

# Fall 2019



"Serving the least of these..."

## What is Happening in Jasiel?? By Sue Wood

Talk about change. It seems to me that the old adage is true, "the more things change, the more they stay the same". Our Callao Jasiel Program has been bounced around from location to location, but the things that remain the same are the determination and the love shown by our team of volunteers, who work each week to make an impact on the lives of people with disabilities. It can get very discouraging, we find a decent place, within the area where we serve, and that can accommodate 50 to 60 people, some of them in wheelchairs, the word gets out to where we are, and then we have to change places. The moms of the program have opened their homes on

various Saturdays, we have found vacant bank-owned buildings, only for them to be sold from under our noses. We have tried to see if schools or churches will let us use a room or two... currently we are meeting at a "Club" that has a soccer court, a big room and a mezzanine for the moms to use as their own space. It's not perfect, and it is not wheelchair friendly, but for now it is home.

Our Pachacutec Jasiel Program continues to grow. The kids in this program are younger, and some of the disabilities are severe, but the love and determination of this group of volunteers is fierce. They continue to try to create a space where everyone is welcomed. They are trying

to build community; a place that the moms and the kids can connect with friends and with God. We encounter many challenges in Pachacutec, the weather (their winter is the worst, the fog settles on the mountain, and doesn't leave for months, wreaking havoc with our fragile kids.. pneumonia is horrible), the roads are not paved and so getting kids out and about is a challenge for the moms, and the poverty is extreme... and yet the joy and the love continues to amaze me. It is fun to go back now and have some of the kids recognize me, know me. I get lots of hugs when I am there!

We have started a new Jasiel in Andahuaylillas, a small town about an hour outside of Cusco. There our new Ministry Partner, Ma-



Lima leadership team.

ria, has assembled a small but determined team. They go out scouring the small agricultural communities, looking for families who need help and encouragement. They have come across many families and have already started a weekly program. They recently told us that there are four Deaf young adults in their area and none of them know how to sign, other than some home-signs. Our team there is looking into going to Cusco to attend Sign Language classes (*cont on p2*)

## Touching Lives through Pedro by Sue Wood

I continue to be amazed by how a very determined man, with very few resources can make such a dramatic impact. We have been supporting Pedro for 3 or 4 years now, and he continues to grow and thrive in his ministry to,



Pedro's Monday night bible study.

not only other Deaf adults, but also to a church full of hearing brothers and sisters. Four years ago, when

Jim and I visited him at his home, in a very dangerous part of Callao, he was living hand-to-mouth, with dirt floors and a roof so dilapidated that I am sure that it was no protection against the weather or intruders for that matter. Slowly, piece by piece, Pedro has built up not only his Ministry to Deaf adults, but also his home. Every Monday night some 40 to 50 (*Cont on last page*)

## Cusco, Our New Frontier!

By Sue Wood

On a recent trip to Peru, Sue was invited to share the vision of WBI and WBI Peru with a group of about 150 pastors and leaders from various Christian Missionary Alliance churches. These pastors, all from the southern third of Peru, had gathered for a conference in Cusco. Sue was able to share and encourage these pastors and leaders to step up to the plate, and lead the way in Disability Ministry. She shared some personal experiences, having grown up with two sisters with disabilities, as well as a lesson from John 9:1-4. This is the story of the blind man, and Jesus' disciples asking why he was born blind. The disciple wanted to know if it was his sin, or his parent's sin that caused the man's blindness. Most people focus on verses 3 and 4, and

rightfully so, as Jesus addresses the purpose of his blindness, not the cause. Sue had a different approach. She focused on verse 1.

**John 9:1 "As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth."**

Jesus *saw* the man. Friends, we work in an invisible community. They are overlooked, pushed to the side, cast out, and ignored. Jesus **SAW** him. That's what Sue asked the pastors to do. See the people with disabilities. **SEE** them with the eyes of Christ. God will do the rest. So far we have 10 churches who want to start Jasiel Programs!



Sue with the team in Cusco.

"Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times." Mark 4:8

## Pediatric Wheelchairs...Life Changing!

By Sue Wood



We will never be *Joni and Friends*, a ministry that supplies wheelchairs across the globe, but when I go down, if possible, I will bring a chair. In fact, I have a system now when I travel. First, I check three 50-pound bags at the Delta curbside check in where I can also check a wheelchair, for free (thank you Delta and the Americans with Disabilities Act!). Then, along with my carry-on, a backpack, and a rolling walker (you know the type, the kind older people use with the little seat in case they get tired), I head to the check-in

counter inside the airport to check the walker with the Special Needs gate agent. I do not travel light! Typically the only things that return home with me are my backpack and my carry-on. Sometimes, I will fill one of the suitcases up with Peruvian sweaters and coffee; both items are used back here in Minnesota to raise money for my next trip! The two pictures (far left and below) reveal our recent recipients of pediatric wheelchairs which I was able to bring down. The little guy in the blue shirt with his mom and dad is Joel. He is the cutest little 4 year old! Joel has Cerebral Palsy and cannot walk. This chair will serve him well

for many years! The little girl in the blue jogging suit with the pink stripes is Milagros, a beautiful 8 year old with Cerebral Palsy. Her brother, Rafa, loves her! We work with a couple of different agencies making sure that the chairs not only fit the kids but are adjusted for each child's specific needs. We graciously and gratefully accept donations of wheelchairs, both pediatric and adult, as well as walkers and heavy-duty strollers for bigger kids who live in the rough terrain of the mountains where wheelchairs cannot function. Let us know if you have a donation for us for our upcoming trip in March!



### *Jasiel, continued*

so that they can bring it back to their group and teach others, including the four Deaf young adults. One of the challenges we face there is that this is where the true Andean people live, and so many of them speak Quechua, the language of the Incan people. Thankfully one of our team members speaks fluent Quechua! (The sign language of Cusco is also significantly different than Lima.)

Our goal is to soon have a Jasiel Program in Cusco. We have some people there who are willing, now we just need to get their Pastor on board!



## Financial Update by Jim Wood

WBI has been blessed over the years with generous and wonderful donors that support us. This past year, we have transitioned from a model of more money than ministry to now more ministry than money. What a wonderful place to be. We have seen the doors open to expand the Jasiel program from 1 site in Callao, Peru to 4 sites spread throughout Lima and Cusco. We now also have a full time, in-country director overseeing the programs under the WBI umbrella. In 2020, we are looking to expand the Jasiel program to many cities in the southern 1/3 of Peru. One of our big projects in 2019 was beginning construction of our WBI-Peru headquarters/training center, lovingly named "Sharon's Place" after a dear friend of ours who lost her battle with cancer. Her generous donation enabled us to begin construction. Currently, we are close to finishing the bottom floor so that trainings and pro-



Chicuito in process!

grams can use the space. The second floor will have 4 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms, that when finished, will allow for people to accompany WBI on mission trips and have a safe, comfortable

place to stay. The second floor will also be a revenue generating operation that will help support our programs in Peru and provide a job for some of the participants in the Jasiel program.

Sue and I have seen God open doors and hearts to families and people with disabilities in Peru. This is not something that we do alone. We have an awesome team of volunteers and staff in Peru and together, with our donors, we feel blessed to be able to serve. There are many ways that you can contribute to this ministry. The number one priority is prayer. We are encouraged by the many people that lift us and this ministry up in prayer. As we are expanding, the financial needs are also growing. If you have any connections, Sue and I are willing to come and talk to clubs or potential donors to explain WBI and the needs. Links on our website will direct you to the different ways to contribute financially. Thanks again for your continued support as we boldly go into 2020.

*Thank you for your support!*

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Sergio, a participant in Jasiel, praising God during worship.

Yes! I want to help:

- ☐ I will pray regularly for WBI
- ☐ I will pray for your trip in December
- ☐ I have material items to donate
- ☐ I am interested in volunteering
- ☐ Please send updates on events
- ☐ I am interested in joining a future trip

☐ \$30

☐ \$50

☐ \$100

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## A letter from the Executive Director...

Jim and I had the opportunity to attend the *Wonderfully Made Special Needs Conference* in Kansas City this past October. This conference focuses on disability ministries providing resources, professional development and connections to people working with people with special needs. We made some great connections with special needs organizations, shared our mission in Peru and started some conversations about some possible collaborations to translate training materials into Spanish. One of our greatest challenges beyond the translating materials into Spanish is to culturally translate programs and materials so that they can be accepted in Peru. The world of disability ministries in the US is decades ahead of Peru and you

cannot go from 0-100 mph overnight. What we learned is that even in the United States, many churches have no training, resources or willingness to accept a family with a special needs child. We heard stories of families that were asked to leave 5-6 churches until they found a church that would accept them and their child. Many families do not have the perseverance to keep looking. In Peru, the challenges are even greater. Sue had the opportunity to present at a conference for pastors that included over 100 pastors representing the southern 1/3 of Peru (see Cusco, our new Frontier! Article). God is moving and we are encouraged by close to a dozen pastors seeking more information about starting a Jasiel ministry in their church. Families with a special needs child are truly

an unreached group that the church needs to embrace.



Picture of our hotel room for the conference. Home away from home.

## Prayer Requests por favor

- ⇒ For our time in Lima Nov 29<sup>th</sup> to Dec 8<sup>th</sup> including safe travels, our baggage to arrive with us and make it through customs; that we make the most of our time down there - our docket is very full of meetings, networking, planning and outreaches. Pray for our health too!
- ⇒ For all of our Jasiel programs to grow and thrive; and to find a place to call 'home'. Soon.
- ⇒ For the hearts of the leadership in the next church that will be hosting a Jasiel Program that God would be preparing them to begin this new ministry.
- ⇒ For a strong financial close to 2019.

## Pedro *continued*

people arrive to Pedro's for fellowship and a bible study. They come from as far as 2 hours away, faithfully, to learn more about God and His word, in their own language. They arrive to his home, still in the middle of a very dangerous part of Lima, but a very different home than the one I visited just a few short years ago. A new floor, a new roof, and new (to him) furniture line the walls so that all who come to learn are accommodated. Pedro has asked us for very little over the years, in fact, he did all this renovation using his meager salary and the help of his friends. He did recently ask for two things; one was an Uno Game. I was able to bring down a couple of Uno games on



Sue, Pedro and friends.

my last trip, and as he pulled the Deluxe Tin Box version out of the bag I brought him a cheer came up from the crowd! Apparently, they love their Uno down there! The other request was a bit more ambitious. He would like some kind of laptop and projector so that when he is teaching, he can use the projector to have pictures up that support his teaching. Currently, to help with the visual

learning of his crowd, he hand-draws all his pictures each week. We would like to be able to buy him a multimedia system for Christmas. It is much easier to buy it in country, because if he needs tech support, it is best to have one they are familiar with. Please continue to pray for Pedro, and for his ministries, inside and outside of the church.