

USPG IN PERU

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

This PowerPoint looks at the work of USPG Mission Companions Bishop Bill and Judith Godfrey.

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1) Change image on mouse click; 2) Looped with text; 3) Looped without text.

USPG in Peru

A look at the work of
USPG Mission
Companions Bishop Bill
and Judith Godfrey

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This is one of the many shanty towns that surround Lima, Peru's capital city.

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The friendly smiles of the people belie the harsh reality of everyday life for thousands of families. Many came here from rural villages in search of work and a better life.

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The women seek jobs as maids in Lima's hotels or home helps for city's wealthier citizens, while the men mostly seek work as day labourers. Their families live in tiny shacks, some of them made from hardboard or cane stalks. Some have no water, while many others collect water from communal taps. Sanitation is poor. During Lima's dank winter months, clothes can remain almost permanently damp.

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But there is hope. The Anglican Church is working with local people to provide education and healthcare and to set up income-generation schemes. Initiatives include duck-rearing schemes, sewing groups, nursery schools, farming projects, and classes in cookery and nutrition. The church also provides spiritual support through baptism and confirmation classes and marriage preparation workshops.





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The Anglican Diocese of Peru is expanding under the guidance of USPG Mission Companion Bishop Bill Godfrey. In six years, the number of congregations in the diocese has increased from 8 to 40, and the number of clergy from 4 to 32.



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Bishop Bill believes the enormous growth of the church in Peru is due to its focus on social outreach programmes, including schools, children's homes, soup kitchens, garden projects, micro-finance, income generation, and more.



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Misael Varillas, a priest in the shanty towns, told USPG: 'There's a saying in Peru: with love you can win the war. And I believe that loving the people will change their lives. These people have been rejected by society, but we're helping them. We are working for God.'



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Community centres are being built, such as this one, which offers medical facilities, a nursery so that mothers can go to work, primary school education, and space for church activities, as well as a place for the local community to wash clothes and take showers.



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The Child Protection Project, supported by USPG, is helping to protect children from abuse and teach parenting skills. The project was set up after a diocesan administrator visited the shanty town community of Cerro Cachito. The project is helping to break the cycle of abuse so that children won't feel the need to escape unhappy homes for a difficult life on the streets.



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Evangelism and church growth are important, with ingenious means being incorporated by the diocese. Solar-powered DVD players are being used for evangelism and discipleship training. Clergy and lay workers carry the equipment in backpacks to remote villages where they show a film about Jesus. Many villagers are illiterate. In some places, villagers were seeing moving images for the first time.



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Here is a mural painted by young local artists which has brightening up a playground at the Anglican-run St Matthew's School, in Lima. The murals feature bible stories set in a Peruvian landscape, with llamas, a condor, an Inca and Peruvian school children. The murals add a touch of colour into a drab environment.



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This beautiful wall-hanging was made using the traditional method of arpillera, one of Peru's most distinctive art forms. It features lavishly-embroidered three-dimensional fabric cut-outs on a cotton background. This particular wall-hanging was made for USPG by women in Lima as a gesture of appreciation for our support. The women sell arpillera pieces to raise money for the work of the diocese.



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This is former USPG Mission Companion Pam Caldwell. She helped set up a project called 'Come Holy Spirit, Colour My Life'. The idea was to introduce colour into Lima's grey shanty towns. Pam taught women how to make cushion covers and table mats. And she introduced foods such as broccoli, carrots and beetroot, bringing colour and better nutrition into their diet. One of the ladies said: 'You can eat this food twice: first with your eyes, then with your mouth.'



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Also on the subject of food, here are magic ovens. The diocese is teaching women in the shanty towns how to use these to promote healthy eating. The ovens work best for food that cooks in a liquid: rice, potatoes, lentils, chickpeas, beans, soup and stews. The ingredients are boiled in a saucepan for 10 minutes.



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Then the pan is transferred to the magic oven, which consists of two large cushions, filled with polystyrene balls, inside a cardboard box. The pan nestles inside, insulated, and can be left to cook overnight or during the day. The food won't burn or boil dry and it remains hot. The scheme means families have a rich source of protein and no gas or kerosene is required.



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This young man is napping during dinner time. He is one of 50 pupils at a nursery school run by Holy Trinity Church, in Pamplona Alta, in Lima. Many children were underweight when they first attended the nursery; now they are much healthier. Meanwhile, parents can go to work knowing their children are safe and well. The nursery also offers family days and talks for parents on health care and child psychology.



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Peru is a beautiful country, from the Amazon and the snow-capped Andes mountain to the Pacific coastline and desert plains. It is also prone to extreme weather. At times of natural disaster, USPG has sent emergency funds to support the Diocese of Peru as it responds by providing aid and practical help.



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This service is taking place amid rubble left by an earthquake that hit southern Peru in 2007, killing 500. The Anglican Church was the first organisation to arrive in the isolated village of Tacama, bringing emergency supplies. Bishop Bill said: 'The people thought no-one cared until we came. They asked us to stay. One lady donated land for a church. She was a Pentecostalist, but loved what we were doing.'



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This year, USPG sent emergency funding after a wave of intensely cold weather claimed the lives of 250 children in Puno, one of Peru's poorest regions. The weather is cold each winter, but this year saw the worst conditions in years, with experts blaming climate change. Bishop Bill saw children wearing T-shirts and sandals in below-zero conditions. The diocese sent clothes and blankets.



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Rosemary Cortes visited Lima on USPG's volunteer programme. She reported: 'The Anglican Church has many thriving projects among the poor and is a growing force. Poverty is rife. Mobility is also a major hurdle, as new shanty towns expand in the hills and few bus drivers are prepared to go up the rough tracks to the top, where the newest and poorest arrivals live. However, they are not a low-spirited people. They take their faith and spiritual life very seriously.'



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Speaking about the work of the diocese, and its growing impact, Bishop Bill said: 'We've seen tremendous growth. It's almost impossible to keep up! We estimate that, every day, the Anglican Church is rubbing shoulders with a million people, changing lives through our attitudes, honesty, helpfulness and kindness – bearing witness to Christ through the ordinary things we do.'

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USPG is supporting Bishop Bill and Judith as they reach out with God's love.

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