



Operación
SAN ANDRÉS

...five barley loaves and two fishes,
but what are they among so many?
John 6:9

HEARTBEAT

Collique

News and Happenings at Operación San Andrés – Collique, Lima, Peru

March, 2014

Spring Mission Trip in Peruvian Summer

The first weeks of January, when the summer was just on its way, newspapers reported repeatedly about the dangers of exposure to the sun. The reports stated that Peru has some of the most intense UV radiation in the world.

Since the Spring Mission Trip was rescheduled from the usual month of April to February, the first concern was the construction crew. If the Peruvian newspapers warn the people here about the risk of spending too much time outside in the sun, how much more does this apply to the white skin Americans who are coming to work five days in the full sun.

OSA Peru advised Jack Bailey and his construction crew to come prepared by



bringing sufficient sunscreen, hats, and long-sleeve shirts.

On the Saturday before the campaign, the crew visited the project sites, which had been scheduled and prepared for them. Also Robert Battarbee, who celebrated his 80th birthday before coming on this trip, joined to team to all sites.

The overall experience of the crew was that it was certainly warmer than the trips they had been on in April and/or October and they sure needed some more rest to recover for the next day. On Friday, the last day of the campaign, they finished all their projects and said good-bye to some happy families.

The medical campaign was small in size, because of the number of doctors on this trip. They were still able to see over 300 patients

during the five days in Collique. High blood pressure and glucose levels are the most common diagnoses. Some patients were given a follow-up appointment for the next telemedicine consultation to check if the medication they received have been effective.



All children in OSA's after school program were seen by the dentist, who cleaned their teeth and, when necessary, teeth were filled.

This year, we scheduled more workers from the OSA family, mostly mothers, to help make this campaign a success. During the week some overcame their fear to speak English with the missionaries and surprised us with their English vocabulary.

In the mornings, the OSA team did VBS for children of the community, while in the afternoon the children in OSA's after school program came for their normal classes.



John Wells, who was on the construction crew, brought his accordion to Peru. His music added a wonderful sound to the morning worship. One morning, he took his talent to the street for some entertainment for the patients who were waiting in line to see a doctor. Check out the video on our Facebook page.



Irene Townsend, who is a well-known participant on these mission trips, put her experiences and thoughts in a little note. "It is easy for me to reach into my scrubs and pull out my phone and snap a photo of these beautiful children and families. What is difficult is to hear their stories of loneliness, depression, anxiety, hunger, hopelessness," she wrote, summing up some stories ending with "The heartbreak at times is overwhelming."

But as many on this trip and past trips have experienced themselves, Irene ends her note saying "I came here to comfort the people of Collique, and as has always been my experience, they comfort me."

We believe this comfort can only come from the God of all comfort. "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God." 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (NIV)



New classroom, new programs

In the community where OSA is located the water is supplied only during the night, typically between 11pm-6am. For this reason there is a water tank behind the OSA-house to store enough water for the daily use. The water is pumped up to two plastic water tanks on the roof, from where the water by flows by gravity to the different outlets in the OSA-house.

The tank has been leaking, although little, for over two years. Not wanting to run more risk of a collapse of the tank, we planned the construction of a new tank and medical supply storage in January.

During the construction period, there were days that there wasn't enough water for the whole day, but since the third week of

February, the tank has been in use and there haven't been problems since.

Seizing the opportunity to construct a classroom on top of the tank and storage, we now have the possibility to start an extra group in the "Living Water-OSA" educational enrichment program.

Since there is a third classroom available, we have planned for a new group of 1st graders to start on Monday, April 7th. The OSA team did a big promotion campaign in the community and is now evaluating children and their families, who show interest in the program.

At the same time, we plan to start reinforcement classes in the morning. There are two primary schools in the community,



which both teach some grades in the afternoon. OSA's focus is to support these children by helping them with their homework in the morning and providing them a nutritious lunch.

At the moment, we are looking for an extra teacher for the new programs.

The higher you climb, the more need you find

When the team was walking through the different communities on the hillsides around the OSA-house for the promotion of the new programs, they came to the people living highest uphill. Most of them recently made their home here, hoping to start a better life in the capital of their country. They came from the Peruvian Andes or jungle anticipating to find a job, which will provide enough for a living in Collique and their family back home.

The team met three neighbors at an area with five 300 gallon water tanks at the foot of their community. They told the team that they purchased a pump and hose to pump the



water to their houses. A little higher up another hill the people didn't have a pump and carried the water with buckets to their houses, which they reached zigzagging to the top.

Yes, the need is extreme, as they don't have most things the average person reading this has, but the team met people for whom community is a way of life and surviving, which might be uncommon to the average person reading this.

Youth Camp

On Monday, February 3rd, 26 youth with loaded bags and full of excitement came to the OSA-house. After they received their OSA lunch, they climbed on the bus that took them to a district in the south side of Lima, the same place where they went last year.

Of the 26 youth who attended the camp, 9 have been attending the Saturday youth group meetings, but are not part of the regular OSA weekly programs.



It was great to see how they all mingled.

This year's theme was "Israel vs Egypt, the conflict." During the camp the Biblical stories were told and applied to today. "Are you living in conflict with your Creator?" was a question the youth were asked during the camp.

In addition to the daily teachings and worship services, they had small group devotional and discussion time, played games and sports and had lots of fun in the swimming pool.

On the last night there was a bonfire where they all made a decision before God, ranging from reading the Bible more often to obeying their parents and from quitting drinking alcohol to giving their life to Christ.

Please pray for these teenagers and the decisions they made.

Upcoming Events

March 30

- Start of weekly worship services

April 24-26

- Campaign "Good Manners"

Please, PRAY with us for

- Children and youth of Collique
- OSA children and families
- New programs and projects
- New teacher
- Vision and direction as we try to address the highest needs

Excited after reading this newsletter? Please contact Ruth Campos for additional information about future OSA mission trips.

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Also contact Ruth for additional information about Operación San Andrés and its mission in Peru

Visit the Facebook page for more pictures of the activities.

<https://www.facebook.com/operacion-sanandres>



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