

FIBC Food Security Project Report 4

HELPING FAMILIES IN CHIJPATA ALTA AND KARAPATA ALTA

By Gabriel Limachi Rojas

This has been my experience of a work day for the Lord. I am grateful to God for being invited to join the volunteer team of the Food Security Project on Saturday, October 28th. To me, this work of distributing potatoes is more than just going to deliver the bag of seed potatoes to people who need help. It was a way of creating brotherhood because we told them about the love of God for them in a friendly and genuine way. Together we wondered about God, and worked as friends. It was nice to see that the families of the first community came not only for the seed potatoes but also for the word of God and to seek more the spirit of God. In the second town we visited that day I noticed that they came for the seed potatoes mainly, yet they saw the presence of God as we fellowshiped with them in the process of the seed potato distribution. In both communities the presence of God was felt. So I learned that we must go wherever God is leading us and be an instrument of peace and love.

There were many interesting things happening that day for me. The main thing was that God called me to preach that day because families wanted to hear about God. Just that week a feeling of preaching came into my heart. And I didn't know where or when that could happen. That Saturday morning and afternoon the Holy Spirit spoke to me through Friend Sara, who invited me to bring the message to the gathered families from the two communities that are located near the lake Titicaca.



A photo of some families, the indigenous leaders and the volunteers in the community of Chijipata Alta

When I went to these towns, I still felt perplexed by what had happened to me, but I went with faith that the Lord was with me. As we arrived in the community Chijipatá Alta, we were blessed to see all cheerful and friendly people. We gave each family 125 pounds of seed potatoes. After we helped 40 families in that town, we traveled to the next town. In the community Karapata Alta 45 families welcomed us. Before our hard work of distributing the seed potatoes began, we had a time to share in spirit with them. After we introduced ourselves, we had a worship service. My heart was better at the end of the worship service because I felt that some had received the seed that Jesus Christ our Lord planted in those lives. I also learned that day that I am just an instrument of the Lord, and I am not doing as much as I could be doing for Christ. Even so, he uses me and I thank the Lord for giving me this opportunity to help in this project. Thus, I will always give my support to this service project or to any other work for the Lord.

In the same way, all the community members and authorities were very happy and grateful for the help, since they mentioned that they did not have seed potatoes to plant. They are very grateful to all the brothers and sisters who made this possible. And they sent greetings and blessings to Friends for helping them. So, seeing the gratitude and smile on the faces of local people is a very beautiful experience and feeling. And it is nice to help others with love and care so that one enjoys being part of these church activities.

PICTURES OF THE SEED POTATOES DISTRIBUTION IN CHIJPATA ALTA



Indigenous leaders hard work in the distribution of seed potatoes



Families rejoiced when they saw the big seed potatoes, which is unusual size in the highlands

PICTURES OF THE SEED POTATOES DISTRIBUTION IN KARAPATA ALTA



An elderly indigneous woman



A local leader who organized the welcoming



45 families got seed potatoes in the community of Karapata Alta