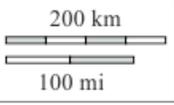


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Peru Mission Trip Report

During February 22nd to March 1st, thirteen adults from Southbrook Church (five women and eight men) went for a mission trip to Peru to support and show love to one of our international partners, The Bosch's family, from Brazos Abiertos.

Preparation for the Trip

There were five meetings held, once per month, to prepare for this mission trip. During these meetings the group discussed trip details, Itinerary, passports, packing lists, etc., funding and trip expense payments, information about Peru and cultural differences, donations for the Brazos Abiertos Ministry and tool lists. The group held one of the meetings in a Peruvian restaurant in West Allis to learn about Peruvian food, meal schedules, and traditions. The group also had the opportunity to practice basic Spanish with Ronald Gest, MATC Spanish instructor. In addition, the group learned from Jason Peterson about his experience as leader of the past mission trips to Peru. Finally, Dr. Tim Allen was invited to prescribe medication in case of illness or stomach problems and advise on typical risks of international travel pertaining to Peru.

The flights to and from Lima were purchased through Adoption Airfare & Cheap Missions Trips that found tickets using Delta Airlines for a fast and direct route to the destination.

The group met the day before leaving to Peru to pack all suitcases, distribute the donations and tools, and weigh all luggage. The day of the trip the group went to the airport using a 12-passenger van and a truck with a volunteer driver. The group arrived on time and flights departed as planned.

During the waiting time at the airport, the group was informed about the schedule of activities that the Bosch family put together for the team. What follows below is a summary of Southbrook's activities in service of Brazos Abiertos.

<p>Sunday 2/23</p>	<p>1 a.m. - Pick up airport Jordi Bosch</p> <p>10 a.m. - Breakfast at hotel</p> <p>12:30 p.m. - Leaving for Brazos Abiertos</p> <p>1 p.m. - Lunch at Brazos Abiertos follow by a tour of the community</p> <p>4 p.m. - Church service Preaching: Sean Luellwitz</p> <p>6:30 p.m. - Dinner</p>
<p>Monday to Friday General Schedule 2/24 – 2/28</p>	<p>6 a.m. - group meet at the hotel lobby and walk to the Bosch's family home.</p> <p>6:30 a.m. - Breakfast at Bosch's family</p> <p>7a.m. - Leaving for Brazos Abiertos (10 people travel in Willem's van, the other 3 take public transportation with Jordi)</p> <p>7:30 a.m. - Devotion with Brazos Abiertos team</p> <p>8:00 a.m. - tasks assignments – work on construction projects</p> <p>1:00 p.m. - Lunch</p> <p>1:30 pm - 5:30 p.m. Work on construction projects</p> <p>6:00 p.m. - Dinner at Bosch's home</p>
<p>Tuesday 2/24</p>	<p>7:00 pm - Women night: Art Project and testimony lead by Barb</p>
<p>Wednesday to Friday 3/25 – 3/28 9 a.m. to noon</p>	<p>Children Bible Club: Leading craft activities and theater for children 3-5 years old</p> <p>Stephanie, Willie, and Ginny</p>
<p>Friday 2/28</p>	<p>Zumba class for Brazos Abiertos staff</p> <p>Ginny</p>
<p>Saturday 3/29</p>	<p>9:30 am - Breakfast</p> <p>10:30 a.m. - loading the bus with luggage</p> <p>11 a.m. to 8 p.m. - sightseen around Lima</p> <p>9 p.m. - airport</p>

The group arrived at 1 a.m. on Sunday the 23rd, Jordi was waiting for the team and took them to la Molina. The team arrived at Casino De Policia hotel around 2:30 a.m.

After recovering from the trip Sunday became a day to adjust to the environment. After making the group's first commute to Cieneguilla, they were introduced to the community, the Brazos staff, and partook in their Sunday afternoon service. Pastor Sean lead the service with interpretation provided by Jordi Bosch.



The group concluded the day at a local restaurant accompanied by Brazos' leaders, Jordi and Ria Bosch and Willem and Erna Vedder.

Construction Projects

There was a daily schedule for the group with tasks to accomplish each day. William and Jordi served as project managers, assigning each person to their individual tasks. Jordi and Willem checked in and provided supplies to the other supporting teams in between their own work on Brazos' most critical construction projects. Together with Brazos Abiertos' staff members, the group accomplished the following projects:

- Construction of a guest house that will allow for constant supervision of the facilities over nights by a trusted member of the staff (see Figure 1)
- Reconfiguration of a classroom
- Reconstruction of a classroom with a second floor for storage (see Figure 2)
- Flooring for three classrooms



Figure 2



Figure 1

- Touch up paint on one classroom and two coats of white in the guest house (Figure 3)



Figure 3

- Installation of two urinals, a toilet and a sink in the guest house
- Assisted in fixing the entrance stairs of the church
- Exterior decoration for the school using color shapes and signs (Figure 4 through 6)



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6

Women's Night

The five female members of the team organized a women's night event to show love to the women in the community. There were twenty-two participants who made an art project lead by Barb. She demonstrated to them how to create a floral art piece while giving her own testimony to the group. The participants enjoyed the activity and some of them expressed that this event was their first time ever creating an art piece. One member of the community was especially thankful for the experience, saying that the colors brightened an otherwise dreary day.



Barb's testimony was very powerful and significant to those who heard it. They were very grateful with Barb for sharing it.



Children Bible Club

Twenty-two children, three to five years old, participated in the three-day Children Bible Club. Willie, Stephanie, and Ginny helped with the different activities scheduled including crafts, playing time, and children theater. It was a blessing to be able to serve together with Brazos Abiertos' Staff and love on the children.



Zumba Classes

A Zumba class was scheduled to bring the Brazos Abiertos staff an opportunity to participate in a fitness activity before starting their daily activities. It was a way to remind the participants of the importance of self-care in our daily lives.



Post-Mission Trip Debriefing

On Sunday March 8th the mission team reconvened to discuss the impact of the trip upon themselves and Brazos. Several questions were asked of the group. Questions such as:

- How did the mission trip impact your faith?
- What did you learn about the people you served?
- What did you learn about poverty and injustice?
- What did you learn about servanthood and discipleship?

One participant eloquently wrote his experience out as follows:

We were attracted by the opportunity to contribute... To share of the abundance of our many blessings. We signed up to paint walls, sweep floors, rearrange boards and pound nails. He, all the while, purposed to use this momentary redirected attention away from ourselves, to connect cultures, and strengthen and encourage His children toward love and good works.

We laughed, we cried, we shared, we cared. We carried one another's burdens; we worked shoulder to shoulder, each playing a vital part, until we had all given what we had to give. We, as the body of Christ, let go our distinct differences and desires, to find joy in the pleasure of His perfect purpose.

Our group was like a cell of the 'body', nothing missing, and none not required. Interdependent and supportive, sharing what we had, asking for what we needed to work in this poor pocket of God's precious souls in another land.

In the end, for me at least, it was a tiny taste of Heaven... A life surrounded by the saints, in pursuit of His good pleasure.

- Earl Lieske

Future Peru Mission Trip Recommendations

- It was a great advantage to have Dr. Tim Allen available to consult for health concerns both before and during the trip. It would be advantageous for all attending Mission members if prescriptions were distributed early in the process to allow for adequate time for purchasing the recommended medications.
- Cordless electric tools are a must. Charged batteries were rationed due to difficulty charging. It is recommended that future trips come armed with more batteries and battery charging stations. This trip had three battery charging stations and approximately five Milwaukee brand batteries to share among three compatible tools.
- If painting is anticipated, other recommended supplies include plastic sheets to protect the floors, Painter's tape, paintbrushes, latex gloves and rags.
- In the next men & women's trip to Brazos it is suggested that the women could work together with the Brazos staff to help clean and reorganize the classrooms and supply room.

Thank you for your prayers and support. Our hearts are filled – filled with gratitude, joy, burdens to pray, and the Holy Spirit. It was a meaningful, and joy-filled, experience for everyone involved.



From left to right: Ed Fritz, Tim Hawkins, Frank Redovich, Sean Flanagan, Sean Luellwitz, Samantha Carstens, Barb & Joe Brooks, Eric Cluth, Stephanie Sayeg, Ginny Gest, Willie & Earl Lieske