

# WBI Quarterly Update



*"Serving the least of these..."*

**Gracias! Gracias! Gracias! Gracias! Gracias! Gracias!  
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Volume 2, Spring 2017

We just can't thank you enough! Because of your generous giving our Christmas outreaches were a huge success! It started last June. The Lima Cercado church had offered Sign Language classes with approximately 45 people that started the class ending with 30 people who graduated! Jim and I were able to attend the graduation ceremony and present the certificates of completion. These people were dedicated to learning sign language! The youngest member was 10 and the oldest 83.. The purpose for these classes was so that the church could be intentional about inviting the neighboring Beethoven School for the Deaf to events at the church and there would be people there that could com-

municate with the children. Well they delivered on this! The entire school, including the teachers, staff and the Principal, all attended the event for a wonderful morning of fun. They played a group memory game and had a wonderful drama about a disobedient sheep and a loving Shepherd. The fun and chaos ensued after the handing out of the presents. With your help each student received an age appropriate book with bible stories/lessons, a bag of candy and cookies, stickers, a ball of some kind (we even got very nice soccer balls and basketballs for the older ones.), a bible, and some different biblical card games. The Principal personally thanked us for all we did and they were all impressed that everyone involved at the church knew how



*The Principal personally thanked us ...and they were all impressed that everyone involved at the church knew how to sign!*

to sign! We also enjoyed a sweet time with the members of the Jasiel Ministry on two Saturdays, celebrating Christmas both days! We had a wonderful assortment of gifts for each member on the first Saturday and on the following Saturday, we were able to give each of the moms some gifts as well, thanks to your generosity. Each member went home with a bible picked specifically for them and each of the moms received a bible as well! We did not have a Christmas party with Victoria's group, "Educating the Nations" but we were

able to hand out small gifts of Desitin, protein powder, shampoo and soap to each of the moms. As it always feels good to give to others, we here at WBI are seeking ways that we can impact these communities in an on-going, self-sustaining manner. We cannot supply the need for Desitin in Lima, but we can connect the families to the resources they need for each of their families. The small gifts we bring when we go down are just icing on the cake... so to speak.

has difficulty speaking, as she has never received and speech or language therapies. Currently she is in need of some reconstructive

surgery on her intestines, but her mother is fearful to let her go in for surgery. Analris is a delightful gal and I have so enjoyed getting to know her!



## *Getting to Know...*

This is Analris and her mom, Graciela. Analris is 30 years old and has an intellectual disability. She also has speech problems due to malformed jaw bones. She

## What's happening at NISOR? Good question!

One of WBI's goals was to not only set up Pedro in a church where he can be reaching the deaf community, but also to create more 'Pedros' if you will. Juan Carlos is our new "Pedro". He has had several low-paying jobs but being as he is deaf (he is hard of hearing if you want to get picky), it is difficult for him to get and keep a job. Recently I reached out to Ernesto to see if NISOR could hire him and mentor him. (WBI will be paying his salary). In order to be effective in his future ministry he needs to immerse himself in the Deaf Culture. He was born and raised in a hearing family, his parents do not sign.. they are wonderful people, but his mom suffers from what I call "OPMS" - Over-protective Mom Syndrome. We are hoping that by connecting Juan Carlos with NISOR that he will get the exposure

to the Deaf Community that he needs to become an effective and influential leader among his deaf peers. He has a wonderful base of knowledge of the bible, but now he needs to learn how to minister to his own community in the most effective way.

**Please keep him in your prayers.** This is a win-win because NISOR get a very capable young man who will be a wonderful language role model for the young deaf students!



From left to right: Jim Wood, Juan Carlos, Sue Wood

According to the Gospel of John, 9:1–12, "**Jesus saw a man who had been blind since birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ... Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him."**

## A Girl Can Dream... Can't She?

Whenever I visit with Ivonne, our Ministry Partner in Lima, we talk of our vision. Her vision for Jasiel, our vision for WBI. We can talk for hours on what God has shared with each of us, His Plan, His Vision. I love having someone who is



'Dream house' for a fully staffed Jasiel Day Program in the La Punta neighborhood.

as passionate as I am when it comes to serving the needs of the disabled community in Lima. Currently Jasiel is a Saturday only program. I wish each of you could come with us sometime and experience this program just once. You would catch the excitement, the fever, the passion. Ivonne loves on these people like no one else I know. They sing, they dance, they worship, they create, they fellowship. The moms get a much needed break from the daily pressures of parenting a disabled adult child in a very harsh culture. When Ivonne and I talk, we both see Jasiel becoming more than just a Saturday only program. We see it as a Monday thru Friday program. A fully staffed Day Program where these families would have a place to drop their "child" off for a full day of care. The moms would then have the opportunity to get job, if possible, or just get some rest.

Many of these participants are 40-50 years old, making their moms in their 60's or 70's. We need a PLACE. At this current time, Jasiel is housed in the CMA Church in Callao, the church allows us to use a room, and a small kitchen. We need more. So when we went for a walk, in the "La Punta" area of Lima, near the ocean, we came across this beautiful home for sale (see photo on left). It is gorgeous. It is huge. It is in a very safe area of Lima. It is perfect! I And it is \$750,000.00 Like I said, a girl can dream, can't she? **Please be in prayer as to the location God wants us to go in searching for and funding this program.** Please consider donating to WBI to help make this dream (ok, or one similar to this one) a reality.

## Speaking of Dreams...

Our last visit to Peru Jim and I were able to spend some quality time with Victoria. Her ministry, "Educating the Nations," serves the severely disabled children in the mountainous area to the north of Lima. We have been encouraging Victoria to look ahead. What does she see for Educating the Nations in the next five to ten years? Currently she spends an incredible amount of time getting kids to the doctor for appointments, or to the hospital for emergencies, to clinics for therapies. She and her team of volunteers helps these single moms by taking the children on the 2 to 3 hour bus trip (one way) to get to the only hospital in Lima that will see them. Freeing up the moms to take care of their other children. Often times these appointments and hospital runs wouldn't even happen if it weren't for Victoria. Many of these families just do not value the child enough to make the effort. Essentially, it is a choice between money for the bus or money for \_\_\_\_\_... fill in the blank because it can be just about anything else that will preempt this choice. In a culture where children are not highly valued, disabled children are the lowest of the low. Victoria is teaching these families that their child has value, is made in the image of



Above: A mother who attended the mother-child disability meeting with her son, Fabrizzio.

God, is part of the family and therefore deserves the time and resources. She is showing them what it is like to advocate for their child, something that typically doesn't happen in this community. We had the pleasure of sitting down with a room full of about 35 moms and their kids during our visit. We were just there to listen to their stories. Time and time again we heard the heartache and the struggle that these moms go thru on a daily basis. In this group, however, I heard something else. I heard some moms, the young ones mostly, wanting a better quality of life for their child. I heard them saying that what is available to them is not enough, and this

makes it through customs intact and that we all remain healthy for the entire trip!

### Prayer Requests:

- On June 26th - 28th, NISOR is hosting a conference to Sign Language Interpreters and those that teach Deaf students in Peru. This is a wonderful opportunity to encourage the journey of professionalism for local interpreters! Please be praying for this event.
- For our mission trip this July 20th - 31st, pray that all 300#'s of donated ministry goods packed in our suitcases

- With the seasonal change in Peru, this time of year is very hard on our kids in the Educating the Nations program. Please pray for good health and that the moms would be more proactive in the health care of their children, instead of reactive.

- Please pray for Angel, a little one in Victoria's Educating the Nations program who needs a blood transfusion.
- All items in red ink throughout our newsletter.

made my heart happy. This is how this culture will change when the moms, the dads, the brothers & sisters stand up and demand a better life. It is going to be a long road, currently the government provides no financial help (no Social Security Disability). **That is where we (and by 'we' I mean You) come in. Victoria wants to open a house called "Grace House" (prayer point).** A place, centered in this poor area where these families live, where the therapists would come, the doctors would come, respite would come. This will take resources we currently do not have. We, however, serve a big God, and I am confident that He will move the hearts of His people to see how they can make a difference!

*For you formed my inward parts;  
you knitted me together in my mother's  
womb.  
I praise you, for I am fearfully and  
wonderfully made. Psalm 139:13-14*

## WBI Contact Info:

**2779 Nevens Ave SW.  
Cokato, MN 55321**

Executive Director: Sue Wood  
[sue.wood@wbint.org](mailto:sue.wood@wbint.org)  
952-465-5127

Chairman of the Board: Jim Wood  
[jim.wood@wbint.org](mailto:jim.wood@wbint.org)  
952-297-6692

Secretary: Andrea Dennis  
[andrea.dennis@wbint.org](mailto:andrea.dennis@wbint.org)

Board Member: Brenda Barr  
[brenda.barr@wbint.org](mailto:brenda.barr@wbint.org)

Board Member: Scott Benjamin  
[scott.benjamin@wbint.org](mailto:scott.benjamin@wbint.org)



*A letter from the Executive Director...*

“When is your next trip to Peru?” I get that question often, and being as how we have a wedding in the family this year (our oldest son is getting married in June), it was difficult to pin down an open time for us to go. We have finally made a decision that I will leave July 20th for 12 days. I will be joined by two of our sons for part of the time, as they could each only afford to take a week off of work. Jim is unable to go with this time as he is needed at the State Department... that pesky job gets in the way again! We will be going down to meet with each of our ministry partners as well as spending some focused time with Jasiel. Jasiel is a part of the CMA church in Callao, which happens to be the sister church of Grace Church in Eden Prairie. We will be piggy-backing on Grace’s trip and their mission “festival” to have a Jasiel “festival”. Please be praying for us as this will be a wonderful

opportunity for Jasiel to expand and to attract new families dealing with adult children with disabilities. This will be an awesome way to get these families to come to church. So many of them have been burned by the church in the past, they often are completely alienated from a church family. Our sons, Andrew and Daniel, while both semi-fluent in Spanish, were wondering what they would be “doing” while they are there. We, as Americans, always think we need to be “doing” something. Doing, making, fixing etc. Sometimes “being” is the best witnessing tool we can use. Because there is a lack of men in these families (the dads typically abandon the family once their is a diagnosis of a disability), it will speak volumes to have two young men coming down to spend time, engaging with and loving on these families. There will be plenty of stuff for them to do helping with the two days we have to partner with the Jasiel program, among other things we have planned. Trust me, I will keep them very busy!

This trip will cost us about \$5,000 for the flights for the 3 of us, as well as all of the ministry materials we will be needing. Please consider giving to help us with this outreach!

Also, are you a member of a group that would like to hear about what WBI is doing in Lima? Perhaps a Rotary Group, a church group, a school class, a bible study group.. perhaps you work with people with disabilities and you would like to find out more about how you could help?! Give me a call or email me and I am happy to come out and give a short presentation on what we do and why we do it!

Thanks for all you do to support God’s work in Lima! We are blessed to partner with you on this!

Sue Wood  
Executive Director WBI  
[sue.wood@wbint.org](mailto:sue.wood@wbint.org)

952-465-5127



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



WBI is a Christian 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

Yes! I want to help:

- I will pray regularly for WBI
- I will pray for your trip to Peru in July.
- I am willing to donate material items; let me know what is needed.
- I am willing to volunteer my services.
- I would like updates on events/happenings with WBI.
- I am interested in learning more about a future trip to Peru.

Monthly gift:

- \$25
- \$50
- \$100

One Time Gift

- \$250
- \$500
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for your support!*

Please make checks payable and return to:  
**Without Borders International**  
2779 Nevens Ave SW  
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