



Alto Trujillo Market

The Ministry of the Good Shepherd
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Sister's 50th Anniversary

Newsletter, March 2008

TO ALL OUR FRIENDS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD MINISTRY

Here we are once again in the season of Lent. It is a time of both sacrifice and thankfulness. Even when times seem difficult we need to give thanks that we live here in the United States. As challenging as things seem at times, we experience nothing when you compare it to third world countries like Peru. Ed and I have been working to help Sister Immaculata in this Ministry for more than 10 years now. We started with a simple request from her for \$2,500 for a school project. Since that time we have raised more than \$400,000 and she has used that money to start up many different programs. It has been a joy to watch her helping so many who have so little. Ed and I have made several trips to Peru and the people are just so grateful for all the help this Ministry has provided.

The following are just some of the programs Sister has started in Alto Trujillo and the Ministry continues to fund.

EDUCATION



Claudia Saldana, Sister Inmaculada, Marjorie O'Sullivan & Claudia's mother

This program has been a main focus. Through the Ministry Sister has been able to help get more children into school by purchasing uniforms, shoes and school supplies. Without those basic items they cannot attend. One of our donors wanted to help "Special Needs" children and now we have 36 children attending a special school. Those from our Ministry who have visited the school say it is just wonderful. Peru pays for the school but the children need transportation to get there and that's what we pick up. As regards Religious Education Studies, Sister says "It is such a blessing not to have to ask the children to pay for their materials. If they had to pay, half of them would not attend as they really do not have the money".

About 15 students have been assisted financially in achieving their College Degree. We have students in nursing, psychology, education, administration and agriculture. They are all in various stages of completion. A couple of students have graduated, some are near completion and some have a few years left. They all came recommended by the Sisters and their progress is monitored. One may even enter the Convent and all are terribly grateful. There are more that we can help if we had the funding.

DAY CARE



Day Care Center

A very successful program that Sister started is our Daycare Program whereby 10 mothers take in 10 children each and help them with their homework. They are also given a hot lunch. We employ 13 mothers and many others are freed up to work elsewhere. Many parents cannot help their children with homework as they can't read themselves but Sister is also working on that.



Children playing at the Center

According to Sister "the Care Centers continue to be very much appreciated in the community. The pastor opened six additional ones in the far side of the parish. The only problem was the delay in the government food supplies, but thanks to THE GOOD SHEPHERD we are always able to keep the food kitchen open".

HOUSES



Alto Trujillo Street

Sister built 7 houses last year but she informs us that the price of a house will rise from \$800 to \$1,200 in the future due to higher cost of materials. Again the people are very grateful.

LIBRARY



Children's Library

Several years ago Sister visited St. Joan of Arc and she raised enough money to build a Children Library in Peru which she felt was very much needed. The entire program has been very successful. Last year 9,320 books were loaned for use in the library itself and 166 books were loaned to be read in the home. There were 8,285 readers using the library and 60% of them were children.

CENTER FOR OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION

It has gotten off to a good start. The building was initially supposed to be two stories but was relegated to one due to cost increases and the second story will be added in the near future. The Father's Table foundation supplied the funding to build the Center and funds are being raised to put on the 2nd story. The Center offers sewing, silk-screening, hairdressing and baking courses. Many students had to drop out of the sewing and silk-screening classes due to lack of materials to practice on. They just do not have the money to supply their own materials. The bakery is self sustaining and quite successful with students using the profits from selling goods to buy supplies. They still need to purchase a refrigerator.



San Jose under construction in 2006



San Jose in 2007, ready for 2nd floor

At this time Sister is very concerned about 3 special children who need residential care because of neglect by the parents but Peru does not have any place for them to go. Sister is going to approach Caritas as she has heard one of the Sisters there has an interest in this. We are praying for a solution to this problem.

Funding is always an issue for all these projects but due to your continued generosity we have been able to keep everything going, and as always 100 per cent of your donations go to Sister. As you can see, over the years she has accomplished so very much. In her last update to us she says "Words could not express my gratitude to all of you for your help and generosity."

We continue to pray for all of you and thank you for all your help and prayers.

God Bless,

THE MINISTRY OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD