

# Joseph and Zulema Kotvas, Missionaries to the Deaf in Peru, South America

## June 2018 Ministry Update



3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of El Agustino



Preaching in Chiclayo



Deaf young ladies with Zulema



Anthony & Julissa's wedding



Our Family flying to the USA



Can't leave out this guy!



At James and Ann's Wedding



Reporting to our Supporters

For more pictures & info, visit [ReachAndTeach.org/jun2018](http://ReachAndTeach.org/jun2018)

### Thank you!

What a whirlwind of activity these past three months have been, with tremendous challenges, blessings, encouragement, and answers to prayer. To those of you who prayed for Zulema to receive her visa, thank you so much! And to those who gave, or even helped us with the paperwork, again, thank you so very much. Your prayers and support have helped us procure permanent resident status in the US for Zulema, which is allowing us to travel and report to our supporting churches during May and June, and will enable us to on deputation together as a family next year and raise much needed support for our long-term projects on the mission field.

### In Peru

In April we celebrated three years of evangelism at the El Agustino work. I am so thankful for the fruit we have seen there, and for my father-in-law, Serafin, who has been faithfully visiting and encouraging the deaf there as a lay leader. While I am in the US, Serafin has assumed the teaching responsibility in El Agustino each Thursday. Pray for him as he ministers there.

It was a blessing to officiate Anthony and Julissa's wedding this month. Anthony was baptized before the wedding, and they are now attending church. They want their baby to grow up learning the Word of God. Pray for Julissa, their baby is due this month. Also pray for my wife's cousin Gaby, who is due any day now, and Pastor Frank's wife Margot, who is due in July. Soon we'll have a new set of little ones in the nursery!

Pastor Frank's ordination service was at the church anniversary in May, and we are so excited to see what God will do in and through his ministry. He is a Deaf man who loves the Lord, knows the Bible and is committed to reaching the Deaf for Christ. He and his wife are very special to us.

I had a very special opportunity toward the end of April to preach to the deaf in Chiclayo, a city in northern Peru. Missionary Lee Johnson and his wife Eva have been serving there faithfully with the deaf for years, and they have a strong ministry with a school and church for the deaf. Deaf missionary Nancy Burns is a faithful support and help to Pastor Lee and his ministry. It was a joy to preach the Gospel there, and also to spend time with our missionary friends.

### In the States

We traveled to the States in May, and I've enjoyed introducing my family to America! Really, Zulema, JJ and Esther are already accustomed to American food, but it has been fun taking them to the forest, the beach and other natural attractions, as well as places where I grew up. Zulema says all the grass, trees and plants remind her of Iquitos, the jungle city where she grew up.

James's wedding was a beautiful, Christ-honoring ceremony. James and Ann have begun their deputation now, and we are looking forward to seeing how God will work in their lives. My parents, grandparents, sisters and brothers were all there for the wedding, which happily coincided with James's graduation as well as Mother's Day. What a joyful time.

Since then, we have been visiting our supporting churches and reporting on our ministry. Many thanks to those of you who have opened your churches and your hearts to receive us this season, and to help us along the way. God has provided for us in some truly unexpected and miraculous ways, and we praise him for it.

We will be attending our mission board orientation next week at Macedonia's headquarters in Braselton. Macedonia has been such a wonderful blessing and help to us every step of the way, and I'm looking forward to spending time with the wonderful team there.

On July 6<sup>th</sup>, we will be flying back to the work in Peru, and to the opportunities that await us there. God has allowed me to step out of the school teaching for the rest of the year, which will give me so much more opportunity for visitation, discipleship, Bible teaching and evangelism. Please pray for much wisdom and vision as we minister to the deaf of Peru and beyond.

God bless,  
Joseph and Zulema Kotvas, JJ and Esther

