






Hello to all! How are you doing?

It was almost like an earthquake hit! Our lives changed from one day to the next, as has yours! So, what do quarantine and COVID-19 look like in Peru? Our numbers are catching up to Canadian numbers. The medical system in some areas has collapsed.

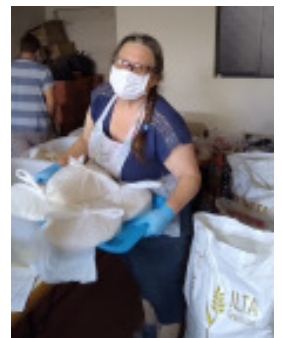
Quarantine in Peru started on March 16th! We were given a stay-at-home order that has changed a bit with time. But basically we are supposed to stay home with the exception of one family member going out to buy food, meds and do banking, **COVID-19** when necessary. It was illegal to even take your dog out for a walk, and curfew, for most of the time, has been 6 pm! You might remember us complaining about lots of traffic in front of our house (it was pretty bad)! We no longer complain, and would even welcome it, in some ways, if it meant we could go out without the specter of COVID-19 hanging over us. Also, at the beginning of the pandemic, there was toilet paper hoarding here as well.

So, what does one do with all this time at home? For the first week or so, it was mostly cleaning for us, and catching up with some tasks, phoning and  coordinating, and encouraging people in both churches, and 'WhatsApp'ing to keep  in contact with believers & other friends. Dennis organized a **WhatsApp** group for  each church. That was a big job, trying not to forget anyone, & getting phone numbers! Dennis told someone that he hated WhatsApp (he's basically a one thumb message writer!) and, at the same time, he was very grateful to the Lord for the app!!

We still do a lot of that, but some days are super busy. One of the problems of this quarantine is that most people can't work! It started with 4 weeks, and has had 3 extensions, each time for 2 more weeks! So, we have until May 24th (unless it's extended even further). Quite more drastic than in Canada and other places!

The 10th week began this Monday (the 18th) and so many people who would eat from what they earned daily haven't been able to work all this time, and are desperate for food! Right from the first week, Pedro (pastor of our main church) went out and bought some food stuff. And then we had another donation, and Dennis and Stan went to the market, and we put 100 bags together.

(Ruth bagging)

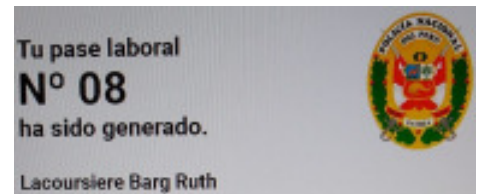


Then some SIM missionary friends had a similar vision, especially wanting to reach out to Venezuelan refugees who have no access to government aid & little to no family support. So



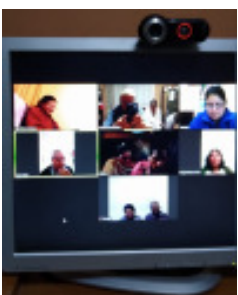
we joined forces, and this week is our 7th week putting together a basic food bag. Each week the number of bags has gone up and this past week our goal was to bag for 830 families. Most go to the Venezuelan people. Matthias, a German SIM missionary who attends to our church, is heading up the food buying as well as the mass distribution. Stan Schrock organizes the food packing & his wife Ruth and son Denver, several other volunteers (Peruvians, missionaries, and even 7 Venezuelans once!) and I (Ruth) all take shifts over 2 or 3 days, and prepare the food and pack food bags. Dennis and Pedro do most of the distribution to needy families & individuals from our churches and others, really, whoever God “puts in our way”.

With special government passes that we acquire online for 2, 3 or 4 days each time, we usually get out 3 to 4 days a week. Dennis said that when delivering to people’s homes, what has impressed him the most was seeing the ‘hermanos’ (brothers) and, even with the face masks on (that people are required to wear), seeing their warmth, love and care!



We cannot meet all the needs that there are, but we pray that God takes our little bit and multiplies it. For several weeks now, God has been providing in unexpected ways! As the new ‘normal’ slowly sets in after the quarantine, many people will not yet be able to work, and some may discover that their job is no longer there for them. If the Lord leads you to help fund this, you can send money to Christians in Action Canada (or USA) and, on a separate piece of paper, designate it for: **‘Peruvian Covid Relief’**.

So, now we have other challenges... We might not be able to have group meetings for the rest of this year! So, how do we do ‘church’? I would imagine you all are facing similar challenges. We have tried to interconnect the church ...so that each believer gets a cell phone or WhatsApp call, or message frequently from at least one person each week. For our prayer meeting night in José Olaya, we had been encouraging people to post their prayer requests. **zoom** And then people were to pray in their own homes, possibly inviting their families to join in.



Over a week ago, at our **ZOOM** Leaders Meeting, the idea was thrown out for us all to form small prayer groups of 3 to 4 people (families). Our challenges are different cell phone plans (& not everyone has a Smartphone), & bad internet service, as everyone is online these days. School classes are being done online via cell phones, computers or tablets, ...or whatever else works! I (Ruth) still need to start online meetings with some kids in Jose Olaya. I’ve already been doing a few weekly Bible Study groups online.

Sunday mornings have been a joy for us! The Shrocks live in the apartment above us and we head for the roof (the rains are gone), and sing, and share together. The thought on Sunday May 8th was “waiting on the Lord”. Waiting And, at the end, as we ‘waited’ and talked a bit more, a medium sized hawk landed on the water tank close to us, and stayed there for 10 seconds or so! It was so cool!



Well, there you have our life these past 2+ months - all summed up on a few pages! And we don't see things getting back to normal any time soon!

And, of course, ‘normal’, as we knew it, in many ways is gone for good!

“¹⁴ But I trust in you, Lord; I say, “You are my God.” ¹⁵ My times are in your hands; deliver me from the hands of my enemies, from those who pursue me” - Psalm 31 (NIV)

Changes are often good! And even when they aren't, we can trust God to bring good out of them! The best changes are ones that we decide to make, to use our time better, to clear the path to get closer to those who we love, and make needed changes to walk in the light, as He is in the light!



Thank you so much for supporting us through prayer, and also financially!!

Please give us a call, or shoot a quick email our way! We'd love to hear from you!

With love,
In Jesus,

Our information is just below. And we have some more pictures on the next page! Bye for now!!

Dennis & Ruth

<p>Support (donations):</p> <p>Christians In Action Canada Box 344, Chilliwack, B.C. V2P 6J4 **NOTE: Mark 'for Peru Outreach'</p>	<p>Support (donations):</p> <p>Christians In Action Missions International 1322 E. Shaw Ave., Suite 150, Fresno, CA 93710 **NOTE: Mark for '695 Peru Ministry'</p>	<p>Prayer Letter:</p> <p>Please phone us or email us with any address changes (<i>see below</i>), so we can update our Prayer Letter list. Thanks!</p>
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- Prayer & Praise Items -

- 1. For our outreach to needy Venezuelans & Peruvians!**
- 2. For the Lord's continued provision for the food bags!**
- 3. For our ZOOM meetings, leadership, Youth Adults, and soon kids, in both churches!**
- 4. For people, as they try to find their new 'normal', and work as well!**
- 5. For spiritual fruit to come out of helping all these Venezuelans, and Peruvians too!!**

(Thank you!)

****Phone us in Peru at our Canadian ph. no.!! Our number is (778) 653-8910**

Our email address is: drlacoursiere@gmail.com

Peruvian Covid Relief:

Donations can be sent to **Christians in Action Canada** (or USA) (*addresses above*) and, on a separate piece of paper, designate it for **'Peruvian Covid Relief'**.



Buying the food!



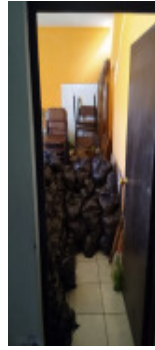
Canadian lentils!



Lots of potatoes to check & put in small bags!



Contents of the bags we give out



Bags are ready!



Delivering to Venezuelans!



Beautiful hummingbird! ...taken in Arequipa



Dennis loading food bags



Venezuelan believers!



Another Venezuelan lady