

Peru Mission

Short-Term Missions Orientation Manual

I have stirred him up in righteousness, and I will make all his ways level; he shall build my city and set my exiles free, not for price or reward," says the LORD of hosts (Is 45.13).

Table of Contents

WELCOME TO PERU!	3
TRAVEL BASICS	5
HEALTH/SAFETY FAQs	8
TIPS ON CROSS-CULTURAL INTERACTIONS	9
A WORD ABOUT DATING AND FLIRTING	11
PACKING LIST	12
GIFTS	15
QUICK CONTACTS & RECOMMENDED READING	16
COMING HOME	18
A WORD ABOUT DEBRIEFING	19
TO TEAM LEADERS	19

Welcome to Peru!

Thank you for choosing to spend a week of your life with us! We are glad that you will be joining us in the work of planting and growing Jesus' church in Northern Peru. It is our prayer that this trip will challenge and stretch you, but also be deeply rewarding. God is doing many exciting things among us, yet much remains to be done. Your partnership with us is an answer to our prayers!

Peru Mission is a Christian mission that is working to “build the City of God in the urban centers of northern Peru.” You can find out what we mean by that here:

<https://www.perumission.org/philosophy>

Our roots are in the Protestant Reformation, and our doctrinal standards are found in the *Westminster Confession and Catechisms*. Our core values are *learn, pray, serve, and proclaim*.

Short-term teams work with us on a wide variety of projects such as construction, Vacation Bible Schools, Christian camping, evangelism, English as a Second Language, theological education, leadership development, medical campaigns, and more. Each of these is integrated into our overall strategy for church planting. Through ministry in Word and deed, short-term teams help us exalt Christ, proclaim His Gospel, and show His love to our city.

Regardless of the type of project you take on, most teams find that the greatest rewards and the longest lasting impact result from the relationships that are formed. The most significant work that you will do while here will not be building a wall, or painting a room, or helping heal a sick child; rather it will be making friends, loving children, and spending time with the people in our churches.

We hope that this packet will help you better prepare for your trip and process it after you return home. God bless you as you begin this journey!

Where We Work

Our primary targets for church planting are the seven largest cities stretching from the capital city of Lima to the boarder with Ecuador. These include Lima, Chimbote, Trujillo, Chiclayo, Cajamarca, Piura, and Tumbes. We currently have extensive mission works in Trujillo and Cajamarca, with smaller projects in Lima and Piura.



Known as “the City of Eternal Spring”, **Trujillo** (pop. 1.1 million) is the capital of the region of La Libertad on the Northern coast and is named after the birthplace of the Spanish conquistador Francisco Pizarro. In addition to the city’s rich colonial heritage, it is home to some of South America’s most spectacular archaeological sites, such as Chan Chan and the Huaca de la Luna.

Cajamarca (pop. 300 thousand), is located in the Andes in northern Peru, and is best known as the place where Pizarro captured the Incan ruler, Atahualpa, and held him for ransom. Today it is a beautiful and growing mountain city that retains the character of the rural Andes.

History and Culture

Before the arrival of Spanish conquistador Francisco Pizarro in 1532, several different kingdoms and empires ruled Peru; impressive ruins of these can still be seen throughout the country. The last and most advanced was the Incan Empire, which dominated all of Peru and parts of modern-day Chile, Bolivia and Ecuador from 1438 to 1532. Following the Spanish conquest, Peru became the southern capital of Spain’s vast American territories.

Since gaining its independence from Spain in 1821, the country has experienced numerous cycles of prosperity and depression. But even in the times of prosperity, staggering inequality between rich and poor frequently led to revolution and civil war, the most recent of which involved the Maoist movement known as the Shining Path in the 1980s. In 1990, Alberto Fujimori was elected president, put down the communist insurgency, sold off the government owned industries, and reestablished a market economy—all of which led to a long period of sustained growth lasting until the present day. The downside of his reforms, however, was that they included notorious brutality and corruption. Now, almost two decades after Fujimori resigned and fled the country, Peru continues to experience (with exception made for things like global pandemics) steady and impressive economic growth and its economy is one of the fastest growing in Latin America.

Peru is divided into three basic geographical regions: coastal desert, Andes Mountains, and the Amazon Rain Forest. The country is best known for destinations such as Machu Picchu, Iquitos in the deep jungle, and the surfers' paradise along the northern coast. Peruvians are strongly patriotic and proud of their Incan heritage, their music and folk dances, and their celebrated cuisine. Roughly 80% of Peruvians consider themselves Roman Catholics. Almost everyone is baptized, receives Roman Catholic religious education, and takes first communion in the public schools, but the evangelical church is growing rapidly. Despite the challenges it has faced for centuries, and the recent COVID-19 pandemic, Peru is a presently a vibrant, diverse, and youthful society hungry for the Gospel and the hope it brings.

Travel Basics

Before You Go . . . Official Requirements

A US passport is required to enter Peru. If anyone on your team does not have a current passport, he or she should start the process a few months ahead of time! See www.travel.state.gov for full instructions. **Please make sure to get us a list of team members with full names (as they appear on passports) and passport numbers by May 1, for summer trips. For other trips, please get us the information at least 30 days ahead of time.** Airline prices within Peru go up greatly during the summer months and buying tickets as early as possible will help us reduce trip costs. Keep your passport in a safe place while traveling. In airports it should be on your person. During your time out and about in Trujillo or Lima, you may leave it in your hotel. It is safe there. It is always a good idea to have a photocopy of the passport with you, as well as scanning it and keeping a digital copy on your phone and in a folder that you can access online. This will give you multiple options to print another copy “just in case.” This is also a good idea for any other important cards you may bring with you in case your wallet or purse were lost or stolen (e.g., driver’s license, Social Security card and any credit or debit cards).

If anyone in your group is NOT a U.S. citizen, be sure to contact the nearest Peruvian consulate to find out if it is necessary for that person to get a visa in order to enter Peru, or other countries he or she may travel through getting to and from Peru.

Airport Security

To avoid delays, put all liquids, scissors, and pocketknives or nail clippers in your checked luggage. If you bring liquids or creams in your carry-on baggage, they must be in 3 ounce-sized bottles or less and placed in a quart-sized clear plastic zip-top bag. Personal medicines are fine, but bring a copy of your prescription. If you want to lock your luggage, use locks with the TSA logo on them so that security personnel can search your luggage without breaking your lock.

Donations and “Deliveries”

If you are bringing down anything you wish to donate, or if you are delivering anything to a missionary or member of our churches, a good guideline is to divide the items among the team members so that they will draw less attention in customs and can be declared among your personal items. Peruvian customs regulations require that many electronic items, or items for commercial use, be declared and taxed upon entering the country. This does not include personal electronic items (such as phones, iPad, laptop, etc.). Philanthropic groups and individuals planning to enter Peru with medical supplies in quantities greater than for personal use should contact Peru Mission prior to your trip for assistance. Different laws apply in these circumstances. Peru has strict customs regulations, especially for things like medicine, medical supplies, and medical equipment. Peru Mission is setup with the Ministries of Justice and Health to be able to facilitate such items, but declaration needs to be made a minimum of 30 days before arrival.

Airline Luggage Limits

Check your airline's website! Most airlines have a limit per person of one or two checked bags of up to 50 pounds each on international flights (fees vary for additional bags). You will also typically be allowed one carry-on bag and one personal item. LATAM, the Peruvian airline we fly in-country, bases ticket prices on how many bags you are checking. So, be sure to coordinate this with us before sending in your list of names and passport numbers.

For complete up-to-date information on passports, visas, and requirements for US citizens traveling abroad, see the "Country Specific Information" on Peru available at www.travel.state.gov.

When You Land . . .

Immigration and Customs

When you land, you will first go through Immigrations where they will ask about your stay and stamp your passport. You should state that you are volunteering for a church-based non-profit. After going through immigration, continue through that part of the airport to pick up your bags at the luggage carousel. Once you have your bags, proceed to customs, where you may have to scan your bags again and make a customs declaration. You may also have your bags searched. Customs agents are almost always courteous and friendly and speak basic English. You'll simply need to explain that you are on a mission trip as a volunteer and that all items are your personal belongings or donations to our mission.

Once you have made your way through customs, look for the Peru Mission missionary meeting your flight. He will assist you while in Lima and to your next destination.

It is important to stay together as a group. Pick-pocketing and snatch-and-run theft is unfortunately common in some of the areas where you will be. Keep your eyes on your belongings at all times . . . even in the airport!

While in Peru . . .

Money Matters

The official Peruvian currency is the “sol” (singular) or “soles” (plural). You can check the current exchange rate of dollars to Peruvian “Nuevos Soles” at www.xe.com/ucc. Few places accept US dollars and it is best to plan to have soles for personal expenses.

You can use your US ATM card at most ATMs (“cajero automatico”) here and withdraw money in either dollars or soles at a good rate with a small transaction fee. US Dollars and Visa credit cards (with a valid photo ID) can also be used in many hotels, restaurants, and stores. Be sure to advise your local bank that you will be out of the country to avoid any problems in using your bankcard.

Ask a missionary about where and when to exchange money. **Make sure your dollars are crisp, new bills (dollars often are not accepted if they have even the slightest tear or ink on them) in denominations no larger than a twenty (\$20). Also, DO NOT EXCHANGE MONEY IN THE AIRPORT.** You will have a chance to exchange money at a much better rate the day after you land. You will not need any money before then. We do not recommend Traveler’s Checks, which are difficult to exchange here.

What is the standard electrical current in Peru?

Standard currency in Peru is 220V 60 Hz (the US it is 110V 60Hz). Many electronic devices sold in the US are compatible over a range of currents and work perfectly well in Peru; you can usually check this on your appliance labels. If your item is not compatible, we recommend that you bring a sturdy converter (cheap ones often burn out), or better yet, battery-operated devices. Computers, cell phones, and iPads are able to plug directly into our outlets without a converter.

How much should I tip porters and waiters?

Tips are not as common in Peru as in much of the rest of the world. If you wish to give a few soles to your porter or hotel concierge, two soles per bag is usually appreciated. But ask a missionary first, he may be handling tips for you depending upon the hotel and situation. In most restaurants 5-10% is generous; in nicer restaurants, 10-12% is becoming standard. Sometimes in airport parking lots, someone may try to help you with your bags without asking your permission and then demand a tip. A firm but kind “no, gracias” will help avoid problems.

What if I do not speak Spanish?

Peru Mission will arrange pickup, transport, and translators from among the missionaries or the local church, depending on what your activities are. Most of the nicer hotels and travel companies have English speakers. Having Spanish speakers on your team is a plus, but not required.

Health/Safety FAQ’s

What vaccinations will I need?

In order to avoid contracting dangerous diseases while in Peru, it is recommended that you be up

to date on the following immunizations:

- Tetanus within the last 10 years.
- Hepatitis A and B are recommended. To complete the series, you will need to start the shots at least 6 months before you travel, but if you do not have that much time, you can get substantial protection from getting started.
- Typhoid protection is recommended and now available in pill form.
- Yellow Fever and Malaria pills are not necessary unless you will be traveling to the Amazon.

For more information, talk with your doctor before coming, or visit the web site of the Center for Disease Control (www.cdc.gov/travel), for health and immunization guidelines for all countries.

What about food and water in Peru?

Visitors should be careful about what they eat and drink while in Peru. Stick to bottled water for drinking and brushing your teeth, and keep your mouth closed in the shower. One should only eat well-cooked food in clean restaurants. Avoid eating food from street vendors. Also, avoid lettuce, and any unwashed fruits or vegetables. All the food served in missionary homes or at mission sites is prepared with your health in mind and can be trusted. It is a good idea to carry hand sanitizer and Kleenex on you at all times for use before meals or in bathrooms.

Should I bring any medicines?

Having Ibuprofen, Tylenol, or aspirin is a good idea. The altitude in Cajamarca makes some a little uncomfortable for the first two or three days; get plenty of rest and drink lots of water. It is also a good idea to bring medicine for an upset stomach; changes in diet can make some a little uncomfortable. However, most medicines can be bought here if you have a need. If you wear contact lenses or glasses, bring extras in case of loss, as well as plenty of contact solution. We know reputable Christian doctors if you get sick while you are here.

What are the chances of crime?

The most likely threat that you might encounter will be from pickpockets and petty thieves. Much like the US, serious crimes do occur, but they are usually confined to the seedier parts of town and during late hours. Visitors should be careful not to flash money and should avoid keeping money in a hip pocket or a purse where it is easily accessible. Also, be careful about cameras, jewelry, and other valuables that can be easily snatched. Avoid walking around with earphones hanging on your ears or around your neck... this a clear signal to thieves. Visitors should remain in groups and should be alert and watchful. We have never had any serious problems, and we'd like to keep our record intact. 😊

As a matter of safety, **women should never travel in Peru alone**, even if you speak Spanish well and know where you are going. One of the greatest blessings of a short-term mission trip is getting to know the other members of your team. Wherever possible, plan to do ministry in groups. When this is not possible, the males on the team should escort ladies to their destination.

Tips on Cross-Cultural Interactions

When experiencing a new culture, patience, a good sense of humor, and a quick smile will take you far—especially the quick smile! Opportunities for misunderstanding abound and it is easy to draw mistaken conclusions about others and their intentions, therefore humility, patience, and generosity (and did we mention a smile?) are the best policy in situations that don't immediately make sense to us. We will see things that are different from our own culture, but those differences aren't always a sign of backwardness, lack of ingenuity, or lack of intelligence. They frequently are ways of adjusting to economic or other social realities that we are unaware of. Try to avoid making vocal comparisons between the two cultures (e.g., “in American we do it this way . . .”). This may seem completely innocent to us but sounds condescending from the receiving end. Also, try to avoid referring to the US as “America.” South America is part of America and South Americans are Americans too. The more common phrase in Peru is “North America” or “North American.”

All cultures exhibit both strengths that glorify God, and cultural sins that need to be redeemed by the Gospel. By becoming acquainted with new cultures, we may begin to see things in our own culture in a very new light—and even learn some things that help us live as more effective witnesses to our Lord.

Here are some tips on how to approach the Peruvian culture as a guest of the country and an ambassador of Christ.

Interaction with Peruvians

Interacting with Peruvians will probably be the most positive, and at the same time difficult, aspect of your visit. You may experience some stress as you get accustomed to different behaviors, foods, attitudes towards time, and most of all, language. Managing your stress is of great importance.

Some of the most noticeable “differences”:

- Peru is a more traditional culture than the US. It is more family-based and gender-differentiated, for example.
- Peru tends to be a very formal culture. In our greetings, titles, and dress it's best to err on the side of being formal. For example, when approaching a group, it is very important to acknowledge and try to greet everyone in the group. Also, first names alone are not common. “Pastor,” “Doctor,” “Profesor,” “Ingeniero” (engineer), with or without the first name is standard. Among Christians it is most common to say “Hermano” (brother) or “Hermana” (sister).
- Peruvians do not operate at a frenzied pace. They tend to take life more leisurely.
- Most Peruvians are culturally Catholic. While most do not attend church or read their Bible regularly, they do believe in God and are more open to talking about spiritual things than is typical in the US.
- In the Peruvian evangelical subculture, it is considered a bad witness for Christians to smoke, drink alcohol or dance, even in moderation. We don't let this subculture dictate how we serve the Lord, but it is important to be sensitive to how we may be perceived, and at times we may give up our liberties out of concern for others (1 Cor. 10:23). When in doubt ask a missionary if it would be appropriate to engage in any particular activity.

- **Especial in Cajamarca, moderate, conservative dress is important!**

Some Guidelines for Cross-cultural Interactions

- Make an effort to fit in. Make an effort to be accommodating.
- Always treat pastors, doctors and people older than you with great respect. If you interact in Spanish it is best to address them as “usted” instead of the more familiar “tu.”
- If someone offers you a gift or shows you hospitality, thank them and accept it with a smile.
- Reserve your enthusiasm. North Americans have a reputation for being loud.
- Try the food. If you do not like something, they will understand, but they will be honored if you try it.
- Young people in the US are much more independent than in Latin America. Stick to your group and listen to your leaders.
- Dress appropriately and modestly. Err on the side of being conservative.
- Be on time or early. Do not make your hosts wait on you.
- Leave unnecessary items at home. Simplify your lifestyle during your stay. Talk to people instead of checking social media.
- Note that the sewer systems in Peru doesn’t handle toilet paper well. Use the wastebasket located by the toilet to deposit your toilet paper.

Practical Tips

- Greeting Peruvians with the appropriate salutation each time you see them is good manners (“Buenos Días”- good morning, “Buenas Tardes” – good afternoon, or “Buenas Noches” – good evening/night). Normally when entering a room it is polite to greet and acknowledge each person individually.
- In **Trujillo**, the appropriate greeting between men and women, or women and women, is a light kiss on the cheek, initiated by the woman. Men usually greet each other with a handshake. In **Cajamarca or Celendin**, it is always just a handshake.
- Make an effort to speak in Spanish to your hosts. As much as you are able, try not to exclude them by speaking only in English to each other.
- Assume that Peruvians understand English even if they do not speak it. Many Peruvians do understand English, but our tone and actions may convey a message even when our words aren’t fully understood.
- Avoid making critical or even comparative remarks about Peru in front of Peruvians.
- When inviting someone to a meal or other event, the person who invites is expected to pay.
- Smiles are the universal language of friendliness and kindness. Even in the most difficult moment of cultural confusion, a smile breaks the tension and makes everything okay.

A Word About Romantic Interactions

One major cultural difference between the US and Latin America is the way men and women interact. Latino men are often more forward with women, and most “respectable” women do not encourage this behavior by flirting back. This is much less of an issue in the church, but often unchurched men will come around when a visiting team is with us, or even immature church members may be more forward with single young ladies than is common in the US.

Some good things to know about male-female dynamics within Peruvian culture:

- Men and women do not normally have close platonic friendships or hang out one-on-one unless they are dating.
- Women do not usually approach men they do not know, to introduce themselves or initiate conversation; this could be taken as forward or flirtatious.
- Lighter skin, hair, and eyes, or tall height tends to draw attention in Peru more than it does in the US.

Some suggested guidelines:

- Avoid one-on-one time with Peruvians of the opposite sex. Try to hang out in group situations, or with others of your own gender.
- Be careful to avoid flirting or encouraging romantic interaction during your mission trip. Make yourself accountable to your team members if they sense a reason for concern.
- Talk to your team leader or a missionary if you feel uncomfortable in any situation involving attention from the opposite sex.
- It is better not to exchange emails or connect with anyone on social media if you have any doubts about their intentions.

Of course, we cannot and should not completely avoid Peruvians of the opposite sex, but it is important to be aware of the different cultural backgrounds and expectations. Peruvian leaders in our churches have more experience with Americans and will understand these differences. When in doubt, be cautious.

Packing List

Bring in your carry-on luggage:

- A change of clothes in case your luggage is held up.
- Toiletries for a couple of days (toothbrush/paste, shaving supplies, hair supplies, etc.)
- Earplugs if you have difficulty sleeping on the plane or in noisy hotels.
- Small roll of toilet paper or Kleenex (public toilets may not have it). Baby wipes are convenient for this as well as cleaning hands when soap is unavailable.
- Sanitizing wet-wipes or hand gel.
- Copies of passport, tickets, driver's license, credit cards that you may be carrying.
- Travel insurance info and emergency contact numbers, including medical.
- Names and contact numbers of missionaries on the field where you are traveling.
- Personal medications-Tylenol, Ibuprofen, Pepto-Bismol tablets, Imodium, allergy and asthma medications. Please let your team leader know about special medical conditions before the trip.

Bring in checked luggage:

- Toiletries
- A converter-adapter for personal care appliances (the electricity is 220V in Peru).
- Bible and journal or notebook
- **Water Bottle**
- Washcloth—bath and hand towels are provided, but not washcloths
- Baseball cap or hat for the sun
- Plastic bags for dirty clothes
- **Sunscreen** and sunglasses
- Travel alarm clock
- Rain poncho or umbrella (for Cajamarca)
- Imodium AD and/or Pepto Bismol
- Prescription medications (with a copy of the prescription)
- For those who wear contacts, bring an extra pair and your glasses
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Light jacket
- Sweatshirt or fleece (it gets chilly June-August in Trujillo, year-round in Cajamarca)
- For construction: work pants/jeans, T-shirts you don't mind getting dirty, work boots or tennis shoes, work gloves, appropriate tools
- For church: collared shirt with khakis/slacks for men, sweater or blouse with slacks or *modest length* skirts for women.

What NOT to pack:

- Nice jewelry or watch.
- Bulky purse—hip packs or money belts worn under your clothes are much better.
- Travelers' checks—very hard to cash.
- Anything of great or sentimental value.

- Shorts (It is better to have a *modest length* skirt and *knee length* pants.)

Address:

Use this for tagging your baggage:

**Peru Mission
Jr. San Martín 455
Centro Cívico
Trujillo, Peru**

**Tel. 986-846-005 (Dale Ellison)
947-735-152 (Wes Baker)**

For Cajamarca, an address will be provided.

Other reminders:

- Pack light! It will make things easier for both you and your group.
- Bedding and towels will be provided for you, but you may want to bring a washcloth.
- You do not need to bring bottled water. There will be plenty available in Peru.
- Put things that can spill in Ziploc bags.
- You may not have time on the trip to do laundry or go shopping for personal items. Please bring everything you need with you.

What is the Weather Like?

Cajamarca

The weather in Cajamarca is often spring-like (warm days and cool nights). The dry season is from June through November, with little rain or humidity. The rainy season however, from December until May, is continuously wet and muddy, but with bright moments throughout the day—so bring rain gear. Long pants and long sleeve shirts are great for the day, with a sweater or jacket in the evenings. Sunscreen, hats, and sunglasses are also very important at this high altitude (over 9,000 feet).

Trujillo

Trujillo is on the northern coast, in the midst of an incredibly dry desert (our average annual rainfall is about 0.5 inches). Known as the city of the Eternal Spring, the weather is comfortable year-round. Summer months are from December to February and will reach highs in the mid 80s, with lows in the 70s. Winter months are from June through August, with lows in the high 50s and highs in the 70s. You will want to wear short sleeves in summer months, and frequently in winter as well, but bring long sleeves for winter days, and a light jacket for winter evenings.

Peru in General

Good, sturdy shoes are necessary with the rocky roads and hole-filled sidewalks—hiking boots, sturdy tennis shoes, or everyday shoes like topsiders are appropriate. Dress for church services is semi-casual: *modest length* skirts for women and khakis for men are fine. Preachers should wear either a tie or a clerical collar.

Gifts

What to do with Extra Packing Space

Your team may wish to bring gifts of hospitality to your new friends in the congregation that you will be serving. Most Peruvian churches are not able to afford things like prizes for Sunday School classes, construction paper, pencils or Christian literature. Many of these things can be collected from your church or friends. If listed in a bulletin, you will be amazed at how generous people will enjoy being. Here are some suggestions on gift giving.

For the Churches

- Spanish Bibles (Reina Valera or RV1960 is the standard version)
- Christian literature or study materials translated into Spanish
- Arts & crafts supplies for Sunday school or women's groups
- Toys, games, puzzles, stickers for kids
- Pens, markers, church office supplies
- Bible Story Coloring Pages

Guidelines for Giving

- If you bring something for the church, please present it to Peruvian church leaders through your team leader.
- Avoid giving gifts to individuals unless you have enough for everyone.
- Avoid giving valuable gifts.
- DO NOT give loans or gifts of money to individuals. If approached by anyone with such a request, simply explain that you'll have to talk to your leaders and discuss it with a missionary.
- If you would like to make a monetary offering or larger gift to the church, please consult with the missionaries.

Quick Contacts & Recommended Reading

Peru Mission Contact Details”

Jr. San Martín 455

Centro Cívico

Trujillo, Peru

Phone (within Peru): (+51) 993 766 886 (Dale) or 947-735-152 (Wes)

Missionary Contact details

To dial any of these numbers from the US, simply dial (011-51) + number listed below.

To make a call within Peru simply dial the number listed below.

NAME	EMAIL	CELL PHONE	OTHER PHONE
Wes Baker	wesbaker@perumission.org	94 773-5152	
Dale Ellison	daleellison@perumission.org	986 846 005	
Stuart Mills	stuartmills@perumission.org	95 947-1725	
Alonzo Ramirez	alonzoramirez@perumission.org	96 538-6762	

Our Peruvian Pastors

Trujillo

- Cristo Restaurador: Pastor Ricardo Hernandez (
- Cristo Redentor: Pastor Percy Padilla
- Cristo Rey: Pastor Esdras Vasquez

Cajamarca

- Los Rosales Church: Pastor Juan Santa Cruz
- Quiritimayo Church: Pastor Alonzo Ramirez

Hotels

The mission will arrange your team's hotel stay (we usually get discounts) and incorporate the cost into your trip fee.

Recommended Reading

- Peru Mission's *Philosophy of Mission* is a brief document on how think Biblically about the task of missions. You may request a print copy from us, or access it digitally on our website here: <https://www.perumission.org/philosophy>.
- *Serving with Eyes Wide Open* by David A. Livermore, a guide for serving with “cultural intelligence” while doing short-term missions.
- *Walking with the Poor: Principles and Practices of Transformational Development* by Bryant L. Myers, a valuable perspective on poverty and working with the poor, from a veteran at World Vision.
- *The Conquest of the Incas* by John Hemming, a riveting account of the Spanish conquest of the Inca Empire in the 16th century.
- *The Next Christendom* by Philip Jenkins, an important book giving us the report card from around the turn of the century, describing the shift of Christianity's center from Europe and North America to Asia, Africa and Latin America. Other authors like Rodney Stark (*The Triumph of Christianity*, especially the final chapters on secularization and globalization) and James Davidson Hunter (*To Change the World* and especially *After Secularization*) give a similar assessment. However, by the end of the first decade of the present century, the so-called “secularization thesis” had clearly come roaring back. One of the key authors is Steve Bruce in his book *Secularization: In Defense of an Unfashionable Theory*. For a very brief overview of the resurgent or “neo-secularization” thesis, see the article by Phil Zuckerman: <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/the-secular-life/202012/what-is-secularization>

Coming Home

The number one question after returning from a mission trip is, “What now?” Besides sharing photos and memories after a trip, how can you get involved in God’s global mission when you are back at home?

1. Learn more at our website, www.perumission.org.

Give or get involved with any of our ministries or follow our missionary and mission Facebook pages and blogs! You can also sign up for regular mission updates via email or newsletter from our website at www.perumission.org.

2. Talk to your church’s missions committee.

Find out how else you can volunteer or help with your church’s outreach activities.

3. Volunteer in your own neighborhood.

The mission field is not only overseas, it is also in your own city and neighborhood. There are many ways to be witnesses for Christ among the poor and marginalized not far from where you live: from soup kitchens to English as a Second Language programs to prison ministries and much more. Volunteering regularly, and forming relationships with the people you serve, is a great way to continue being a “missionary” and to help stir up a greater zeal for evangelism and service in your own church.

4. Make some new friends.

Cross-cultural relationships can be found all around you in the US. Most immigrants or international students are never invited into an American home or reached out to by an American church. Here is your chance to welcome strangers in His name (Matthew 25:35).

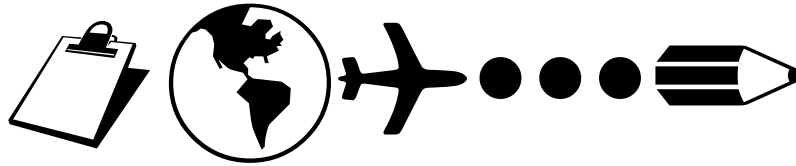
5. Get further education.

Take a Perspectives course, read up on current events overseas, or even take online seminary classes.

6. Pray for us!

There are many challenges and opportunities for our work in Peru, and the Lord uses your prayers to sustain us. Thank you for praying!

A Word About Debriefing to Team Leaders



Jesus took advantage of every opportunity to help his disciples process the experiences they were having as they traveled, talked, ministered, and related to each other and to others. When they sometimes did not grasp His teaching, Jesus would take them aside and explain things to them. (See John 13:12-17.)

While traveling, Jesus debriefed His disciples: “Who do people say I am?” and “Who do you say I am?” (Matt. 16:13-20, Mark 8:27-30, Luke 9:18-20). Jesus used the travel time to find out what was going on in the hearts and minds of his disciples as well as to take them deeper in their understanding.

At the end of a mission, (Luke 9:1-10 & 10:17-20) Jesus helped the disciples see how God had used them. He would spend time alone with them to rest, to encourage and to process their experiences.

Time spent together on a short-term mission trip provides a unique opportunity to disciple and help others grow deeper in their faith. Debriefing is an ongoing process before, during, and after a mission trip. Utilize the opportunities the Lord provides. Know your team and be aware of how they are doing on the trip. When someone is struggling, take them aside and encourage them to lean on the Lord and His sufficiency. More specific suggestions include:

1. Before the trip, pray as a team and ask the Lord to work in and through you during the trip.
2. Bring some devotional materials or a journal with you. Set aside times for individual devotions and group prayer or discussion during the trip.
3. Use the project as a laboratory to teach your team to depend on God. When problems arise, stop and pray about them.
4. Consider how God may be teaching you through your experiences or calling you to be involved in His work, after you return home. Discuss goals as a group and keep each other accountable to them!