

An ABC of Quechua Language and Culture

Newsletter of Lawrence and Liling Tan
December 2005

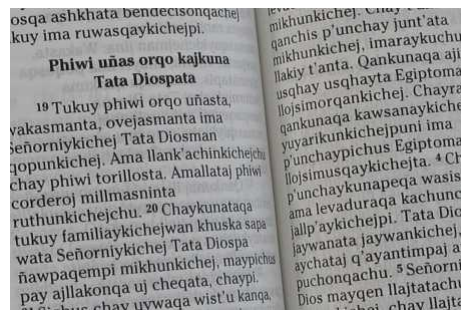
SIM Bolivia
Cajon 736 Cochabamba Bolivia. 591(4)4355598,
lawrence.tan@sim.org

SIM Australia
PO Box 42 Penshurst NSW 2222. (2) 9580 1422 www.sim.org.au

Newsletter editors
Cian & Jeremy King 16 Captain Strom Place Dundas NSW 2117.
jcking@bigpond.net.au

A *Ayllu* - family, clan. Kinship ties and family values are strong in an inhospitable land. When you're sick and need money for the doctor, and no-one will lend it to you, you can always turn to someone from your *ayllu* to help.

B *Biblias*. Bolivia has run out of Quechua Bibles! Just imagine trying to learn about Jesus, or to teach others about Him when you don't even have a Bible in



your own language to read! SIM needs about A\$18,000 by December to help the Bible Society place an order to print a new edition of the

Quechua Bible (If you're interested in helping, please contact SIM and quote "Project Number BO 91121").

C *Ch'alla*. Quechua people do *ch'alla* when they pour a drink offering of alcohol to Pachamama, the ancient Incan earth goddess. She is responsible for good harvest, fortune, health and well-being. Even now when praying to the image of the Virgin Mary, many Quechua people actually are worshipping Pachamama. If only they would 'turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made heaven and earth' (Acts 14:15).

D *Discrimination*. Quechua people are the most underprivileged in Bolivian society and still face prejudice and discrimination. Some upper-class people still think Bolivia has not advanced because Quechua people cannot be educated and are only interested in alcohol. In fact, many Quechua people have overcome their disadvantages and are doing well in university, business and politics.

E *Empanadas* are delicious cheese filled pastries that are consumed for midday snacks.



F There's no "F", "V" nor "X" in Quechua, although they have at least 10 other consonants that well and truly make up the difference!

G *Grace*. This is a concept tremendously difficult to convey. How can God give freely the gift of forgiveness and eternal life to all who believe? In Quechua, the word for "free" (*qhasilla*) also means "in vain". The word for "thank" (*diospagarasqayki*) means "God will pay you back - i.e. you can't get something for nothing. There is no indigenous word for "trust"; they use a Spanish word instead! May the Spirit guide them into all truth.

H *Himnario* (hymn book) - Quechua Christians can spend hours joyfully praising and worshipping God with their hymnbooks, guitars, flutes mandolins and cow-hide drums.

I *Icy mountains* - a beautiful sight from our windows!



J *San Julian*, a township in the lowlands of Bolivia where we went in October to help out at a church camp. Many Quechua people have migrated here from the mountains for work and better farmland. We spent 2 days in the area providing medical care and we both gave a couple of talks.

K *k'utuy* or *kuchuy* - to cut. You "*k'utuy*" hair but you "*kuchuy*" meat.

L *Library*. Most pastors in Australia have a large one at their disposal eagerly referred to Saturday nights. Quechua church leaders may not even have a bible (See "B").

M *Medicine* - when Lawrence is not studying Quechua, he looks forward to seeing patients at

a nearby Christian hospital once a week, and has also been teaching Family Medicine registrars at the public hospital.

N *Navidad*- Christmas! Wishing you all a very blessed Christmas as we contemplate the gracious gift we can never repay, of the One who came and took our place on the cross.

O Onomatopoeia!! *qhorqoy* means to snore, a *qhalqatu* is a turkey, *o qoy* is to gulp or swallow something.

P *Puñuy*- to sleep.
Try this quick grammar quiz:

-*chi*-: to make someone else do something
 -*lla*-: just
 -*m*-: to go to do something
 -*ña*-: already
 -*pu*-: to do something for someone else's benefit
 -*ri*-: courtesy infix
 -*ta*: direct object suffix
 -*wa*-: for me
wawa: baby
 -*y*-: second-person singular imperative, possession (my)

Wawayta puñuchimpurillawayña ???
 (Answer at the bottom of the page)

Q *qhayqeyakuy*- to speak (mumbling) while drunk.

R Roadside crosses.
We've counted 55 memorials signifying someone died on the road between Alex and Maddie's



school and town (that's 1 every 200 metres!), which remind us of the urgency of the task.

S SIM. "Serving in Mission", previously "Sudan Interior Mission". An international, interdenominational mission working in over 40 different countries "to glorify God by planting, strengthening and partnering with churches around the world."

T The Tan Van (Project Walkabout), in which we plan to visit rural Quechua communities to provide medical training and support to church leaders, is in the process of being built. It is taking longer than we expected, but we know God has His timing and wants them to do a good job.



U Understanding - pray that we will be able to understand when spoken to and be understood when speaking!

W Work - A highly-valued Quechua quality. Laziness is a cardinal sin in the Quechua moral code, together with lying and stealing. The word for "to work", *llank'ay*, also means "to plough".

Y *Yarqha*- hunger. Quechua Christians are hungry for good Bible teaching, which is hard to find.

Z No "Z"s in Quechua, apart from our own!

For those who pray

- Thank the Lord for helping us sign a contract with the health department in October that authorises us to visit rural areas around Sucre to provide medical training and health care.
- Thank the Lord that the girls are happy and settled in school and kindy in Cochabamba.
- Pray for rapid progress and sturdy construction of the Tan Van.
- Pray for us as we plan and prepare ourselves spiritually for the trips to rural areas we will be making from early 2006.
- Pray for safe elections for Bolivia on 18 December
- Pray for more fluency and quick-thinking as we speak and hear Quechua.
- Pray that the Lord will provide sufficient funds for a new edition of the Quechua Bible to be printed.



Christmas greetings and much love from the LLAMAS

(Lawrence, Liling, Alex, Maddie and Anneka)

Quiz Answer: Please just go and put my baby to sleep already!