

by the team. The stories reflect the unique qualities of the Aguaruna culture and language. For example, in lesson one, the first two words the new reader learns are utu and mama (guinea pig and yuca). These items are major food items for the Aguaruna. In the primer we learn of many birds and have adventures in the canoe on the river. The Aguaruna live in the Amazon jungle area of Peru with several major rivers running through the area.

Nestor, Tomás, Veronica, Requila, Pablo and Isaías spent about 8 hours a day writing. After they completed the first 32 lessons, they then edited 8 health lessons and 3 farming lessons. The health lessons they adapted to issues found in their area including hepatitis, dengue and typhoid fevers. The last 26 lessons are edited Bible stories. In these lessons, the new readers read the good news of Jesus for themselves as well as have the witness of their teachers.

One of the challenges for the writers is to write good stories with limited words. We limit the number of new words the writers can use each lesson to make it simple for the new readers. In the Aguaruna language this is particularly challenging as they add endings onto their words: for example kanu (canoe), kanunum (in the canoe). In another lesson about drinking good water, we have these forms of water (yumi), yumigmat, yumik, yumigmatnumiash.

During the two weeks, I learned once again that time has a different meaning in different cultures. We had breakfast between 7 and 8 a.m. (Depended on when it arrived). Then lunch was supposed to come around 12:30, but often didn't come until 1:30, 2:00 or 3:00 p.m. An afternoon siesta was needed by everyone. We would finally get back to work around 3:00 or 4:00 p.m. (Depends on what time lunch came), then we would work until around 6:00 or 7:00 p.m. Dinner often arrived between 7:00 and 8:00 p.m. Meals were quite good. We had sandwich and Quaker each morning for breakfast (pronounced quawker, a thin gruel

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*Rev. Carey Jo Johnston*



What do you get when you cross 5 Aguaruna language speakers, 2 LEI consultants and 5 LEI trainees in Ica, Peru? A 2 book primer series to teach non-readers how to read, while they learn about the new life they can have in Jesus Christ.

I spent 2 weeks in Ica, Peru assisting with the Aguaruna Primer construction and LEI Primer construction training April 23 - May 13. The Aguaruna team named their primer Papi Unuimagmi (literally Book Knowledge). The first 32 lessons of the primer are original stories written