

The Pereira Pair

August 2026

A Summer of Teams

This month we're coming off a busy season of hosting five mission teams at camp. Most of them were physically demanding as we worked on preparations for Real Love Camp. At the beginning of the summer, five teams seemed like a lot, but each one brought something unique. We form such close-knit relationships with these teams, which is one of the many reasons I fell in love with this community.

Real Love Camp took place at the end of July and included adolescents aged 12–17. The theme this year was *No Filters*. I served as the camp nurse, which is always a joy. Like last year, it was a survival-style camp filled with challenges for teams to earn points. One challenge required the teenagers to spend several hours in the jungle building huts where the men would sleep for the night. Thankfully, things were positioned well enough that I could serve out of my house whenever physical needs arose.

Throughout the three-day camp, I found myself constantly praying for protection as young teens hacked down trees with machetes. Each leader carried an emergency whistle in case of a serious injury. What kept me up at night, however, was thinking about the young men sleeping in their jungle huts, surrounded by the natural habitat of snakes, tarantulas, scorpions, and other creatures.

Praise the Lord; there were no serious injuries. I was prepared for stitches, broken bones, serious bites, and emergency evacuations, but none were needed.

Apart from my nursing duties, I had the honor of translating a session on purity. A young woman around my age shared her testimony. At twelve years old, her father began trafficking her. Her own family saw her as an opportunity for income. She endured that exploitation for six years.

I had never heard her full story until that moment, so my translation was filled with pauses, deep breaths, and moments of awe as I reflected on God's work in her life.

What struck me most was the grace and gentleness with which she spoke. She shared, "If you have given your body willingly or unwillingly, there is hope for you. God can renew and restore you."

The session was divided by age and gender, and she spoke specifically to girls aged 12–14. Within that group were girls who had lived through similar experiences. We didn't hear all of their stories, but I know they left with the assurance that their lives are redeemable—whether they had made mistakes themselves or whether someone had stolen their innocence.

Love in Action

Shortly afterward, a team from my home church arrived. Our first activity together was a wheelchair distribution. The same day they arrived, we assembled ten wheelchairs to prepare for the next morning. Throughout the week leading up to the distribution, I felt a strong conviction that we needed to be intentional about sharing the Gospel.

Back in June, one man never arrived to receive his wheelchair. After several phone calls, we learned that he had passed away just a few days earlier. Medically speaking, it wasn't entirely shocking, as many recipients face serious health challenges besides their disabilities. Spiritually, however, it was a sobering reminder we must share the Gospel in a way that people can truly understand and receive.

The night before the August distribution, I couldn't sleep. I kept thinking about what I would share the next morning. When I met with the team, I told

Bethany what had been on my heart all week. She responded she had been feeling the same thing.

Another element we've been intentionally incorporating is celebration. Pastor Nelton often says, "A blessing changes a situation."

Time and time again, we've seen how true that is. We want these distributions to be joyful because many recipients have prayed for a wheelchair for *years*.

On the morning of the distribution, the team decorated the wheelchairs with streamers, balloons, and personalized name cards. Each card included the recipient's name, its meaning, and a Bible verse. We also honored the caregivers with gift baskets, whose work includes no respite and no government aid.

One recipient, Cesar, had recently been run over by a skid loader while roadwork was being done in his area. Before the accident, he was able to walk using a walker, but afterward he lost that ability completely. He was overjoyed to receive his wheelchair. As he wheeled himself through the church's spacious community room, he lifted his legs, closed his eyes, and sat with tears streaming down his face.



Cesar's complete joy

Sergio, an MMA fighter and recovered drug addict, followed him around the church. Suddenly Cesar said, "I need the bathroom."

Without hesitation, Sergio stepped in to help. The church bathrooms are not wheelchair accessible, and the stalls are very narrow. Together, Sergio and Pastor Gabo helped transfer him safely onto the toilet.

I was deeply moved by this act of love. It also made us realize we need a better solution because more people with disabilities are attending church.

Another young man, Segundo, received a wheelchair that day. He is nineteen years old and was born with spina bifida. He has lived his entire life paralyzed from the waist down. From the moment I met him, he captured my attention.



Segundo's contagious smile

As the distribution was ending, he mentioned he would love to take photos inside the church. When we heard that, David and I knew we wanted to invest more intentionally in his life. He is still in high school and is in the same grade as my brother-in-law, Moises.

On the last Sunday of August, we were able to bring him to the evening church service. He shared more of his story—growing up abandoned by both parents, being raised by his grandmother, losing her when she passed away, and now living with his aunt.

I don't know all the thoughts that run through his mind, but his demeanor reflects remarkable resilience. He doesn't seem to live as a victim of his circumstances. Instead, he told us he loves learning new things.

We're excited to help him get connected to church life and a nearby small group. His future is filled with hope and potential.

Gym Update

The Zion team also helped us complete several projects in the gym. We installed some walls (though not all of them because of the heat) and ordered equipment from Lima.

Items are still arriving little by little, but it has been exciting to have more options for workouts. We're already seeing increased interest from visitors. David never limits a visit to just working out; he encourages, lifts up, and pushes people to believe that God has more for their lives.

Our next goal is to purchase gym floor tiles and additional barbells and weights.



Thank you Zion team!

As we're seeing more people with disabilities attending church, another important need came up: building a **wheelchair-accessible bathroom**. We want our church to be a place where everyone can participate with dignity, and this project will help make that possible.

In addition, David and I are both growing in what God has called us to. As ministry continues to increase, we are praying for additional monthly partners who would like to invest in the work God is doing here in Iquitos.

If you would like to support the wheelchair ministry, contribute toward the accessible bathroom project, or become part of our monthly support team, we would be honored to have you partner with us through prayer and giving.

Thank you for being part of what God is doing in Iquitos and in us. Your support allows us to continue serving, sharing the Gospel, and meeting practical needs in our community.

David & Katie

How You Can Partner With Us

As the wheelchair ministry continues to grow, so do the needs that come with it. We currently distribute ten wheelchairs each month, and while the wheelchairs themselves are donated, it costs approximately **\$20 per chair** to transport them from Lima to Iquitos. That's about **\$200 each month** to get these life-changing gifts to those who need them.



Mission Mailing Address:
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All gifts are tax-deductible

Use code MKA on check memo line or include our names on a separate note.

