

Greetings!

Well I finally arrived back in Lima, Peru on Friday 16th July and have been encouraged by the perseverance and ministry of the church community in Shalom during the 9 months of my absence. They have continued to worship through the WhatsApp platform and serve others through the soup kitchen which started back in March, fulfilling a much-needed provision to the church and community especially in this time of political and economic instability. God has been so faithful to them through the second wave and continuing pandemic situation and also to me as I waited in the UK, listening to him and trusting in his timing.

Thank you all so much for your continual support and it was good to be able to connect with you through virtual encounters, videos, zooms and some of you even face to face. So I send you this update to let you know officially that after 21 years of ministry I now feel that it's time for me to step back from Shalom and Peru and return permanently to the UK. Diocesan Bishop Jorge Aguilar presided over a special service in Shalom on Sunday 15th August where the Shalom family were told the news and I shared testimony of God's faithfulness throughout the years and the burden I now feel to return to my family after all these years we have been apart.

The Shalom family continues on in God's good hands and under the dedicated leadership of Revd. Raul Taibe who since joining Shalom in January has served so faithfully. I truly give thanks for God's timing in what have been very difficult circumstances but God has given me peace and confirmation of this important decision I have made with him. The church moves forward with a group of committed Christians who I have seen grow so much through the years and especially through the challenges and trials during the Peru COVID pandemic. They have a strong commitment to remain connected to God and with each other and serve others in a shared vulnerability, especially with the disabled community around them.

One aspect remains pending, the therapy project, but when the time is right God will show the Peruvian leadership the way forward and the ministry which grew so strongly in the past years will once again develop as he sees appropriate, to serve and support those living with disabilities in that area.

My future is not so clear but I wait for God to open the next chapter and put before me the way to go. During my recent time in the UK God spoke over many issues and I look forward to discerning his will and pursuing new opportunities with him. I return permanently to the UK at the beginning of December and hopefully at the beginning of next year will be able to visit you all to thank you in person for your support and partnership during these 21 years. Please continue to pray for Peru in this bicentenary year - 200 years since independence - and also with the ongoing challenges of COVID 19 and political changes and uncertainty.

I have quoted from Psalm 40: 5 before: 'Many, LORD my God, are the wonders you have done, the things you planned for us. None can compare with you; were I to speak and tell of your deeds, they would be too many to declare.' That's certainly true and I thank God so much for the privilege of experiencing such amazing things and having the opportunity to share my life and faith with so many wonderful people in Peru and in the UK. Thank you for the part you have played in all these amazing memories and experiences. What a privilege it's been and the ministry continues on...

Blessings and love

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