



What has orange peel got to do with the message of the Gospel?

There's certainly no mention of oranges at the feeding of the 5000! What we do read (Matthew 14 v15-21) is that people brought what meagre resources they had to Jesus, he asked God's blessing, and the food was shared. Astoundingly, there was enough for everyone.

That was 2000 years ago. And today, in the remote, mountainous region of Cajamarca, Peru, Tearfund partner Warmis believes that if people see the potential in the few resources they have, seek God's blessing, and co-operate with each other, it is still possible to have enough for everyone.

As part of a small Tearfund team, I had the privilege of seeing how Warmis bring God's love into their community. Sleeping under mosquito nets (but still bitten!), on the dirt floor of the

small church in El Tambo gave us a good start point for understanding how rudimentary, difficult and uncertain life in rural Peru can be. But though Warmis work with some of the most vulnerable individuals and communities, there are no handouts.

Whether it is basic teaching on farming techniques; learning to make and sell handicrafts; or women's empowerment workshops; Warmis, in partnership with local churches, help people to help themselves. In this way, they move people towards self sufficiency, and restore the self respect and dignity that poverty often robs them of. And with that, whole communities come to life.

It's amazing how much can be done with so little, when there's a will. Warmis teaches people in poor communities to assess what resources they do have and to be creative with those. Often the people discover that with a little thought and imagination, they have much more than they realised.

In one of the craft workshops, I was struck by several pairs of very unusual earrings, but I couldn't work out what material they were made from. Then one of the children showed me: orange peel; dried orange peel. Domestic waste was suddenly a resource - and a very attractive one.

Such is the way that Warmis operate. With a few 'loaves and fishes' they achieve apparent miracles. They are mindful that everything they achieve is powered by prayer, and they hugely value our prayer support from across the world.

Every little prayer, every tiny donation is multiplied up by God's transforming grace, and '*poco a poco*' (little by little) the lives of the poor and vulnerable are enriched.

And if you still think that small things can't really have much of an impact...

you've clearly never shared your bed with a Peruvian mosquito!



Stewart Robertson