

Faith-Based Experience: A unique international perspective from Perú

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Perú-Statistics

- Population 21,968,000
- GDP \$5830 per capita
- Education
 - 3 level education system (11 yrs)
 - Primary-up to 6 years
 - Secondary-6 yrs to 15 yrs
 - Tertiary-university
 - Literacy rates: 82% Female/93% Male
 - 90-95% complete grade 5
 - 8.5 years for average person 15 yrs or above

- Pediatric Care
 - 3.8 million live in extreme poverty & 2.1 million children live in extreme poverty
 - Children with special needs are often abandoned due to medical costs/needs or social stigma of having a special child
 - Multiple homes through out Peru for children with special needs
 - Funding by churches, missionary groups, international organizations

- Reproduction/Relationships
 - Percent of 20-24yrs who were married prior 18
 - 17% overall; 13% City; 30% Rural
- 71% contraception prevalence
 - 50.3% modern usage (pill, Depo, IUD)
 - (2004) 12.7% of girls were already mothers or pregnant (20.3% in rural areas)

Nursing Education

- Peru has only university based nursing education
 - 5 years-similar to diploma programs in the USA
 - Universities only in cities
- Do not have advanced practice nurses
 - This is an unknown concept in Latin America

Objectives to Missions

- Observe culture/medical care
- Interact with children and help with daily activities
- Help teach as asked
- Assist with religious programs
- Establish pharmacy for homes

Comunidad Santa Rosa de Lima

- Home for girls in Limatambo
 - Orphans or without one parent
 - 16 girls to 5 nuns
- Provide education up to age 16 yrs
- Encourages girls to go on to Arequipa to vocational school/university
- High rates of returning to villages and early marriage/pregnancy









Comunidad San José Benito Cottolengo

- Home for special needs children
 - Given to sisters by government due to neglect
 - Or, by families unable to care for them
 - 17 children to 5 nuns
- Various illnesses
 - Mental illness
 - Cerebral Palsy
 - Autism
 - Downs Syndrome
 - Severe learning disabilities/mental retardation









In Conclusion...

- Look for unique experiences to be a missionary
- Work with church and be willing to travel alone and meet people there
- Learn the language
- Be non-judgmental of the culture
- Embrace the differences and allow yourself to be changed by the experiences

Thank you!

