



# Men Women of Action Puerto Bermudez PERU Missions Project

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## Go Along For A “Mission’s” Adventure of A Lifetime

A team of nine men set out on an adventurous “Mission’s” trip to Puerto Bermudez, Peru, which is located across the Andes Mountains in the jungle regain on the Palcazu River, a tributary of the Amazon River. Team members spent up to twelve hours flying from the USA into Lima, Peru arriving about 10:30 p.m. After arriving in Lima the team was met at the airport by Wayne Wozniak. Wayne and his wife Phyllis are missionaries and Bible School directors for the Church of God Bible Institute. Wayne would be spending the next two weeks with the Mission’s team. After spending the night and attending two church services on Sunday in newly organized churches, the team was ready for the jungles. On Monday the team left for an eight-hour bus ride over the Andes Mountains which consisted mostly of hairpin turns and steep inclines. Upon reaching La Merced, Peru a night of rest was welcomed in preparation for the next day truck ride.



At five o’clock in the morning two pick-up trucks arrived to carry the team on to Puerto Bermudez which turned out to be a nine-hour ride through the jungle. Immediately upon leaving La Merced the road rapidly began to deteriorate. A short distance out of town the Peruvian police stopped the trucks and money was given to go on. The nine-hour trip covered only a little over 100 miles of a very rough road. Many streams and rivers had to be crossed without bridges with water almost coming inside the trucks. Many sections of the road was only mud ruts and at times you thought it impossible to get through. When looking out to one side many times it would be straight down for several hundred feet. Upon meeting another vehicle coming in the opposite direction someone had to give and find a wide spot to pass. At one location the Peruvian police were setting along side the road and stopped our truck. We were advised there had been bandits along a section of the road and it would be best they ride with us. After about ten miles and no trouble the police got out and flagged down another truck going in the opposite direction.



After arriving in Puerto Bermudez a town of about 2,000 people, the team was met by Pastor Brigido of the local Church of God. After settling in at the local hotel... which was OK, but had no hot water, the team went to view the church project for which they had come to work on. The wall and columns were up and our project was to construct the roof. The church building was much larger and taller than any other building in town. Roof truss were to be made out of 1.5” angle iron. Truss parts had to be welded together for a combined length of 56 feet, 5 foot high at one end tapering down to 6 inches on over hangs. A major challenge faced the team...electric power was supplied by a town generator and the electricity was on only from 8 o’clock in the morning until 4 p.m. in the afternoon. Three welding machines were tried out as there wasn’t enough current to run the welders. After some engineering one welding machine was OK to use. Angle iron had to be cut using a grinding wheel. Bamboo scaffolding was erected inside the entire building for the installation of truss.





The team enjoyed attending local worship services on Thursday and Saturday nights as well as Sunday night. Small gifts and candy were distributed to all children in attendance during the Sunday night service. On Sunday the team traveled by both truck and boat to a small Asheninka Indian village. This was a very difficult trip as the truck became stuck in the mud, the river was running high with a lot of



trash as well as hitting tree limbs due to recent rains. The team was welcomed by a very excited jungle church pastor. The team prayed in the small church, Bibles presented and an offering was given to them. Food for the time spent in the jungle was mostly chicken and rice...rice and chicken.

Upon returning to Lima, team members visited the Bible Institute and were greeted by several students. The results from the training received at the Bible Institute are very visible throughout Peru. A rewarding part of the trip was visiting four churches and feeding centers in the Lima area. One of the churches has 80 people in attendance but they are worshipping on a dirt floor with benches that have no backs. The team members were able to pray with each pastor, his wife and bless each church with an offering.



Several veteran team members commented this trip topped all previous MWOA trips. Just getting to the project location was a three-day challenging and exciting experience...plus we had the same experiences coming back. All Mission projects may not be this exciting or demanding on the body, but if you have an interest in being a part of a life changing experience please see your local church Mission's director.

