

WBI Quarterly Update



"Serving the least of these..."

The Nisor Language School Alternative

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It became very apparent to us that the educational system for deaf kids in Lima is dismal. The only choices they have are sub-par. The option for these children are to go to a regular "hearing" school, but there are NO interpreters, or go to a government "Deaf" school where the teachers may, or more likely, may not know how to sign. The reality is that these kids are not diagnosed until age 5 (or later) that they are deaf. A vast majority of them are from hearing families so these kids have NO language until someone finally steps in and teaches them to sign.

We met a classroom full of Deaf middle schoolers with minimal or no language. Two percent (2%) of the world's Deaf population has access to education in sign language. I would say it is less than that in Peru.

As of this moment, WBI is supporting NISOR, a ministry in Lima that has established a school for deaf kids using a completely new (to Peru) model of teaching. They are incorporating deaf adults as language role models as well as teachers. Everyone who teaches is fluent in Peruvian Sign Language (PSL), AND they require the parents (usually the

moms) to learn PSL and incorporate part of the parents' learning in with the kids'. They hope to use this as a "lab school" so that others can come and learn and take it back to their schools.

In addition, WBI has been able to hire a Deaf man, Serafin, to work part time as a chaplain and language role model at NISOR.

Note from the Nisor website: "Deaf Children of the Americas, NISOR, is a nonprofit association whose primary purpose is to achieve well-being in all areas of development of deaf people, which has been developing different projects like Home Deaf, Signs and Teach Me and Meeting Cultures.



Above: Serafin sharing with a group of students at Nisor.

Meet Giovanni



This is Giovanni. He has Down Syndrome. (Note it

is Down, not Down's; this changed a few years ago, like 30, but hasn't caught on yet). He and his brother, who has the same disability, have no family to support them. Their parents have both passed away. They sell candies on the street to support themselves. *Please pray for them.*

[Read more on our website: www.WBIint.org](http://www.WBIint.org)



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Other Prayer Requests:

- Johan, 34 years old and is dependent on his 60 year old mother, has moderate mental retardation which has affected his motor system, language and vision.
- Jael, also 34 and living with his 53 year old mother, has moderate mental retardation and autism traits.
- Also pray for Sue & Jim's upcoming trip in late November and their work with the Lima Cercado Church on deaf outreach and their work with WBI's ministry partner Victoria.



2779 Nevens Ave SW.

Cokato, MN 55321

952-297-6692

sue.wood@wbint.org or
jim.wood@wbint.org

‘Mittens with a Mission’

Would you like to win a free pair of mittens? Submit your entry for a creative name for our newsletter and if we select your entry as the winner, Sue will deliver a pair of your choosing to you personally. Winter is coming soon so get those creative juices flowing! Please submit your ideas to sue.wood@wbint.org with **‘Newsletter Naming Contest’** in the subject line.

The season is changing and it’s high mitten selling season! Did you know that besides private donations, WBI is also funded by the proceeds of all the mittens Sue makes and sells? After their spring trip to Peru and with much prayer, Sue has traded in her career as a financial advisor to become the full time Director of WBI. One of her many responsibilities has been to ‘beef’ up her mitten inventory so she can capitalize on more craft sales this season in order to increase donations, educate people, and increase ministry awareness. We would love for you to stop by any of the sales below to shop this year’s inventory or to simply say hello. For current sales calendar of where ‘Mittens with a Mission’ can be found, please see our [website](#). Can’t make it to a sales but you are still interested in purchasing mittens? Please contact Sue at sue.wood@wbint.org or 952-465-5127.

God’s Perfect Timing

If our first leg of our ministry goes to raising the level of deaf education for children, our second leg goes to supporting the deaf adult community. I don’t know the number of deaf adults in Lima but in America 1% of the population has a severe hearing impairment or are deaf, so... for the 14.5 million people in Lima, that is 145,000 deaf people in Lima alone. Of that number, NONE are educated to a college level. Sadly, many don’t make it past 2nd grade. God’s people need to break that cycle. But what do we do with these already grown adults, living, marrying, and having families? How do you explain God’s love for them when their lack of language and education puts them at such a disadvantage to understand? How do you connect them to a church when no church wants them? WBI has been praying and searching for 7 years for a church that will team with us in reaching this community. We have been looking for a church that is willing to reach these deaf adults with not only the love of

Christ, but also language skills, and what we call “Life Skills”... In God’s perfect timing and goodness, He led us to Pastor Ivan and his congregation... the Lima Cercado Church. We are so excited to team with Pastor Ivan and his staff! Not only is WBI teaming with this church, they have also hired Pedro. Pedro is a deaf man who has some training in being a missionary to the Deaf community. Together, Pedro and Pastor Ivan are establishing a Deaf ministry on Sundays and Pedro has started Sign Language classes to equip the congregation.



Pastor Ivan (above left) made a surprise visit to our open house and shared with us his heart to reach the deaf community by training his church members to be the hands and feet of Christ. We are excited to partner with him to reach the Deaf community in Lima. God’s timing is perfect!



Left—Sue with Pastor Pedro