Greetings from Jill and Papo, now serving in Huaycan de Cieneguilla, Peru!

We wrote an update letter, then realized that for those of our prayer and support team who don’t keep up with us on Facebook, where we post regular updates and prayer requests, we need to go back to the beginning and give you an overview starting from January 2020.

After concluding my ministry with Avancemos Mission in Colombia in December of 2019, I said goodbye to my church family and friends in Bogota, Colombia, and boarded a plane to Lima, Peru. My years of calling my ministry “Barefoot in Bogota” had ended and a new life of village ministry and church discipleship and leadership with my soon-to-be husband Papo Jaulis was about to begin!
First of all, we got married!

Thank you to all who joined us over Facebook Livestream January 11,

...and to the handful of family and friends who were able to travel to Lima, Peru to be with us in person!
Thanks to the generosity of one of our ministry partners in the States, we bought our first car from this precious gentleman! This vehicle has greatly expanded the reach of our ministry in Huaycan. We are so thankful!

God provided a house for us to rent in the village of Huaycan de Cieneguilla (sounds like Why-can) where the church plant that we are ministering to is located, about an hour SE of Lima, Peru.

We moved here on March 3, 2020.

On March 6

the first case of COVID19 in Peru was discovered.
On March 11, while we were in the middle of teaching classes, the president of Peru announced that all the schools would be closed until the first of April because of the COVID19 outbreak. That same day we found out that three cases of COVID19 had been confirmed in a nearby neighborhood clinic.

On March 15, less than two weeks after we moved to Huaycan de Cieneguilla, the president announced that, starting at 2am the following day, no one would be allowed to leave their house – with very few exceptions - for the next two weeks. (Those two weeks got extended over and over again. We ended up being in a lockdown for the next three months.)

Less than two weeks after we moved to Huaycan de Cieneguilla, Peru was on a very strict lockdown and we were about to get sick ourselves.

From a WhatsApp message to my parents:

They’re disinfecting 😞

I think it’s bleach water. They even sprayed the trees in the park! 🌱

They even sprayed our house 🤷

They were playing hero music... 😊
That following month we were both quite sick with what a health worker told us was COVID19. Our names, address, etc. were put on a 1-800 hotline list that we could call if we needed an ambulance, but otherwise we were instructed to just quarantine ourselves to avoid spreading the virus to others.

While we were slowly recovering and stuck in our house, we turned our efforts back to ministering to the little congregation of The Refuge Church in Huaycan. Because of the quarantine we started a daily Bible study, worship and prayer time using the conference call feature on our phones.

Each of our phones offer up to five conference call connections. In addition, a few people had access to WiFi, so were able to join us online. This time together has become precious and impactful.
A week before the national lockdown was announced, an abandoned fourteen-year-old distant cousin of Papo's from the jungle came to Lima with plans to start a street food stand to earn money to be able to go to school.

Within a week those plans were dashed! First the news that since he was born in the jungle and had no official Peruvian birth certificate, he is not eligible for public school. Then the nation-wide lockdown.

So, about the time we were recovering from our illness, Jack came to live with us in our mountain desert village.

Within a few weeks of participating in the nightly Bible studies, daily ministry with villagers and many questions, Jack trusted Jesus Christ as his Savior!
After about four weeks of being sick we were recovered and able to begin to help the community. Many people were in desperate situations because of being unable to leave their homes to work. We could see that our village was in need, and we were praying for God to show us how we could help. One evening we prayed specifically that God would provide food for the villagers who were struggling because they couldn’t work, and we asked Him to open doors for us to help them if that was His will.

We considered sending out a prayer letter sharing the need with our supporters, but the very next day we received a call from some missionary partners who said God had put it on their heart to raise money to help provide food for our village, and asking if there was a need for that! Through the money they raised, we were able to purchase food to share with struggling villagers until the district and village leaders were able to put a plan in place to provide for their people. The mayor even came to help us with logistics!

We were able to give bags of food to all the families in our village and the next village over three times, each with enough food for up to two weeks, and were able to give to the especially needy a few extra times. We were also able to give them all some Bible literature, and the gospel of John and Romans, as well as being able to get to know them all personally. We received a few other financial gifts, which we have been able to use to help buy essential medicine every month for a few people in our congregation and community who have chronic illnesses and were unable to pay for their medication, as well as for other needs in our congregation and community. We are so thankful for our dear friends who followed God’s nudging in their hearts and who’s partnership in this ministry has had so much impact on our village!
We have had the opportunity of sharing the gospel with one of our neighbors in particular these past few months, and on Thursday evening, June 11, Papo was able to pray with him as he accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior! We are rejoicing over our friend’s salvation, and praying for wisdom and guidance as Papo now disciples him in his new relationship with God.

He believed that all religions lead to God, and that he just had to pick the one that fit his life the best. He had been to churches of all religions that he could find and didn’t find any that "fit". He said they all were the same, and that he was just going to keep living the best life he could without any religion. But he said he had been watching us, and that we were different. That we had something different and asked us to explain it to him.

You have no idea how exciting and beautiful it is to see him now following Jesus and excited to learn more every day! Please pray for Jean Pierre as he grows in his relationship with Jesus! And for Papo as he disciples him.

Since Peru has opened up more and Jean Pierre has gotten back to work, he’s been quite busy, and has stopped participating in our church calls and Bible studies. Please pray for his relationship with our great God!

Please pray for Jack, as he has a lot of baggage he’s working through, and, being a kid who grew up on a farm in the jungle, he’s having a hard time adjusting to life in Quarantine in a desert village. He has a history of abandonment and abuse, and he misses his elderly grandfather, who lives in the jungle, and who took him in when his family had abandoned him.

We’re homeschooling him to help him get up to the level of education he will need to be able to join a school with kids his age, hopefully next year. He has a few developmental delays and struggles with learning. He’s also just hitting his rebellious stage and we’re going through power struggles. We’re praying for wisdom, understanding and guidance, as we learn to be his parents for the short or long time he is living with us.

Jack is really struggling with everything, from the virus, to being away from his grandpa, to the Quarantine, to the pain and guilt of dealing with his past. He is also struggling to learn to live out his new faith in Christ, and living as a “Pastor’s kid”, so to speak, or in his case, the assistant pastor’s “nephew” (as they call any family relation younger than them outside of the immediate family). He has been falling into depression. Please pray for Jack, for his new relationship with God, and for healing for his broken heart.
Please pray for our family. God is doing amazing things here, and opening opportunities for sharing the gospel with our village. There’s so much need for Jesus here, and people are coming to Jesus!!! As the Quarantine slowly opens up, and we are allowed to have a little more contact with our neighbors, God is giving us so many opportunities to share His gospel, and we can see Him doing mighty things here.

But at the same time, we feel like we’re under intense Spiritual warfare, and we’re struggling. In the last few months, we have lost friends and mentors to this virus. We have had core friendships tested and strained. We have had (and currently have) hardships in our families and haven’t been able to be with them, as we know is the case around the whole world.

The school year here starts in late February and ends in late December. After closing on March 11th, school started again in April through distance learning, which will continue to the end of this school year, by order of the president. Teaching school over distance learning, in a school and society that were not built for that, has been a challenge! The school increased our workload a few weeks ago, on the same day that Papo started online seminary classes. A week later one of the teachers at our school had a heart attack from the strain of it all, and another resigned recently. We’re praying about whether that would be the right decision for us as well, since the village ministry has grown so rapidly. We’re praying about what our part is in this; whether continuing to teach is taking away from our ministry, or if it is a part of our ministry that we need to continue.

It seems like every few days for months now, we have gotten really hard news. The emotional strain is taking its toll on us. Please keep us in your prayers!

Please pray for us, also, as we make decisions affecting the future of our little village church. The government has declared all churches will be closed at least until the end of the year. Since Refuge Church is a small village church with many elderly members, we’re struggling with relying on technology.

And praise God for the good that is coming from all the hardship!

As Joseph said in Genesis 50:20, "As for you, what you intended against me for evil, God intended for good, in order to accomplish a day like this—to preserve the lives of many people."

Keep your eyes up my friends!

We encourage you to look around you, look for what God is doing, and join Him there.

The darker the night, the brighter the light shines. Keep shining!!

Thank you for your prayers and support!

_Jill & Papo Jaulis_
Hot off the press:
Papo has been praying every day without fail for years for his parents’ salvation. His mother, Rosa, accepted Jesus Christ as her Savior and Lord on Sunday, August 30! She said she feels like a weight has been lifted from her shoulders, and she wants to dance! She said her sins have been a heavy burden weighing heavier and heavier on her for so long, and she feels relieved of that burden. This joy is unexplainable! Papo is so crazy happy!

Fun Fact: Grocery shopping is a little different here in Huaycan. We can go to local markets, but every day the produce section comes to me! With the loudspeaker blaring their arrival....

There hadn’t been fish in the markets for over two months because even the fishermen were required to stay home under the lockdown orders. Papo had been starving for ceviche (a typical Peruvian food made of raw fish)! When a truck went by selling fish... Papo ran out the door and bought a whole bag full 😊 And, of the three of us, guess who knows how to fillet a fish? The Peruvian city boy who grew up on the beaches of the Pacific Ocean? The jungle boy who grew up catching fish from the river with his bare hands? Or me, a small-town USA city girl? 😊 Thanks to Dad and all our fishing trips 😊 Who knew those trips were missionary wife training?!
**Our Mission Name:**

**Heart of a Child Ministry**

Papo’s name means, “Heart of a child”. Jill’s name means, “Young at heart”. As we strive to live with the heart of a child before our Heavenly Father, we chose this as a fitting name for our ministry together.

**Our Mission:**

To make disciples wherever God sends us in the world, bringing hope and joy to the hopeless and hurting by serving them, loving them, and sharing with them the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

To live with the heart of a child towards God, characterized in part by awe, joy, focus and complete trust in Him, and to disciple others to live in this manner as well. (Mark 10:15)

To bring glory to God through our life and marriage, striving to be an example of the relationship between Christ and the Church.

**Our Work:**

We have made a 5-year ministry commitment to work with a small church plant, The Refuge Church (Iglesia Refugio), in Huaycan de Cieneguilla, a village on the SE outskirts of Lima, Peru.

The music, children's and youth ministries, and the men's and women' ministries are our primary responsibilities in the church, but we work with all the other ministries of the church as needed. Papo, in the role of assistant pastor, also shares the preaching with the lead pastor.

In addition, we are temporarily teaching English part-time in a small Christian school in Lima to fulfill prior commitments.

**Our Vision:**

Our vision is to disciple and build up the church into a unified, self-sustaining, mission-focused church by working with the church leadership to establish regular discipleship groups, Bible studies, small groups, children's ministries, and prayer meetings; training them to be disciple-makers.