Life In Chimbote

In this unprecedented disruption to our lives and livelihoods, we cherish and are so grateful for your support, concern, and prayers for the poor of Chimbote. The entire country of Peru has been in a government mandated quarantine since March 15th with the continuation until at least June 30th. We are finding that as this pandemic continues to spread in less developed countries, its effects on the poor have been devastating. Peru has now confirmed twice as many infections as China. So many families live in such extreme poverty making it impossible to social distance. Numbers of cases and deaths continue to rise with no relief in sight. Malnutrition and weakened immune systems due to the conditions they live in, make our Peruvian families extremely vulnerable during these times. There are three hospitals in Chimbote and surrounding areas, and they are at full capacity. Sadly, lines of people are outside of the hospital waiting for a bed to become available due to a death. The government has provided financial assistance of $223 to each household but the problem is that the household must exist in the government records. So, the very poor who work for cash do not appear in the records.

Friends of Chimbote continues to be in contact with our Peruvian family daily. We are doing everything we possibly can to alleviate the suffering by providing resources as they become available to purchase supplies for distribution out into the barrios. We also continue to provide emotional support and hope to the ACAF staff as they continue to risk their own safety to help the poorest of the poor in the surrounding barrios. The ACAF staff and leadership have been making extremely hard decisions and are exhausted with the stress of being on the front lines in the barrios, hearing the cries of their brothers and sisters.

Navigating through these uncharted waters has been challenging for us all. Through challenges come triumph. What has been so inspiring is how the Friends of Chimbote and ACAF family have come together working to stay strong and vigilant for the poorest of poor in Chimbote. Staying united in prayer and hope.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COVID BY THE NUMBERS</th>
<th>(changes daily)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ancash Region</td>
<td>..........................</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5000 people infected</td>
<td>300 deaths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chimbote</td>
<td>..........................</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1687 people infected</td>
<td>184 deaths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuevo Chimbote</td>
<td>..........................</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>641 people infected</td>
<td>30 deaths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>150-200 food packages</td>
<td>being delivered each week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Public hospitals, one for only people with health insurance and two for those without insurance; ALL BEDS ARE FULL AT THIS TIME</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thoughts...
Todd Mickelson
Executive Director

As a Mission serving the poor of Chimbote for over 4 decades, we have answered the call to relieve the misery of dire poverty through earthquakes, floods, economic crises, corruption and terrorism. We have lifted people up, provided strength and training, loved and transformed the lives of our brothers and sisters. This has only been possible due to the generous, just, courageous and faithful supporters; the friends of Chimbote. On behalf of the thousands of lives in Chimbote and the United States that have been transformed, muchas gracias amigos de Chimbote.

The current crisis of the Covid virus is challenging us like no other catastrophe. The overwhelming majority of our beneficiaries work for cash each day to pay for their basics of food, water and medicine. However, the people of Peru have been in quarantine since March 15 that will extend to at least 105 days. The government of Peru is providing $223 in aid for the poor for those 105 days - $14 a week! The real tragedy is that those we serve don't qualify for the aid because they don't exist in the government system. They don't exist... We are providing food, water and medicine including care packages that will feed a family of four for a week for $18.

Our commitment continues as it has for 4 decades. We will do all within our power and resources to help the poor overcome the devastating affects of poverty, including the impacts of this pandemic. Our total focus at this time is in emergency relief. The words and plea of our beneficiaries and staff in Chimbote reside in our hearts “Please don't forget us”. Together, we can continue to answer the call, the cry of the poor.

In Service & Gratitude,

Todd

---

Happy Birthday
Sister Peggy!
June marks the birthday month for our beloved Sister Peggy Bryne. Sister Peggy remains well in Fargo, ND at the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation Convent. Although the virus hinders the ability of visitors Sister Peggy remains connected receiving daily telephone calls. All the well wishes that were left on the Friends of Chimbote Facebook page have been shared with her. She was delighted!

Funny Tidbit...
When Sister Peggy first arrived in Chimbote many years ago, there was an evening where no one could find her. After searching, members of the Parish found her hiding under a bed. When questioned what she was doing she said she thought she heard gun fire, but it ended up being firecrackers celebrating a birthday in the community. Happy Birthday Sweet Peggy!!
Because of You...

As each day passes the risk of being out in the barrios becomes greater. ACAF, Friends of Chimbote, and the City of Chimbote have recently partnered together working to find solutions on how to provide much needed resources and services. We hear the cries of the community pleading to not be forgotten. All of these actions are a reality because of you!

**Food Distribution**

While movement in the barrios has been limited by the Government mandated quarantine. For weeks now the ACAF staff has been given special permission to deliver food, water, and essential supplies out into the barrios as resources become available from our lifesaving donors. Unfortunately, with the recent rapid increase in virus numbers our team has had to come up with alternative methods to deliver critical supplies and have pickup points for families instead of going to the homes. Daily pleas for help come to ACAF and hard decisions must be made.

**Olla Comuns (Common Pots)**

A few weeks after ACAF began delivering food supplies to homes, neighbors within the barrios began working together to make sure no one would be forgotten. They created Common Pots in their neighborhood and with ACAF supplies prepare meals for families that are in dire need. How inspiring it has been to watch community neighborhoods unite together to help one another.

**Tele Communication**

Udy Palacios, commonly known as one of the Mothers of the Mission, has been involved with the mission for more than 25 years. She has been working as a Social Worker with a strong emphasis in medical assistance. With the onset of the virus Udy and her team have been tirelessly working to provide services any way possible. They have been keeping up on all resources that become available from the government and getting this information out to our beneficiaries. Recently Udy began facilitating telephone health calls with beneficiaries who have Covid symptoms but cannot get in to see a doctor.
Endless Hope

Imagine the excitement as Dalila Mendoza and her nine children prepared for their new home. Eagerly packing their minimal belongings and waiting to meet the FOCUS Ministries Team that was arriving in Chimbote on March 15th, 2020. Sadly, excitement turned to disappointment as the plane filled with eager mission workers never arrived due to Covid quarantine.

Dalila Mendoza a 39-year-old mother, whose husband had been recently murdered in Brazil as he attempted to find work to support his family, struggles every day to keep her children fed and safe. Dalila and her children currently live in a home made of reed mats with a sand floor. They have no electricity and buy water from the water truck only when money is available.

The ACAF Social Work team found Dalila and her family in Nuevo Chimbote and immediately went into action contacting Friends of Chimbote in hopes of getting this family some help. Due to the dire conditions they live in, Dalila is at risk of having her children placed with other families. Friends of Chimbote contacted St. Michael parish in Prior Lake, MN. With their blessing, the funds to supply the materials for a new home were approved and arrangements were quickly made to have FOCUS Ministries Team build their home.

Before the mandatory quarantine in Chimbote, Dalila washed clothes and cleaned houses from which she obtained a salary of 60 soles ($17) a week which only covered minimal basic needs. Unfortunately, that income no longer exists due to these unprecedented times. Dalila, like most of the families in Nuevo Chimbote, now fight for their lives and the lives of their children. They pray for protection from all the health risks, asking for daily nourishment, and essentials they so desperately need.

Dalila’s dream of a new home, a new beginning, and a change to give her children a better life are on hold for the time being. But, the ACAF staff has been providing support, prayers, and bags of food to her family as resources allow and encouragement to keep her hope alive.

Stay Close • Stay Connected

Explore two ways to stay up to date on the latest happenings at the mission.

“LIKE” US ON FACEBOOK

Visit our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/friendsofchimbote/ and click the “like” button.

JOIN OUR CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Sign up to receive our monthly emails by visiting www.friendsofchimbote.org and scroll to the bottom of the page. A quick click of the subscribe button will take you to the sign up form.