Here is a picture of a little child playing in the yard with the family dog. As we traveled up the mountains in Cuzco, Peru, several children were astonished to see us, and they were welcoming and waved nicely. Some of them would even ask or beg for money. Down towards the city, the houses looked quite different than the ones you see in this picture. The houses in the city were well built, but as we climbed higher on the mountain, we found houses made out of rock, mud, tarps, and other components.
Marcella’s Machu Picchu trip

There were so many beautiful flowers in Peru. The flower in the upper right hand corner is actually hanging upside down and I bent underneath it to snap a picture. Also, the flowers in the lower left hand picture are hanging upside down from a tree. The prettiest flowers I saw were in the mountains though (the flowers in my hair and the flower in the lower right hand corner. They varied in color, shape, and size. Looking at the flowers and smelling them was one of my favorite parts about the trip to Peru.

March 2008
This is one of my favorite pictures of a stream flowing into the Urubamba River in Aguascalientes, Peru. I loved watching the water flow over those huge boulders. In Aguascalientes, the Urubamba River ran along the bottom of the beautiful mountains that surrounded us. Every day and night that we spent in Aguascalientes, we could hear the Urubamba River rushing downward towards Machu Picchu.
There was a mountain in Aguascalientes called Putucusi. On the last afternoon we spent in Aguascalientes, we climbed this mountain to the very top. The journey was strenuous and exhausting, but the result was incredible. The mountain had several steep ladders such as this one. However, in some places we had to climb up little rock cliffs. Good thing we took water bottles with us because with such a high altitude, we become short of breath several times. None of us knew that once we reached the very top of Putucusi that we’d be able to see Machu Picchu directly across from us.
Here is a picture of Machu Picchu from the top of the Putucusi Mountain. As you can see, the view was amazing and breathtaking. It took us a couple hours to reach the top, but it was well worth it. Not only was Machu Picchu a sight to see, but just the fact that we were on top of a mountain looking down was awesome. We also got to see Aguascalientes and the Urubamba River down in the valley. Once we reached the top, we relaxed on boulders. On our way up to the top of the mountain, it started raining. The rain felt so good because we were hot from the climb and the humidity was high. Once we were well rested, we made our way back down the mountain. Going down was easier and faster than going up.

March 2008
Here is a picture of the gang. We all had an awesome time, and got along well together. Dr. Gertsch did a remarkable job explaining to us about the various rock structures and even the history behind the towns we visited. This was the day before we got on the train that headed to Aguascalientes. While we waited for the train we visited the nearby ruins and shopped at the market. Not only did I get to meet new people but I also made good friends. This was truly an adventure and experience I’ll never forget.