

INTERNATIONAL PROJECT PROPOSAL

PROJECT 0598



Cross International

Delivering Food, Shelter and Hope in the Name of Jesus

Elohim Christian School

Meals for Hungry Children

— Arequipa, Peru —



“...and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.”

Isaiah 58:10



We are a ministry

that serves the poorest of the poor internationally by channeling aid through existing churches or church-based ministries, cost-effectively helping the poor while advancing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Rather than create new institutions to distribute aid, we support existing ministries and churches already serving the poor. In addition to being the most cost-effective way of helping the poor, empowering these ministries allows us to support the Church's spiritual mission and its important position of leadership in poor communities.

We consider every gift we receive as a precious resource from God. We direct every donation to its intended project, provide honest and accurate reports to our donors, and keep overhead costs to an industry low. We handle funds with utmost integrity and hold our ministry partners in the field to the same high standards by asking them to document costs and the impact of their outreach.

We invite you to join with us as we seek to transform the lives of the poor materially and spiritually — ways that please the Father and glorify Him in Heaven and on earth.





Project Synopsis

Description

Help a Christian elementary school provide a lunch four times a week and a breakfast one day a week for needy children.

Purpose

To reduce child hunger and encourage school attendance, so the children will hear the Gospel and gain the skills to overcome poverty.

Location

A slum on the arid, mountainous outskirts of Arequipa, Peru.

Cost

\$6,600 helps feed students a lunch four times a week and breakfast one day a week.

Highlights

- Peruvian teacher Rosa Gil started Elohim Christian School to give children from poor — and often dysfunctional — families the chance to achieve a better future.
- At Elohim, children who would otherwise never learn to read or write receive a Christian education at extremely low cost. Those who cannot afford even that small fee are asked to give their time instead.
- The school provides a lunch four times a week and breakfast one day a week for the students.
- Elohim's curriculum has a strong Christian focus that includes Bible study, devotionals, daily prayers and ongoing spiritual formation.
- With your gift to Cross, the school can continue to serve daily nutritious meals to hungry children.





The Need

When Rosa Gil sees the children of the slums, she sees her own struggles years ago. The Peruvian educator knows too well what it's like to be trapped in abject poverty, to go without food for days at a time, and to be victimized by a parent's alcohol addiction.

Rosa's empathy with, and Christ-like love for, Peru's poorest children has led her to dedicate her life to the people living on an arid mountainside on the outskirts of the city of Arequipa.



Located 10,000 feet above sea level, this outpost of dust and volcanic rock has been free for the taking by the poor, for the simple reason that nobody else wants it. The land cannot be farmed, the air is barely breathable, and basic amenities such as a water and sewage system are absent.

Decades after indigenous families first migrated here from the countryside, the area remains a wasteland, and the cycle of poverty presses on to the next generation. Plagued by unemployment and substance abuse, parents can't even afford to send their children to the overcrowded public school. The cost of books, uniforms and utility fees is just too high. Instead, children spend their days getting into mischief on the streets or rummaging through garbage for bottles, pencils, toys, and other recyclables they can sell for food. They are growing up in survival mode, beset by hunger, broken families, alcoholism, neglect and abuse.

Society may have forgotten the children of the slums, but Rosa is eager to extend to them the same opportunity she was once given to overcome a difficult childhood and break the bonds of poverty. Cross International is working with Rosa to give these children hope for a brighter future. We are confident that we can have a big impact, but we need your help!



Ministry Description

Rosa's ministry to the mountain slum began about a decade ago in a small shack of woven straw. There, she gathered a small group of local children twice a week for basic academic instruction. Since then, Elohim Christian School has moved into a solid brick building that has expanded to accommodate 230 students, ages 3 to 16. With help from Cross International, Rosa is blessing those children with a quality education, nutritious meals and Jesus' unconditional love.

Wall murals and green potted plants set Elohim apart from its drab surroundings. Children who suffer abuse and neglect at home are eager to come to school, where Christian teachers and pastors give them the attention they desperately need. Students who have known only sorrow are able to laugh with friends, play soccer, study music and art, listen to Bible stories, and dream about their futures. Those who arrive with empty stomachs are able to satisfy their hunger pangs and sustain enough energy to focus on their studies.

Rosa passionately desires that the students and their families would not only improve their economic condition, but more importantly accept Christ and apply the truths of God's Word to their daily lives. She integrates prayer and Bible lessons into the classroom experience and maintains a small student-teacher ratio so the children can receive the personal attention and emotional support they need.

This quality Christian education is offered to the poor for a small amount per month — or whatever each family can afford. The families are asked to contribute an additional 22 cents per day for meals if they are able, but the actual value of these meals is much higher than what the tuition can cover. Because the school is so affordable, the demand by local families to get their children in is enormous.

At Elohim, every child is guaranteed a lunch four times a week and breakfast one day a week, whereas at home there is often nothing to eat at all. The meal program is absolutely crucial to the children's health and education and to keeping them off the streets. That's why Cross International helps cover the cost of school meals year after year, and why we are asking you to help us continue that support.





Help Now!

Cross International helps provide the funding for Elohim Christian School's meal program. Without our continued support, Rosa could not feed the children a daily meal; and without these meals, many students would go hungry during the school day. They would also be under greater pressure to beg, scavenge and sell trinkets to sustain themselves.

Please prayerfully consider joining with us to sustain Rosa's life-changing ministry to Peru's poorest children. Your generous gift toward school meals will satisfy their hunger and give them the opportunity to gain important life skills such as reading and writing. Most of all, you will demonstrate Jesus' love as you lift up these precious children on the solid foundation of God's Word.

Together, we can show the children that there is hope beyond the squalor, addictions and dysfunction of their poor community. We can nourish their bodies and offer the Bread of Life for their souls. Please help us change their lives!

A generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor.

Proverbs 22:9

Our Promise to You!

Proceeds from this campaign will be used to cover any expenditures for this project incurred through June 30, 2019, the close of our ministry's new fiscal year. In the event that more funds are raised than needed to fully fund the project, the excess funds, if any, will be used to meet the most urgent needs of the ministry.

