

INTERNATIONAL PROJECT PROPOSAL

PROJECT 0921



Cross International

Delivering Food, Shelter and Hope in the Name of Jesus

Elohim Christian School

— Arequipa, Peru —



Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Matthew 19:14



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

This program provides salaries for teachers at a primary school for students from impoverished communities.

Purpose

To not only give poor children a comprehensive Christian education that would otherwise be out of reach but also introduce their families to the love of Christ through parental education workshops.

Location

Mountain communities on the outskirts of Arequipa, Peru's second-most populous city.

Cost

\$17,072 will fill the funding gap to provide full salaries for 4 teachers and a partial of a 5th out of the 16 teachers responsible for the education of at least 230 children ages 3 to 16 years old.

Highlights

- Many children in this region are malnourished and drop out of the educational system after elementary school.
- Many students come from homes where domestic violence, crime, juvenile alcoholism, neglect and abuse are common, so the program is extremely crucial to their well-being and future development.
- At Elohim Christian School, children are spiritually nurtured, well-fed and given a Christian education to guide them through the difficulties of living in extreme poverty.
- Director Rosa Gil and her staff aim to change children's lives by also educating their parents through sewing, cosmetology and cooking workshops where they're introduced to the Gospel. Staff hold monthly meetings with parents to provide psychological and spiritual support.
- To keep the school accessible to the poor, Elohim relies on support from Cross International to help cover the cost of teacher salaries so students may reap the tangible and spiritual benefits of a Christian education.



These second-graders are educated in a nurturing, safe environment where they learn about God's grace, love and mercy.

Your generous gift is needed to help the school continue its mission to change the lives of these precious children, helping them grow in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ.



The Need

A Release From Oppressive Poverty

At 10,000 feet above sea level, dry, dusty Arequipa is hardly prime real estate. In fact, this barren landscape of volcanic rock is so inhospitable that no one seems to want it — except for the very poor, who have little choice about where they can live.

Impoverished indigenous families first migrated there from the countryside decades ago hoping to find a better life, but the area remains a wasteland and its prospects remain poor. This has led to a cycle of poverty and unemployment that ultimately produces neglect and abuse in many of the families who struggle to survive there.



A lack of clean water sources make subsistence farming, cooking and even taking a bath difficult tasks for Arequipa's poorest residents.

While public schools are free in Peru, most of the poorer families in the area cannot afford the cost of the transportation, uniforms and books necessary to take advantage of the service. As a result, many poor children are left out.

Fortunately, Christian leaders in the area became aware of the problem and worked to provide a better option. Today, Elohim Christian School is the result. It offers an alternative to this life of destitution by bringing Christian education and values to poor children who have never learned to read or write or study the Bible.

Eight-year-old Katalina is one of children who will benefit. A poor girl, she accompanies her mother to one of Arequipa's marketplaces to sell food and knickknacks every night.

Katalina's mother, a product of a cycle of domestic violence herself, often speaks harshly to her, and this abuse has been taking its toll. The caring staff at Elohim Christian School try their best to provide Katalina with a loving, Christian experience at school because she clearly craves adult affection.

Maria, a fourth-grader, faces similar challenges. Her cheerful and enthusiastic attitude at school belies difficult realities in her home life. Her mother is a binge drinker and often leaves her alone in a dirt-floor shanty to care for her younger brother. Maria — wise beyond her years — has a strong sense of responsibility for her little sibling and gets herself to school each day. The Elohim Christian School staff know her time there represents a respite where, for a few hours, she can be a child again, happy and carefree. The spiritual, emotional and physical nourishment she receives at Elohim gives her the strength and encouragement she needs to get through her day.

For many students, Elohim is the first place they learn about Jesus Christ, and that encounter changes their perspective and builds their sense of self-worth. That relationship with the Lord, Elohim staff members believe, is crucial to the future well-being of the students.

To continue supporting children like Katalina and Maria, the Elohim Christian School needs your help. Your generous contribution to this important school's outreaches will release Arequipa's impoverished children from oppressive poverty and open a door to a brighter and more joyful future. ***We are counting on your help to make it happen!***



Ministry Description

Rosa Gil, the director of Elohim Christian School, is living proof of how an education can break the bonds of poverty and change lives forever. Growing up malnourished, with an illiterate mother and an alcoholic father, she seemed trapped in a world of desperation. Like most children in impoverished parts of Peru, she expected to grow up poor — in a daily struggle to find work and to feed herself.

Fortunately, schooling offered Rosa hope. A good student, she was actually able to overcome her circumstances and eventually became a teacher so she could offer hope to children who experienced the painful hardships she endured. It was out of that desire, in fact, that the Elohim Christian School was born in 2003. Rosa taught her

first classes to slum children in a small shack of woven straw.

Today, Rosa has a building and the school educates some 230 students about God's grace, love and mercy. With help from Cross International and the American donors who support our efforts, Elohim tends to the physical needs of each child by providing a nutritious meal per day to give them fuel to learn. While many of these children still know the suffering of abuse, hunger and anxiety at times, at Elohim they are given an opportunity to laugh, play and dream about a better future — one that is actually within their grasp.

“Our desire is to educate children in the ways of God so they can improve the quality of their lives,” says Rosa. “We want to teach every family to prioritize their children's

education, which will decrease the crime and drug addiction that currently occurs in the community.”

The dedication of this ministry is exemplified by its Christian teachers, most of whom left better-paying public school jobs to teach at Elohim because they believe in its mission and want the area's poor students learn about the Bible and receive God's hope every day. With your help, Cross International hopes to lift up these dedicated Christian educators and empower their outreach. Please help us cover the cost of 5 out of 16 teacher salaries and serve the precious children of Arequipa, Peru!



“We hope that these children will be great professionals in the future, and that our country will change,” says Elohim Director Rosa Gil.



Give Now!

The poor parents of Arequipa, Peru, desperately want to educate their children, but they simply cannot afford the costs associated with sending a child to the public schools. Elohim Christian School bridges the gap, but it can only do so with our support.

As Christians, we know our Lord wants every child to have hope. The Elohim Christian School not only addresses this through its opportunities for academic advancement, but it also addresses the heartfelt needs of the children it serves. In a community where values have been shaped by life in broken homes, Elohim teaches young boys and girls another path — a Christian way of life that offers love, hope and redemption.

Cross International is committed providing teachers' salaries so Elohim students can receive the tools they need to improve their lives and their nation through a Christian education, **but we can't do it without your help!** Please bless a needy Peruvian child with a quality education through your donation today!

Teach me knowledge and good judgment, for I trust your commands.

Psalm 119:66

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.