

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Recently Cheryl and I had the opportunity to travel to Lima, Peru to see the mission work currently taking place and to encourage the workers who have been supported by the North Wisconsin District since 2013. On Friday we visited Castillo Fuerte (“a mighty fortress” in Spanish) where the children attend weekdays after school to receive a meal, have Bible time, do crafts, have time for recess and close with chapel. These children greeted our team with hugs and gifts and sang a song especially for us.

On Saturday night, in the same building, they have a worship service. Cheryl was talking with Mercedes, the cook at Castillo Fuerte, after worship. She said, “You don’t know how important it is that the children see your team here. We tell the children your gifts allow them to have their lunch. These children come with lots of shortcomings.” Then she wiped tears from her eyes.

In Lima there are three different worship sites – La Victoria (where Castillo Fuerte is located), Los Olivos, and San Borja. Presently Pastor Raphael, a pastor on loan from Brazil Lutheran Church, is serving the people along with Pastor Abraham, who works part-time. We were able to visit all three sites and worship at two of them.

We were part of a FORO which means “forum” in English. This FORO is made up of different entities from the US that specifically support the Peru mission. Representation at the FORO included us from the North Wisconsin District, Pastor Merker from the Southeastern District LCMS, a couple from Ascension Lutheran in Burnsville, Minnesota, Pastor Ted Krey who is the lead missionary in Latin America and works in the Dominican Republic, and missionary James Sharp from Puerto Rico who helps advise the Peru church.

We discussed the current work taking place and learned about the challenges and future plans. Right now they need a new facility for Castillo Fuerte as they need additional space for more children. The facility at San Borja needs remodeling for a worship area that can hold more than 30 people. There is a hope that an LCMS pastor will soon be joining the staff so they can meet the needs of the people in all three areas.

Finally, it’s all about bringing Jesus to people in an urban area. Yulenska, a former student at Castillo Fuerte, received a college degree in psychology and may soon be the director at the same place she grew up. She is a member at La Victoria and recently brought her parents, brothers and niece to church. They have all been baptized and confirmed at La Victoria. Yulenska’s boyfriend is also coming to confirmation class. They are all learning that “God is our (their) refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” (Psalm 46:1)

Yepci, the present director of Castillo Fuerte, texted Cheryl: “Thank you very much for your support in expanding God’s work. Many blessings to you.” So we would like to extend that blessing and sincere thanks to you, the congregations and members of the North Wisconsin District. Your mission offerings to the NWD contribute support for the workers at the Peru mission along with purchasing meals for the children. You are making a difference!

Blessings,

Rev. Dr. Dwayne Lueck, District President Emeritus