



In His Hands

The newsletter of Carol Dannenberg
serving with SIM in Peru.

"My times are in Your hands . . ." Psalm 31:15

May 2020

Dear Prayer Partners & Friends,

These are unprecedented times. A world-wide plague, for the first time in history. Uncertainty abounds. Every week we wait for national leaders to decide whether we'll be able to work, or if we will be confined to our houses for another 2 weeks. The only thing we can really depend on is God's faithfulness and provision. But then, there is nothing more dependable!

Life under quarantine

Peru is basically under lock-down. Only those working in essential services (food, medical, banks, government, utilities & internet) are allowed to work. We have a 6 PM curfew. Only one person per family per day is allowed to leave their home, and only to purchase food or medicine. Masks are mandatory. People are not allowed to use personal vehicles. To enter public places, you must stand in line to wash or disinfect your hands. In one supermarket, you also stand in line to get your temperature checked before you may enter (below).



Line-up to get temperature check.

All this is not so bad if you have enough money saved up to get through the time of unemployment. However, many do not. Some families, who moved to Arequipa from farms in the country, are desperate to get back to their home farms, where there at least is food. But there is no transportation for them. There are families who are *walking* 200 miles (yes, miles) or more to get to their hometowns. It is that or die for lack of food.



Screenshot of a video showing families walking days or weeks at a time to get back to their farm or fields.

Another group of vulnerable people are Venezuelan refugees. For about a year, refugees have been escaping horrible conditions in Venezuela and coming to other S. American countries including Peru. According to UNHCR, over 4.5 million Venezuelans have fled their country. 800,000 have entered Peru. Many made a living selling things on the street, but now that there are few people on the street, they are left without any source of income. They have no money for food or rent.

The refugees are not just the poor of Venezuela. After their dictator declared the US dollar as the only valid currency, most Venezuelans were left penniless. The money they had was worthless. Thus the refugees include upper and middle-class people as well as the poor.

Ministry under quarantine

SIM partnered with a local church to start a project to help the Venezuelan population and others in need. We decided to distribute bags of food items and help where we could with rent. First we obtained funds from SIM's Emergency Fund, with the view to help about 150 families we knew of. In one month, this has ballooned into over 500 families, and last week we delivered 700 bags.



United Nations. Workers in this project are from Australia, the US, Peru, Germany, and England, as well as helpers from Canada and Switzerland!

We buy food in bulk, volunteers package it into bags, and weekly deliveries are made to residences. We also include evangelistic literature and church contact information in each bag. Since we see there will be a need for this project long-term, we are in the process of making it an official SIM project that people may donate directly to. If you would like more information on this project, see our blog at <https://missionshub.org/arequipa-covid19-refugee-emergency>.

Other ministries

My church is attempting to remain connected, sending worship music, sermons and prayer requests through WhatsApp. We have adult Sunday School class through ZOOM, and I am doing Bible studies & discipleship classes using Facebook Messenger. It's not quite the same, but at least we can communicate and encourage people in their walk with the Lord.

If you would like to support this ministry financially, gifts may be sent to: SIM USA, PO Box 7900, Charlotte, NC, 28241. Please make the check out to SIM and include a note indicating my name and missionary number, 042572. Gifts may be made electronically by going to www.simusa.org/give and following the prompts.

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Thank the Lord:

- For His provision of funds and people to put together the bags, and a good place to do so.
- For the volunteers who faithfully work on this project day after day, week after week.
- For guiding us and giving us wisdom.
- For internet and social media, which help us all stay connected during this time of quarantine.
- For a group of young people at my church who determined to start an online group to read the entire Bible together, 3 chapters a day.
- That He is faithful and we can depend upon Him!

Prayer Requests:

- Pray for God's continued provision of funds for the project. We exist on a week-by-week basis. Pray that we will have the funds to continue this project for as long as there is a need for it.
- Pray for continued health, strength and encouragement for our volunteers.
- Pray for resolution of the situation in Venezuela. God's intervention is needed there.
- Pray for all those struggling due to unemployment and lack of income.
- Pray for Peru's president, Martin Vizcarra, that he will make wise decisions regarding the quarantine and the spread of the Coronavirus.
- Two weeks ago, I managed to sprain my foot quite badly. For a few days I couldn't walk. Now I get around with the help of a crutch that another missionary loaned me. Needless to say, this kept me away from the project for almost a week. As of last week I was back to packing, although in a seated position. I also have a young woman coming to my house twice a week to help with things I still cannot do, such as shopping and laundry. The foot is slowly improving; please pray for quick and complete healing.

Thank you for your faithful prayers and support, which enable me to minister here.

"May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands for us --- yes, establish the work of our hands." Psalm 89:17

Serving Him with you,
Carol