

Institutio Office (continued from page3)

We are excited about this next big step in the life and ministry of the Foundation and if you find yourself in Lima please go by and visit! Plans are to have a dedication of the building with a special program/guest lecturer later this year. The Institute is dedicated in honor of the life and ministry of L. Elbert and Lois Wethington, co-founders of WHF

REFLEXIONES PARA EL CAMINO PUBLISHED

Our Institute for Wesley Studies in Lima recently published *Reflexiones para el Camino (Reflections on the Way)*, a collection of sermons on Wesleyan spirituality written and preached by the former bishop of the Methodist Church of Peru, the Reverend Jorge Bravo Caballero. This book was completed in time for the General Assembly recently held in Cusco and was presented to the Bishop as a "surprise" before the gathered Assembly of delegates and visitors. This book is the first in a series which we plan to publish, encouraging other leaders of Wesleyan churches to submit such sermons.

I wish to help the work of The Wesley Heritage Foundation. Enclosed is my contribution of:

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Peru Seminary Fund Mercy Endowment



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General Director (continued from page3)

The faculty teaching in the internet educational program, and the persons guiding the discipleship programs, are from throughout the Americas. For example, with regard to the discipleship component of the *E-Comunidad* we are very grateful to the General Board of Discipleship of the United Methodist Church in the United States for the ways in which several of its staff are offering support, guidance and resources.

Roxana is Roman Catholic in religious heritage and worked for many years as a teacher in one of the Methodist schools in Peru. She is a computer specialist and has a Masters degree in online education. She brings many gifts to the development of the *E-Comunidad*.

CONTRIBUTION TO EMERGENCY RELIEF IN PUNO

WHF promotes and maintains a small "Mercy Fund" which we draw from to support various projects of compassion in Latin America. A few months ago we contributed \$500 for emergency relief in the region of Puno, Peru, for the purchase and distribution of blankets and food for a region severely hit by cold and ice. Johnny Llerena, Executive Coordinator of the Institute in Lima, was able to go to Puno and assist with distribution.

"By outward works of mercy we exercise all holy tempers; by these we continually improve them, so that all these are real means of grace."

From John Wesley's sermon "On Zeal"



The Wesley Heritage Foundation

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Bringing the Thought and Spirituality of the Wesleyan Revival to Latin Americans

PO Box 76 Henrico NC 27842 USA

SPRING/SUMMER 2014

NEWSLETTER

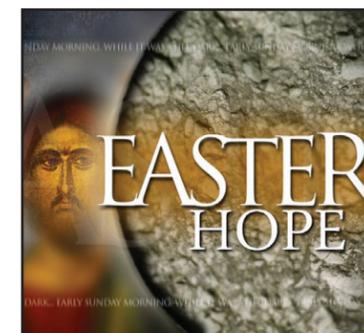
A Word from the President:

"Easter: The Hope of New Life"

Mark W. Wethington, Ph.D.

Blessed Easter to each of you and may the grace and peace of our risen Christ continue to bring hope and promise to every aspect of your life. Indeed, Easter brings *the hope of new life!*

On April 9 my wife, Beth, and I returned to North Carolina after a little over two weeks in Peru. There we attended the General Assembly of the Peru Methodist Church (IMP) which was held in Cusco, the former capital of the Inca Empire. The friendships formed, the mutual ministries shared, the "politics" exchanged, the fellowship and the worship were all meaningful; we even witnessed the incoming of a new bishop for the IMP, Samuel Aguilar. It seems that with the election of new leadership there often comes *hope and promise for new life*. Our prayers are with this church and with Christ's church everywhere that Easter life might flood human hearts and minds with faithful witness to the Gospel truth.



Earlier this year Beth and I also spent several weeks in Central America, meeting with Methodists, Wesleyan Church leaders and Nazarenes in Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua. The purpose of this trip was to promote the *E-Comunidad* Wesleyana para las Américas (ECWA), our new internet seminary and discipleship program, which will start up in June of this year. We are grateful to Roxana Spelucin, General Director of the *E-Comunidad*, and to Johnny Llerena, Executive Coordinator of the *Instituto de Estudios Wesleyanos - Latinoamérica*, under the auspices of which the *E-Comunidad* is being carried out. They are doing a splendid work in developing these initiatives (see article on Roxana and the *E-Comunidad* on page 3). Wherever we have been in Latin America in recent months this new initiative of an internet-based program of educating, training and forming of new church leaders is being received as good news of the *promise of new life* for churches in the Wesleyan tradition. We carry

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NEW PROJECTS NEEDING SUPPORT

WHF and our Institute for Wesley Studies (*Instituto de Estudios Wesleyanos - LA*) are frequently being approached with project ideas and requests. In addition to some of our larger initiatives in theological education, such as the *E-Comunidad*, we are seeking support for three smaller but very important projects related to the development of new Wesleyan resources. If you as an individual or your congregation would be interested in any of these projects noted below please be in contact with Mark (markwhf@gmail.com or 910-295-7720):

The first project is a follow up on our translation of 27 of John Wesley's sermons into the language of Quechua for the Andean region. This book of sermons has been enthusiastically received by various Wesleyan churches. However, because of the way of life of many Quechua people there has come the request to produce an audio version (as one Cusco Methodist pastor said, "So we can hear Wesley preach while working in the fields or even broadcast Wesley on popular religious radio stations."). The estimate for this project is \$6000.

The second project is to translate and produce the same 27 sermons, which we published in Quechua, in the language of Aymara, another dominant language of the Andean region. This has been strongly requested and encouraged by such church leaders as Bishop Rojas of the Bolivian Methodist Church. The estimate of this project is \$10,000.

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a great deal of confidence and trust in God that this will indeed be the case.

When I travel in Latin America I am intrigued by a way of life that some in North America stereotypically describe as “slow” or as a disposition toward “mañana”. However, what I see is quite the contrary, in fact a very busyness of life underscores the realities in Latin America. Many persons must stay “on the go” if they are going to make a living, take care of their families, and be faithful in other aspects of life. Whether it is the campesinos on their farms, or persons running frantically to jump on public transportation vans, or the all-night noises on the streets of the larger cities where people are constantly coming and going . . . there is the constant realization that people are pushing hard to maintain even a low level of economic livelihood; and with little hope of “moving up” or “getting ahead”. But then we enter a sanctuary where people have crowded into worship, and as the service begins we discover that here is one place where the frantic are able to “slow down” and recognize wherein lies the greatest *hope and promise in human life*: their relationship with Christ and in community with other Christians. Interestingly, we often get the same sense of slowing down in the central parks of many towns, where people mingle in conversation, people-watch, feed pigeons and graciously bargain with peddlers. Here too are sure signs of *new life*.

But new life at times remains elusive. There is Sebastian, a 14 year old Peruvian boy, previously very energetically involved in school and soccer but now subdued by childhood leukemia. In Peru there is no hope for further treatment. We speak to his parents words of hope, a hope that one prays this world might offer, but *a hope for new life* which ultimately lies in God alone.

The Wesley Heritage Foundation extends to all of our readers and to those who are involved in this ministry our deepest prayer that the *hope and promise of Easter* might abide in each of your lives and in all the places of ministry in which you are involved. We thank you for all that you do to keep the ministry of WHF in your prayers and for the ways in which you offer moral and financial support. May the *hope and promise of Easter* abide with you.

The third project is the production of a “popular” edition of the first four volumes of Obras de Wesley, which are sermons of John Wesley. This material over the past years has been the most requested and is now only available in electronic form. Many people still want the “hard copy” which they can read, write in the margins of, etc. The proposal is to put the four volumes into two volumes, and publish it in paperback with a colorful cover. The estimate for this project is \$10,000.

FIRST STW STUDENTS ORDAINED



We celebrate the ordination of two students who are part of the first group of students to graduate from the Seminario Teológico Wesleyano, a seminary of the Methodist Church of Peru and one which WHF has been involved in developing and continues to strongly support. In this newsletter is a picture of Isabel Casilla and Paulo Llanco who were ordained as clergy in the Peru Methodist Church at a recent General Assembly in Cusco, Peru.

Paulo shares with us the following: “My studies at the Wesley Theological Seminary in Lima allowed me to increase my biblical and theological knowledge so that I can be a better pastor. Throughout these years I have learned how to use different tools for pastoral work and the seminary itself created spaces for communion with other students and with faculty. All these things have enriched my theological reflection. May God continue to bless STW for the development of church leadership and for the extension of the kingdom of God.”

One of the goals of the *E-Comunidad* is to create means of mentoring such young pastors as they are sent out to preach the gospel and to lead congregations into ministry and mission. We congratulate Paulo and Isabel (and other students who will later be ordained) and we pray that God will richly bless their ministries.

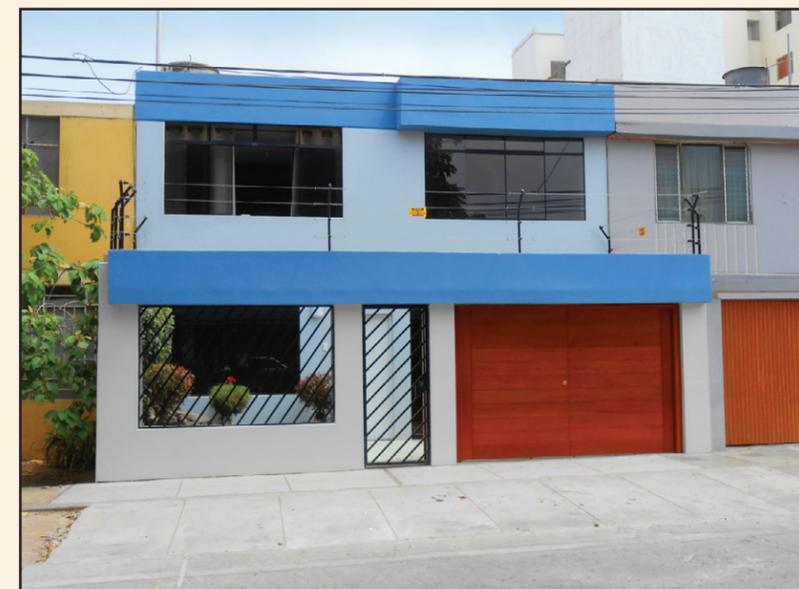
INSTITUTO OFFICE IS ESTABLISHED

On April 1 the Wesley Heritage Foundation leased a building in Lima, Peru, which will house the *Instituto de Estudios Wesleyanos – Latinoamérica*, the *E-Comunidad Wesleyana para las Américas*, and the residential program of theological education. All of these will be moving together toward educational accreditation with the Ministry of Education in Peru (and with international recognition).

The building is located at 327 Andres Rázuri, San Miguel, Lima and is a 2-story facility with space for 3 offices, a large library, 4 classrooms, and a professors’ office. In addition there is a guest apartment, a large open patio for common gatherings, two small garden areas, multiple bathrooms, a kitchen, a reception space in the entrance, and a third floor area for expansion if needed. It is located in a “middle class” area of Lima, about 15 minutes from the international airport, in an area which is mixed residential, commercial, business, medical and educational. At present the building is only partially furnished, but is now equipped with high speed internet very adequate to carry out the internet programming for *E-Comunidad*. We will be seeking surplus desks and chairs for the classrooms from other educational institutions around Lima.

Herein the Instituto will also sponsor workshops, guest lecture series, scholarly investigation, short-term courses, and will open its facilities to support ecumenical programs for theological education, continuing education for church leadership development, and various programs for dialogue among Wesleyan churches. The expanding digital library will also be housed in the Rázuri building.

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E-COMUNIDAD GENERAL DIRECTOR

We introduce to you Roxana Spelucin, General Director of the *E-Comunidad Wesleyana para las Américas*. Roxana as well as Johnny Llerena, Executive Coordinator of the *Instituto de Estudios Wesleyanos – LA* (IEW-LA), are working hard in the development of the curriculum and digital platform for the *E-Comunidad* internet programs of theological education and discipleship formation. We invite you to go to www.E-Comunidad.org to discover more about the *E-Comunidad* and what it will have to offer. In short, as described in previous newsletters, the *E-Comunidad* will be the first internet seminary of its kind which will serve all of Latin America as well as Spanish speakers in North America. It will offer a full curriculum of study for those seeking in depth theological studies leading toward ordination, but will also offer certified courses which focus on lay leadership development and formation. Essential to the *E-Comunidad* will be this discipleship component which encourages persons to be involved virtually, as well as within their own local communities, in the forming and strengthening of Christian discipleship.

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