

### **Six Young Adult Volunteers spend one year living and working in Peru.**



**Pictured are the six YAVs at the Red office in Lima. From left to right: Lynn, Michael, Katie, Sean, Leslie, and Alex.**

On September 2, 2008, six Young Adult Volunteers from the PC (USA) arrived in Lima to begin one year of volunteer service. Alex Cornell (22), Lynn Hasselbarth (25), Sean Kerr (23), Leslie McKnelley (23), Katie Rains (26), and Michael Sinklier (21) will each be working with one of six different NGOs located within the city of Lima, and in the provinces of Huánuco and Huancayo, for the duration of one year. Alex will be living and working in Comas, a northern district of Lima. There he will serve two churches as a youth pastor. Lynn will be living in the province of Huánuco, about an eight hour bus ride from Lima, where she will work with Paz y Esperanza, primarily with victims of sexual abuse. Sean is living in the city of Huancayo, to the east of Lima, where he is serving with CEDEPAS CENTRO. Leslie lives in Lima and works with Luz y Vida and Filomena Tomaira Pacsi. She will be spending three days of every month in La Oroya to learn more about the environmental contamination that has occurred as a result of the Doe Run operated smelting plant located there. Katie will be living in Lima and working with Red Peruana Uniendo Manos Contra la Pobreza. Part of her service will include documenting, through photography, the progress being made and the challenges yet to overcome in Peru. Michael is living in Lima and will be working with El Dia del Pueblo, a radio centre that broadcasts environmental concerns, human rights issues, and more. He will also be spending three days of every week working with a youth group (JESHENI) in the Lomas de Carabayllo district of Lima to the north. The six volunteers come from different Presbyterian churches throughout the United States. Each underwent an extensive discernment process in order to discover where he or she felt most called to be. There was also a Placement Event held in Louisville Kentucky during which the YAV applicants were interviewed in person by Debbie Horne, their country site coordinator. Finally, the six YAVs were required to raise a significant portion of the funds spent to support them during their one year stay. The YAVs say they are excited to be here together for one year to serve the people of Peru, and to experience a new and wonderful culture.



**The YAVs with their site coordinator, Debbie Horne, at the Pachacamac Ruins.**