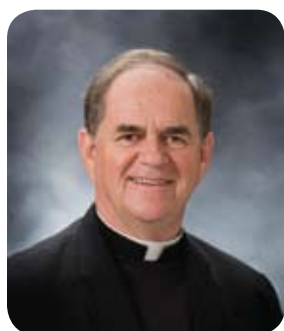




CHIMBOTE VISTA A LOS AMIGOS DEL PADRE JUAN PUBLICATION

Letter from Fr. Jack



Dear Friends,

Today is Holy Thursday. Since the beginning of Lent we have been preparing the people for Holy Week and Easter Triduum. Each Friday during Lent we celebrated the “living” Way of the Cross, remembering Jesus’ death over 2000

years ago and how He continues to be crucified today in Chimbote in the poor, the abandoned mothers and elderly, the sick, those with drug or alcohol addictions, the prostitutes and the youth gangs. We believe it is not God’s will that this poverty exists, so we dedicate ourselves to eliminating its causes and at the same time doing all we can to alleviate the suffering that people here are experiencing.

Earlier in the week, volunteers from Atonement Lutheran Church in Fargo ND, rebuilt 2 woven reed houses destroyed by fire in one of our poor neighborhoods while their group leader, Ron Stensgard, chairman of Los Amigos, attended the blessing of medical instruments for Santa Ana Medical Clinic, that had been donated by the Rotary Club of Swansboro, NC. We are currently awaiting the arrival of an x-ray machine donated by the Granite City Rotary Club of St Cloud, MN.

On March 19, we had the inauguration of Wimbush Center that you will read about in this newsletter. This is the first time in 40 years of ministry that I will have an office separate from my house.

Thanks to you, our benefactors, we have received enough donations to meet our monthly budgets so far this year to maintain our 7 soup kitchens, Women’s Refuge Center, 7 libraries, medical post, youth prevention centers and the other programs and projects we run. A concern is always if we will have enough funds in the bank to meet our next monthly budget, so those that have signed up for monthly Electronic

Fund Transfers (EFT) from their bank or credit card accounts certainly help relieve the pressure.

Our recent international volunteers are helping us keep our ministry alive. Volunteers include Collette Mathern, Edgeley, ND and her 4 young children, Penny Elsley from Australia and last week the second annual LAMA Medical group was here and saw over 4000 of our parish’s poor sick, and needy.

On April 21, Sister Peggy, Enrique Blas (our driver) and I will be traveling to the United States for our annual fund-raising tour. As always, we hope to provide the opportunity for you to hear from us directly about the enormous challenges faced by our people in Chimbote. Our tour schedule is included on the last page of this newsletter.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you a most blessed Easter season and thank you again for your faithful support and encouragement. Please pray for me that I may become a holy priest.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Jack (John) E. Davis

Make a Difference! Sign up for monthly EFT donations to the mission by visiting our website and clicking on “Donate Now” or by contacting Los Amigos at 701-364-0162



Please mail donations to:
 Los Amigos del Padre Juan
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www.losamigos-chimbote.org

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 Friends of Father Jack



Photo: Msgr Lynch with Chimbote friends



Photo: Hector Bosse with scholarship student, Yenny Navarette

Forever Young

Traveling to Chimbote may strike some as an undertaking for the young, but Fr. Jack's Mission has a number of dedicated supporters who prove that you're never too old to benefit from the experience.

Monsignor Richard Lynch, who turns 90 on April 24th, travels to Chimbote twice a year and will make his 16th trip in June. When people ask him, "How do you do it?" Monsignor replies that the travel and resulting relationships are keys to his healthy old age.

Retired and living in Pensacola, Monsignor travels with groups who are led by Hector Bosse, who will be 82 in June and has himself made 28 trips to Chimbote, with number 29 scheduled for June. Hector's parish, the Church of St. Ann of Gulf Breeze, has actively supported Fr. Jack's Mission since the mid-1980's, providing some of the earliest infrastructure and medical assistance.

Both men will tell you that the Chimbote experience is a great blessing. Monsignor Lynch compares the change that individuals experience to that of the apostles at Pentecost: One is filled with the Holy Spirit and given an increased capacity to love with the heart of Christ.

On a recent trip, Hector spent time planting trees and tidying up a public school playground. Others in his group played games with the school children and elsewhere provided medical care. While there is never a shortage of jobs to be done, Monsignor Lynch believes that the most important work a visitor can do is simply to "be present to the people."

The riches of a long life well-lived offer much to our impoverished Peruvian brothers and sisters. The solidarity of friendship is a beautiful gift both given and received by travelers to Chimbote.

Volunteer Coordinator — Passing the Torch



Peter Jensen (4th from left) & Charles Ashou (3rd from right) pictured with mission volunteers from Germany and Minnesota

Los Amigos would like to recognize Charles Ashou of Portland, OR, who on April 1st ended his 14-month career as Volunteer Coordinator in Chimbote. What started out as a six-month volunteer term in 2008 ended in an epic run! The professional world calls Charles, and he will enter the MBA program at the University of Notre Dame later this spring. In addition, he hears the white ivory calling his name: "The piano is a great passion of mine, and I am longing to get back to it..."

Thank you, Charles, for your energy, passion, and dedication to making each visitor's and volunteer's experience at the mission a memorable one!

Clearly, any person replacing Charles has some large sandals to fill. After working conservation in the Rocky Mountains and then volunteering in the Amazonian rainforest, Peter Jensen of Owatonna, MN comes to his new position eager, feeling called to the task. "It is strange how some things work. I was canoeing the Mississippi in November, when all three of my companions quit because of the cold. Thus, I changed my ticket and volunteered briefly at Fr. Jack's mission before heading to the rainforest. Three months later, here I am, with a future I never would have seen had the Minnesota winter not been so harsh!" Pete begins his work as the Volunteer Coordinator on June 1st.

To learn more about volunteering in Chimbote visit our website www.losamigos-chimbote.org and click on "How To Help"

WIMBUSH ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER OPENS IN CHIMBOTE!

Did You Know?

\$166.00 will feed a family of 6 in Chimbote for a month.



Photo: Children's Play Area - Wimbush Center

On March 19th the mission's long awaited administrative building, the Wimbush Center, was inaugurated by Bishop Angel Simón of the Diocese of Chimbote. This center, largely made possible by the generosity of John and Muriel Wimbush of Paradise Valley, AZ, formerly Fargo, ND will house the offices of the mission's non-governmental organization

(NGO) called ACAF. Not only will The Wimbush Center be very functional, it will be a dignified place for the poor of Fr. Jack's mission to receive support and services from the social workers, legal services department, and administrative staff. In addition to offices, there is a chapel, a beautiful green space for people to sit in security and comfort, a children's play area, and an auditorium. Over 50 visitors and volunteers from Canada, the United States, Germany and many Chimbotanos were present for the ceremony. The center is located just one block from Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church.

Construction on the Wimbush Center began several months ago and was managed by Sr. Juanita Albrecht, administrator of the mission's Hospice program. In the construction contract it was

specified that a percentage of the laborers had to be hired from within the mission boundaries. With unemployment at approximately 70%, this created much needed jobs for many of the men from the barrios of Fr Jack's mission, allowing them the dignity to earn money and provide for their families rather than relying solely on the programs in place at the mission.



Photo: Laborer on lunch break with his family

Did You Know?

Fr. Jack's mission serves over 32,000 of the poorest of the poor in Peru?

Did You Know?

Los Amigos is now on Facebook!
Become our "fan"! www.facebook.com

VISIT CHIMBOTE THIS AUGUST AND "BE PRESENT TO THE PEOPLE!"

On August 13, 2010 Fr. Jack Davis will celebrate his 67th birthday and in addition the 100th anniversary of his mother's birth will be honored through the reinauguration of the Edith Weed Davis School in Chimbote. The president of the Peruvian state of Ancash supported a reconstruction project for this humble school that has 310 grade school students and 251 high school students. Depart on August 10 and return on the 17th, or choose an optional side trip to Cusco and Machu Picchu and return on the 20th. In Chimbote deliver beds and stoves to the barrios of the poor, visit Vesique Beach with the handicapped, and visit and volunteer in mission programs. Contact group leader, Susan Trnka for more information at visitchimbote@losamigos-chimbote.org or by phone 701-364-0162





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Did You Know?

You may designate Los Amigos as the recipient for memorials, wedding gifts, and birthday gifts?

FR JACK AND SR PEGGY'S SPRING 2010 TRAVEL AND EVENT SCHEDULE



April 21	Arrive in St. Paul	May 5	6:30 pm Prayer Service followed by Strawberry Shortcake Social, Holy Family Parish, Grand Forks, ND Contact: Mary Jane Henneman 701-213-0540
April 24 – April 25	Volunteer Appreciation Weekend, Lumen Christi Parish, St. Paul, MN; All weekend liturgies. 5:00 pm Prayer Service April 25 followed by dinner & program. Contact Beth Cunniff at 651-698-8418 or bethcunniff@msn.com	May 6	St. Cloud, MN
April 29 – May 1	Los Amigos Board Meeting, Prior Lake, MN	May 14	Annual Twin Cities Gathering, St. Michaels' Church, Prior Lake, MN Contact: Gail Gross 952-447-7716 swedee@integra.net
May 1 – May 2	Weekend Liturgies, Nativity Church, Fargo, ND	May 15 - 16	All weekend liturgies at St. Michael's, Prior Lake, MN
May 2	4 pm – 6 pm Gathering for Fr Jack & Sr Peggy, Holiday Inn, Fargo. All welcome. Live music provided by "Tucker'd Out". Refreshments, Snacks, Silent Auction. RSVP Susan Trnka 701-364-0162 news@losamigos-chimbote.org	May 17	Mandan, ND
		May 18 – 20	Billings and Bozeman, Montana
		May 21 – 23	Spokane, Washington
		May 24 – 30	Los Angeles, Seal Beach, and San Diego, California returning to Peru May 30th