

July 15, 2003

Angels of Peru

After 10 days in Peru I report that all negative news about this country is wrong. Although the same people who damaged Poland so much (Soros, Sachs, Balcerowicz & Co.) have moved in here as friends and advisors of president Enrique Toledo, his popularity is only 9% and he is not going to last much longer. Even illiterate taxi drivers know that he is a traitor along with his unpopular foreignborn wife Eliana Karp. The main causes of the economic crisis are as old as Peru itself as Peruvians much like Poles have not had much luck electing good leaders.

But I do not want to talk about the politics of Peru but about the people who survive one crisis after another and nothing seems to affect their vitality. I will also tell you about angels of Peru, who fly over this God forsaken country spreading happiness and hope.

First story: Few weeks ago in the coastal town of Trujillo, a woman named Tula passed away. She did not belong to rich elite nor was she part of any government. Her family expected a few friends to show up at her funeral but so many strangers showed up that they covered the entire block. During the mass, only a few understood what this woman did to deserve such a large crowd, who accompanied her all the way to cemetery.

So talking to each other at the funeral people found out what Tula did to deserve so much respect and gratitude. When faced with terminal illness, she refused to get depressed. Instead she converted into a silent angel helping ill and poor, without telling them even her name.

In her community where people have many necessities and few means, she found medical help for some, helped to sign up children of others to school. When the death finally came to take her away she was concerned about leaving her work behind but kept on smiling in the last moments of her life.

Second story: Determined and crazy with love for the poor like all Irish, the nun of Immaculate Convent offers incredible social assistance to the people. Nobody knows how she manages to find money to build a school or to take care of the many ill in her care. Now in the mountains of Mache she has established a first quality lamb farm for poor people to work and make money.

How and where do you export lambs from Peru? Where to find dollars? Sometimes it comes from the angels like an American engineer Jerry Fickel, who forgot that in Miami he suffers from heart dysfunction. Here in Peru he walks miles climbing tall mountains transporting lambs and even teaches genetics to obtain best quality of the wool and meat. He gives hope in this miserable and forgotten part of the world where not long ago most people wanted to emigrate.

Third story: One year ago when I heard that 135 wood homes burnt out in the poor section of Iquitos, I ordered my restaurant to serve them 1000 meals a day, for 10 days. Later on the local government took over and helped them to rebuild. During my visit to Iquitos their leaders asked me to meet with the community so that the people could thank me for what I did. During the meeting one of the young leaders named Roger asked me to help procure a first aid kit. Others have asked that 4 people be trained in my restaurant how to cook meals that have good taste. They said they would pray for me to have luck.

The same day I was returning home late in the night and on the way I stopped in a local casino. I changed \$10 and in 10 minutes much to my amazement I won \$500 playing the slots. That was enough to cover the cost of a substantial first aid kit. Angels have helped again.

Upon return to my office in Canada I contacted the Canadian Embassy and I found two assistance programs available to poor communities in Peru. One of the programs might help to build a communal carpentry shop so that skilled carpenters who lost all their tools in the fire last year can start working again. Angels do not have to be Peruvian.

In the country where I live, Canada, we have many Social Service Programs, Unemployment Insurance, Medical Insurance, etc. But in Peru these tasks are covered by family and friends. When I see in Peru a true and spectacular solidarity of the people in times of need, I feel proud that I am also Peruvian. I am fascinated by this miraculous country, where angels who are unaware of what they are keep on flying each day, always.

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