciples who are making disciples.

Stories like the Iveys' over these past 40 years have been made possible because of the faithfulness of God and our ministry partners. I am grateful for you and for your passion to make Jesus known.



Max A. Wilkins

Max Wilkins
President & CEO

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