

Letter from Peru

Window on the world for children

Peru

Issue 3

The vegetable garden

from Keliy at El Trebol, Pamplona Alta, Lima. With thanks to Dan and Pam Caldwell, USPG missionaries in Peru.



This is me with my mummy (Sofia) and daddy (Richard).

My name is Keliy> In England, you would spell my name Kelly. I am six years old and I live with my mummy and daddy at a place called El Trebol, which in English means The Clover Leaf. It is a strange name, because where I live nothing used to grow, it was just sand. Nobody ever tried to grow anything because it never rains.

But earlier this year my mummy and daddy met Norma, Lily and Luisa who come from our little Mission Church which is called San Pablo (St Paul's). Norma talked to mummy and daddy about Jesus and told them how much he loved and cared about them.

Then Lili asked them if they would like to learn how to keep ducks. Mummy and daddy attended classes once a week for three months and learned how to look after ducks and how to start a little duck farm. We were really happy because this meant we had eight ducks to look after, Luisa gave us some food for them and very soon we had little ducklings.



These are our ducks.

We sold some of the ducklings to our neighbours so that they could start a little farm too and we kept the rest. We call them *patitos* which means little ducks.

Meat is very expensive for us to buy and we live a long way from the shops but now can have duck to eat every week. Mummy makes roast duck which is *delicioso* (scrummy)! We have it with rice and potatoes and we have a spicy *picante* sauce on it. We also have a lovely hot soup in the winter time when it is cold and damp. Mummy and her friends are learning new recipes. How many different ways do you eat duck or chicken in England?

Then Norma, Lili and Luisa suggested another idea. They said, 'Would we like to grow vegetables?' 'Don't be silly!' said mummy. 'You can't grow vegetables here. We don't even have a garden!' Daddy said, 'The soil is too sandy and, besides, it never rains here so how will the vegetables grow?'

But Luisa had been to college and found out how to grow vegetables, even in the desert! Norma told stories from the Bible and we started to prepare the soil because Jesus said we needed good soil if our seeds were going to grow. We use all the leftovers from our kitchen to make compost and, when we clean out our little duck farm, we put the duck droppings on the garden because it makes good fertilizer for the soil. Daddy built a blue plastic fence around our new garden and we started to attend classes where Norma, Lili and Luisa showed us how to grow vegetables from seeds.



Norma, Lili and Luisa showed us what to do in the garden.

At the end of the course they gave us some seeds and helped us to plant them in our new garden. They came back every week to tell us more about Jesus and have a look at our garden.

We had to water the garden a little every day and keep pulling the little weeds out. When the plants grew too close together, we would separate them and they all grew very quickly.



We have to weed and water the garden every day.

We now have little rows of *zanahorias* (carrots), *remolacha* (beetroot) and *espinica* (spinach). We are also planting lettuce and peppers and lots of other things. Mummy and daddy are making the garden bigger so that we should have some vegetables to sell as well as selling some of our ducks.



We are making the garden bigger so we can grow more.

Life has changed a lot for us since we met Norma, Lili and Luisa and they told us about Jesus.



Look how our vegetables have grown!