

Family from Houston ministers to children in Peru

PRINT EMAIL

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LIMA, Peru—During Luis Campos' many medical mission trips to the Peruvian shanty town of Collique, he noticed the children seldom touched or hugged each other.

They live in extreme poverty and developed a defensive instinct at an early age.

“

Since they were 2 years old, someone has abused or taken advantage of them,” said Campos, medical director and president of Operación San Andrés, a ministry in Peru.

Christopher and Jessie Rose and their son, Joshua, moved from Texas to Peru in February to serve at Operación San Andrés with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

They live in Collique, near Lima. They help students learn math and reading, teach Bible stories and conduct classes on healthy families.

“They are helping to create an atmosphere of camaraderie and trust among the children as they seek to address the spiritual, educational, physical and economic needs of the community,” Campos said.

Operación San Andrés is a mission endeavor of South Main Baptist Church in Houston, which has sent medical mission teams since 2003.

The Roses' other partners include their home church, Tallowood Baptist in Houston and Buckner International, along with other churches.

The Roses speak Spanish and previously lived in Latin America. He became a Christian while living in Chile when a missionary told him about Christ.

After their marriage in 2003, the Roses felt called to South America. Friends, prayer and Scripture helped them confirm that Collique was where God wanted them. They packed their belongings, gave away their two cats and said goodbye to family.

“Serving in Collique has been a blessed experience,” she said. “God has already done some amazing things. ... We are serving loving—but neglected—peoples in this community. It is amazing to see the joy of Christ in people who live every day in serious and challenging situations.”

Fathers typically work manual labor jobs, earning less than \$7 a day, and many families live in shacks that don't keep out water or cold air.

Children often eat only one meal a day. The lack of nutrients slows their physical and mental development.

The 42 third- and fourth-graders participating in their tutoring program also receive nutritious food. Teachers report the children's academics and behavior have improved, Jessie Rose said.

The Roses also work with the children's parents and other adults. A class on healthy families includes lessons on handicrafts, such as embroidery. Organizers hope the new skills will help the mothers increase their families' incomes, she said.

“I talked with a mother recently who knits children's clothes,” he added. “She makes less than \$1 per jacket, and she makes five jackets in two days. I told her to come to the workshop so she could expand her work skills.”

A Tallowood Baptist Church team planned to travel to Collique this month to deliver sewing machines. In addition to sewing, the team will teach cooking as well as jewelry- and candle-making. The Roses hope to connect the Collique seamstresses with micro-loans to help them grow their sewing businesses.

“Most of all, we want to share the love of Christ with the women of Collique,” Mrs. Rose said.



Christopher Rose (far right) and Jessie Rose (far left) of Houston serve at Operación San Andrés in Peru.