

Onwards and upwards



PYE Bolivia campaigns to mobilise the church and community against domestic violence and child sexual abuse.

A big THANK YOU to all of you who have read updates, prayed and supported Paz y Esperanza financially throughout 2013. Happy 2014!

We are delighted to share with you that thanks to your very generous gifts PYE UK reached its target of raising £12,000 in 2013!

Each of the Paz y Esperanza teams in Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia have just received a gift of £4,000 each, which may seem small and insubstantial, but is actually vital support in a situation where many donors have pulled out of Latin America. They would love to share with you what important work this is supporting.

Paz y Esperanza Ecuador has developed an annual training program to raise awareness about violence against women and the sexual abuse of children.

Loida Carriel, Director of PYE Ecuador reports that, '...In 2013, thanks to donations from Paz y Esperanza UK, we had 40 students on the training course, including 'Cristina', an evangelical Baptist church sister from Guayaquil. The training she received allowed her to understand that the 30 years of violence that she had received at the hands of her husband were not part of God's plan. 'Cristina' was trained and empowered and bravely decided to start an independent life free of violence. She has since opened her own beauty salon, and a kitchen buffet to support her family.

She has also resumed her nursing course at university. She is currently helping to develop the campaign to prevent violence against women in the churches and actively helps PYE's Women's Support Network.

Roger Mendoza, Director of PYE Peru, explains how money donated by PYE UK is helping in the legal defence of dozens of families whose lives were devastated by political violence.

One such family was that of Irene Quispe, a survivor of the murder of six Christians, who were worshipping in a Presbyterian Church, by a military patrol in the Peruvian Andes on 1 August 1984.

Thirty years on, she has bravely given testimony on this case, accusing the high command of the Peruvian national army of six counts of murder, in the hope of securing justice for those whose lives were brutally taken.

Now Irene and many other families affected by the political violence are on the verge of hearing the judiciary's verdict. Generous donations from Paz y Esperanza UK support Irene and many dozens like her to be encouraged and supported throughout this often traumatic and daunting long road to justice.

Eva Morales, Director of PYE Bolivia shares how PYE UK's donation has made an enormous difference to the operational efficiency of the Bolivia office's administration and accounting system. She says, 'until now we had a manual accounting system, now this fund can buy a computerised accounting system to streamline our accounting processes, and to strengthen our care and prevention of abuse and sexual violence against women and children.'



Pastor Alfonso

Mobilising the Church in Ecuador

Alfonso López Soto is a Baptist Pastor in Guayaquil, Ecuador, a marginalised community where many women and children are abused and mistreated. When he began preaching, Pastor López said he did not have a full understanding of the Gospel of Jesus.

He said, "I spoke about Jesus a lot, but I was not taking any concrete steps to care for the needs of my community."

Paz y Esperanza invited him to participate in workshops they were running on Child Abuse Prevention, and Prevention of Violence against Women. As a result, Pastor López came to understand that the Kingdom of God includes a commitment to the vulnerable in his community.

Within his church, he started a basic discipleship course to challenge church members to reach out and care for people in need. He says "I began to create initiatives to act out Jesus' mission in our community." He set up a project for the prevention of violence against women, leading workshops on the issue of child sexual abuse within his church and in the community, and has also involved his church in a campaign to fight against poverty in Ecuador.

3 out of every 10 children in Ecuador have been sexually abused before they reach 16 years of age. (Univision – USA)

In Ecuador out of 1000 crimes reported only 5 result in charges and convictions. (Endemian Report)

"I think our job as men and women is to imitate a God who loves justice. We must remember the Lord's ministry. He freed the chains of the oppressed. He consoled and restored. He healed the pain of the people. This is tiring work, and we may not always see change, but in the long run, the Lord responds. He has it all in his hands. He allows us to see that change is possible. We need to show this to the world."

Jose Vincés, Pastor, PYE Ecuador.

PLEASE PRAY:

- Thank God that PYE UK has reached its target of raising £12,000 in 2013, and that the three offices can each spend £4,000 on vital work, impacting many lives.
- Pray that each of the PYE teams would be able to discern how best to take action throughout the coming year.
- That justice will be secured for the Peruvian families who lost loved ones as a result of political violence.

BOOK A SPEAKER to visit your small group or church, to equip you to stand alongside those silenced by oppression and injustice across Latin America.

Email gdavies@pazyesperanza.org to explore this option.

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