

# 2020



Without  
Borders  
International

“Serving the least of these...”

By Sue Wood

2020 started out so well... And then... well you know the rest!

WBI had a great start to the year. We had our very first “Team Building/Team Training” event in March. Eight of us flew down early in March for a 10-day mission trip. We had several objectives for this trip, including team training, outreach in Cusco and testing our ability to bring non-family members on a trip. We needed to see what it would be like to be in charge of the logistics and planning of small groups, as we hope to be leading more trips in the future! All in all, I believe it was a success!

Our first objective, team training took place about 100 miles south-east of Lima, at a church retreat placed on the ocean! Not a bad place to “retreat”. There were approximately 34 team members that attended, plus us eight “gringos”. The North Americans were in the lead for the whole weekend, which is unusual

for us. Typically, we go down and are the “helpers” letting the Peruvians take the lead. We wanted this to be a bit of a treat for all involved, so we planned and executed the whole weekend. We had a wonderful mixture of fun, fellowship, team-building and learning packed into a 3 day/2-night weekend. We pulled all of our volunteers, from four different areas of Peru, and we all learned topics from First-Aid, to the importance of language



in shaping viewpoints to the value of including “typical” siblings in our ministry outreaches. I think the most important thing we all learned was that we are not in this alone, and that there are others with the same heart for the disability community!

Our second objective was expanding our out-

reach in Cusco. Cusco is a newer region for us, and frankly, we are still learning as we go how best to serve this community. What we didn’t realize was that God knew exactly who we needed to meet, a man by the name of Freddie Quintanilla. Freddie has an established work within the Quechua-speaking people of Cusco. These are the native Andean people groups. We are so excited to see where this partnership could go, as there are no services to the disability community within this people group (at least in Cusco).

The third objective was also met, in that we left with 8 people, and we returned home with the same 8 people! It was a learning experience, and it was fun to see what God has done through the eyes of others. What we didn’t expect was COVID. Our return travel date was March 16th. Our flight out of Lima was at 11:45 pm on the 15th. Four hours before our flight was to leave, the President of Peru announced the closing of the borders would happen on the 16th. We got out by the skin of our teeth, and the grace of God. I was totally calm thru it all, until I got home and realized how close we came to

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being “stuck” in Lima for weeks!



Jordan Bishop and the recipient of his hearing aid



Delivery of a donated wheelchair brought down in March.

## A year to be Flexible

By Jim Wood

What a year 2020 has been. In early January, Sue was in New York city participating in the Retail Orphans Initiative (ROI) super Friday event. Coming out of that event, we had 15 people show interest in traveling to Peru in October with us to see the work we do. We also received a grant from ROI to finish off our training center in Lima. Little did we know the radical turn of events that would unfold in the coming months. Our mission trip in March was a high point ending in the retreat for our staff and volunteers at a camp south of Lima. We left our team and friends on March 16<sup>th</sup>, hours before Peru was placed under martial law and closed its borders.

Up to this point, we did not fully comprehend the radical changes that were needed in the coming months. Our plans to open the WBI-Peru center for day programs and the expansion of the ministry to other parts of Peru had to be put on pause as we all navigated the uncharted waters of COVID-19.

This virus hit Peru especially hard. The Peruvian medical infrastructure

struggles even without the added stress of COVID-19. Restrictions on movement and lockdowns were strictly enforced which proved challenging for both our teams and the families we serve. As a result, we reevaluated how best to help and moved resources to providing basic food and care for the families.



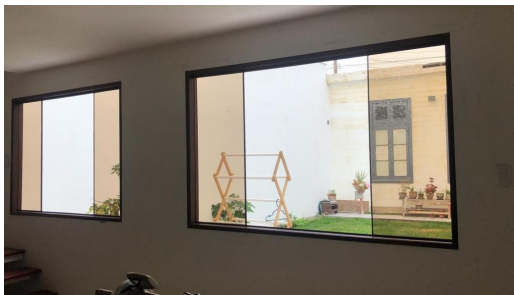
As weeks turned into months, our staff and volunteers in Peru have been resourceful and creative in shifting the in person programs to online and delivering food and materials to the families to support them and keep in touch. The needs in Peru have only increased in 2020. We are thankful for all that continue to sup-

port and pray for this ministry. We are excited to see God move in our ministry and the people we serve in 2021.



### *Mission Statement:*

*Without Borders International reaches across borders to improve the quality of life of people who are disadvantaged by providing critical services to help them spiritually, vocationally, emotionally, and socially.*



Windows and grass finally installed at WBI-Peru training center.

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

- ⇒ With sad hearts we want to share with you the news of the passing of one of our sweet, dedicated volunteers, Victoria. Victoria was a faithful servant, and her gift was that of cooking. She helped Jasiel feed 60 to 70 people every Saturday. She shone Jesus in everything she did, and was a mentor to so many of the younger moms. (Victoria's son has Cerebral Palsy, so not only is she a volunteer, as a mom she gave so much wisdom and perspective to the team.) Most of all, she was our friend. She will be missed dearly. Please pray for our Jasiel team as they are all reeling from this.

