


# DBU REPORT

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Timmellyn Buchanan,  
DBU Student Government  
President, spends time with  
several orphans in Peru

## DBU *in* PERU

**47 Members of DBU Family Minister to  
Orphans in South America**



# 14 DAYS IN PERU

## Students Spend Summer Break with Orphans

by Tim Gingrich



**F**orty-seven members of the DBU family spent two weeks this summer serving in orphanages throughout Peru. Each morning, they engaged in ministry projects, such as handing out shoes, repainting walls, doing yard work, or repairing broken facilities, and they devoted the hot afternoons to playing with the children.

"As soon as they heard us coming, children came running out of all the rooms," said DBU junior Lindsay Springer, describing the scene as children met their teams in Lima. "They just wanted to sit in your lap or hold your hand."

Lindsay, along with 41 other classmates and five DBU sponsors, partnered with Buckner Baptist Benevolences, a non-profit organization engaged in orphan care around the world. DBU students have previously assisted on other such projects in Russia and Guatemala. Jay Harley, director of spiritual life at DBU and the trip's coordinator, explained that for many of the students, this trip was the first time for them to leave the U.S. "It was a little overwhelming for some of them at first, but all the students performed very well."

Peru's picturesque landscape, ancient Incan ruins, and fascinating culture provided plenty of memorable destinations. Yet the most unforgettable sight was dozens of DBU students down on bended knee, presenting new shoes to children in orphanages.

Buckner shipped hundreds of pairs of donated shoes to Peru before DBU students ever set foot in South America. "Bowing before these children and helping them with their new shoes was a humbling experience," explained recent DBU graduate Brittany Bradley. "Some of them may have had worn-out shoes. However, these new shoes mean more; they symbolize that someone cares."

"The children were very surprised and thankful that we came and that we care about their country," explained DBU student Abdiel "Abe" Huerta. He was one of several Spanish-speaking students who contributed his cultural understanding and language skills to the trip and acquired direct feedback from the children. "Sometimes people wonder what they can do in such a short time, but it really does make a difference to these kids."

While serving at an orphanage in Cusco, the team met another volunteer from New York who had arrived earlier. "I have been working here for a week already and have not seen a single smile," he told the team. "Whatever you all are doing, keep doing it."

For DBU students, the journey was a life-changing experience. As Jay Harley shared, "The way students became burdened for these orphans, children they have never seen before and may never meet again, is truly inspirational." 🙏