



La Misión, Ica, Perú

1 May 2020 - Greetings to all our friends and supporters! This is our 2nd letter of this year. We last wrote taking you through our activities for the mission the end of 2019 after we left in August, as well as our current first two months being here this year (Jan & Feb). (Past issues available at [this link](#).) Hope this newsletter finds you well. Any and all feedback appreciated. Please share this newsletters with others, and encourage them to '[join our mailing list](#)'!



March was a very busy month, starting with a new baptism of a very active young man, Arron, who is a pre-med student in Peru and very active with the ministry at the mission. We are excited that he has taken this step and is also active in the mission discipleship bible study program. God bless this young man and his walk going forth. This is our [first baptism of this year](#), our 13th since we built the baptismal. We pray that we use it again before the year is out.



On this same day, the first of March, we had a well planned out and organized (and decorated for) wedding, our first wedding at the mission. Alexander and Alba, who were married more than a decade ago in Venezuela are refugees from that country. They never had a ceremony. they both are, like Aaron, quite active in the ministry work at the mission.

So why not!!! We had a beautiful ceremony. [Many pictures are available online](#). Needless to say that the first day of March was a very busy Sunday.

March 3-5 - After these two wonderful events kicking off the month of March, I only had a few days to work with the mission teams before I had to leave.

March 5-11 - Sadly I made preparations to leave for Michigan for my fathers memorial where I was to deliver the eulogy. I had just a few days to get ready, then Lily and I would drive to Lima and I would do a lengthy flight through Miami to Detroit.



This was originally planned to be a large family get together for his 95th birthday but sadly he didn't quite make it that far. The good news is that we had a wonderful family gathering with much of my family (4 children, 2 grandchildren) from California and Arizona, together with my

Facebook Photo Albums of 2020 (&2019) Ministry

- [Altura \(2019\)](#)
- [Cabildo \(2019\)](#)
- [Cellular Bible Studies \(2019\)](#)
- [El Carmen \(2019\)](#)
- [El Olivo \(2019\)](#)
- [La Misión \(2019\)](#)
- [Quilloay](#)
- [San Juan Bautista \(2019\)](#)
- [San Pedro \(2019\)](#)

Projects / Events

son, grandson, sister and niece visiting a museum and then one more night at my local sisters home, before catching a flight back to Peru by way of Miami. We gave Pop a good farewell and I will miss him.



Perú - While I was away, the mission continued to focus on the children with the 6 weekly village visits we have on our schedule, as well as 4 different Discipleship groups that meet in peoples homes and at the mission. Things were quite busy at the mission.

Sosimo and Yannirett have built a great team of volunteers of local people as well as Venezuelan friends they have made here in Peru. We continue to serve and continue to need more volunteers with all the opportunities for service that are in front of us.



March 12 - Had a night in Miraflores with my wife who came up to meet me in Lima area. We did some shopping for dental ministry in a special area of Lima, being in regular communication with Monica & Brice Dunn (both part of LAMAMinistry) who run our new Dental ministry.



We were looking for what we might buy in Peru versus having to transport down, in the area of portable dental needs. It was an educational visit, while texting with Brice, but other than visiting some informative shops and gaining some websites to pass on for research, we didn't exactly find what we were looking for.

March 13-15 Spent the day in Miraflores before catching an afternoon bus for Ica, returning to the mission which has been going strong with it's outreach efforts.



Our visiting youth pastor, Cory Williamson, delivers Sundays message. On this day Peru's president also announced a country-wide [quarantine lockdown](#) due to the Corona-virus pandemic.



This was about to have a major effect on us in a big way. Our ministry is working with children and people daily, much like any school, church, ministry, we were basically shut down. We expanded our prayer and bible study time accordingly and became pretty focused on God, communications and chores around campus. We really hadn't grasped that March 15 was our last real day of outside ministry for awhile.

March 21 - We are just 6 people actually living at the base during the pandemic, but we had regular visits from many of our volunteers, Angie, Alba, Alex, etc. who were also quarantined to their homes with strong restrictions on hours and purpose of travel. Many weeks Peru tried to limit days of travel by gender which was sort of silly but an effort to cut down on groups traveling. Sad part of the pandemic was all the cancelled plans for 2020. We canceled a Dental program, a Medical program, visits from a large group from Fresno, another group from Salem Oregon. We have a missionary from Alabam who has had to cancel his flights 3 times but continues to be motivated to join us, God bless him.



previously out of toilet paper, eggs and some items seemed restocked. But what was just amazing to see was the absense of cars or people in the downtown square.



Ica, Perú, during quarantine, 2020 March 26

Our experience was similar to many of you in the United States and around the globe. In fact the president of Peru seemed to be taking his cues from whatever the USA did, as it seemed to be then annouced as Peru's plan as well.



We got on the USA department of state mailing list as to what was the perspective from the view of many ex-patriots who are down here. Although the airport was closed, there seemed to be many flights of Americans leaving every week. I didn't know there were so many down here!



April 7 - Life continues at the mission with the same daily practice of morning worship and bible study, afternoon chores and late afternoon worship and intercessory prayer time. We do get occasional drop bys with some of the more rebelious youth so we keep an open door for them. The chores are plentiful, lots to do around here that needs doing for sure. From chasing pigeons away, to cleaning screens, some overdue painting, electrical work, etc.



We had started up a new construction in early March adding another floor for some anticipated staff lodging. As soon as the quarantine hit, all construction had to cease.

We had building materials (brick, gravel, sand) that remained in a vacant lot next door to us, not getting used. The construction made some headway the two weeks that it had

before the quarantine but not an inch of progress in the 7 weeks since. We hope it picks up May 10 when the quarantine is lifted and we can get a lot more done. It is obvious that we will not be able to finish it on this trip and much will remain when we come back later this year to coordinate and get completed.



April 20 - Things are certainly different here than in the US. Recently the mayor came by and gave out free 'live' chickens. I missed the butchering that our youth leader Angie carried out but I did get to enjoy the meal. A few days later the mayor made a similar offer and we got another, rather plump one. This one had a prominent comb on the head so I figured we got a rooster. But I must have said that out loud so our 'rooster' gave us an egg the next morning. Now it has been many many days since getting that one egg, so I have been doing some online education reading about winter months, molting season, no eggs. Great! Oh well, guess we will be having chicken



People are getting quite restless to get back to work. Peru seems to be copying the US and putting a debt package together to send stimulus funds to all who are out of work. However in Peru, the people getting paid "under the table" are not on anyone's 'official payroll' so they are not getting counted for the stimulus. I have heard that this could count for as much as 70% of the real labor force in Lima and other metro areas. This is causing a great deal of problems. After the last 2 week extension that the governor made to the quarantine, a lot of them started walking back to the mountains where they came from. They came down from the mountains for the money to send home to their poor families and now there is no money.



An even worse story is for all the Venezuelan legal refugees that are in Peru. They too are not counted for 'stimulus' but are also out of work, told to sit tight even though they can't pay their rent or eat.

A lot of them, even from Ica area where we are, are simply planning to walk back to Venezuela. And it's horrible there, but again, if you can't work you can't eat, how bad can it be. That is no short walk, we are talking thousands of miles. There were a good number of them sleeping on the side of the Pan American Highway. There was a major accident just a few days ago when a truck that didn't see them ended up killing many. It is very sad.



A country like this needs to do something different, something more, not just copy what works in America since this is simply not America.

The above many pictures are some of the homes we have been able to help by putting a weeks worth of food together, and to give. We have hardly scratched the surface. We have far more need than we can handle. We have sent some funds to Lima for a list of Venezuelans that are desperate. If you can help us at all with this need, we have matching gifts available to double the value of what you give, and 100% of your gift is duplicated to 200%.

Help us help others.



This photo is current, of Cory Williamson .. braving the quarantine with us, face mask and all after making a few home deliveries of the above food supplies to some worthy homes. Before the quarantine, Cory has also been fantastic in working with the younger children, active in the bible stories, playing Samson, Daniel, Lazarath, Prodigal son's older brother, and many more roles. He is a real 'skit ham' and good at it, and the kids love him.



We want to shout out a great thank you to Cory a youth pastor from Illinois who is spending 6 months with us with a full intent of extending that to a much larger stay. He is working with many of our volunteers, primarily Alba and Angy, and others, to develop an active youth ministry aimed at the teenagers. We have always had programs aimed at the younger children up through 12, but never to the teenagers, where the need is even greater. Many of these teens grew up at the mission as well!



This is a dream of this mission, we have even kept an entire 3rd floor vacant with the intent of it being some sort of 'teen center'. We are most grateful for Cory's heart for this ministry, his experience, and his decided plans to extend his stay to make it happen. He has been an excellent technician for Sunday service streaming on facebook during the quarantine, and a regular rotation of preachers as well, being able to do so in both spanish and english. Welcome Cory, we are most excited with your continual leadership, input, ideas, enthusiasm and quite active participation and leadership with the goal of this mission.

Come on down!!! If your church or group would like to make a mission trip to our area, please let us know. Our needs are many, teaching, construction, evangelism, mentoring, sports, charity, and more. If you are able and willing to support someone who wants to come, please let us know that as well since we have many inquiries from people that are looking for financial assist to come to the field. To help with a construction project, to sponsor a child for aid, food, clothing, to attend or help someone else attend a Discipleship Training school, to feed a family, fix a wall, add a roof, etc. We can't do this without support from others. God bless you. We return to the USA June 15th for a few months but the mission continues with

- planned visits from missionaries,
- Continual **construction** at the mission (always need assist)
- Quarantine to cease May 24th, with a resumption prayerfully of childrens ministry
- Puppet ministry visit in August 2020.
- **Knitting teaching team** prayerful visit from San Diego in August 2020
- **Our 2nd DTS / EDE in June 2021!**
- returning [dental hygienist visit](#) in 2021, **missionary dentists welcome** as well!!!
- a hopeful [medical mission trip](#) in 2021 (please, let us know if you know of any medical personnel (doctors or nurses) who might like to join), we have a very receptive clinic we are working with.



Your prayers are most appreciative for support for

- our Venezuela [host family, the Barriga's](#); as well as their family and friends living in Venezuela
- for our acquiring ground transportation, sorely needed for all that we do; We are almost fully funded on this immediate purchase need! Will need help with the operating cost!!
- For the needs of the orphan children, the elderly, the hungry, those without proper housing to live in,
- for our gaining an additional missionary couple, and/or other long term resident support. There is so much to do. We are blessed with the infrastructure to do far more than we can with the staff we currently have.



Growing our resident staff continues as our biggest area of need. We are most interested in longer term staff members adopting this area with us. Please encourage others that may be thinking of missionary work to please check us out. We can never get enough resident help here and we would really love to hear of people that would like to serve in the field. We can assure them that it is most rewarding.

Thank you Lord for making us a part of your plan.

Thank you so much for your support in prayers and finances. Our needs here are great; Gods plans are even greater. We pray that you share our information with others, write us to

ask any questions, send or support someone who would like to come work here at the mission, possibly help some that already are, visit or just ask for any more information you would like to know.

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