

## Current situation in Peru

The advance of the coronavirus (COVID-19) that already leaves more than a million cases of contagion in 188 countries and more than 53 thousand deaths; according to information from the Ministry of Health, the following figures are available in Peru as of Friday, April 03: 1,595 positive cases out of 17,334 tests performed and 61 deceased, the majority of the deceased (72%) are men, while 27.8% are women. The regions with the most cases are Lima, Loreto and Piura.

This is a summary chart, found on social media



## Impact of COVID-19 on the lives of women.

There are 17 women who have already died and 663 confirmed cases.

Given the increase in cases, the President has established that men can only mobilize on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; while women, on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. On Sundays, everyone must respect social immobilization.

We know that many of the women now have the burden of the home, they work independently, in their own businesses, in markets, selling cosmetics, among others.

Other women are dependent because they have a job (like me). Others are housewives and depend on the income of the spouses - which were already scarce but now null.

All these groups of women have been affected in one way or another, from least to greatest intensity. Is not easy.

I reiterate, immobilization is a commitment, income has been diminished, the Central Government is taking immediate measures to "alleviate" these various situations: giving baskets with food, providing S / . 380.00 to a group of greater need that in this new week of isolation had to double it; is giving more income to the municipalities to support their most vulnerable areas, which was the Sports Villa for the Pan American Games and other hospitals have been converted into care hospitals for patients with COVID-19, the bullring is now a shelter (refuge) for those who lived on the street, ..., so many things, so many people are changing, a lot of movement, you see sadness, tiredness, loneliness, anguish, concern, selfishness, ... but you also see solidarity, unity, teamwork, creativity.

The children are at home, the private school classes are taking place remotely, the public school classes start this Monday, April 6 on TV, cell phones, tablets, PCs, radio, but still it is not enough. Not all families have basic services (electricity, water), they live in precarious houses.

## Response of the Methodist Church in Peru, as a Confederation, Federation and /or Society of Women

I would like to tell you, once this situation of COVID-19 was known, when Latin America and other European countries did not even appear, as a Confederation we started a chain of prayer together with the Brazilian Federation and it was extended to the other Federations, I understand that many they did it in their Societies and personally. Always giving words of encouragement, hope, confident that God cares for his Daughters and their generations, people, countries.

A few years ago, with other sister (Luz Landa – Karen's mother), we formed, in a non-formal way, the Methodist Prayer Movement, we have a WhatsApp and a page on Facebook, where we receive requests for prayer, give word of encouragement, hope, peace to the people who write to us and they call. And that's a form of help that we do more of right now.

I am going to speak to you as a Methodist woman from a local church and I would like that I share you stay with us.

My husband and I are serving in two churches: San Juan de Miraflores and Lurín, in quite popular areas and in great need. When the contagions began and the first news appeared, we prayed and asked the Lord for direction to know what to do, since some churches had already reported the suspension of their activities.

On March 15 we had a normal Sunday Worship in both churches and we told the congregation that that same day at 9:00 am the Episcopal Office sent us an email suggesting the restriction of worship and activities in the church. We talked with them and told that we were going to respect what the majority decided and also not neglect what was stated by our Ecclesial Authorities. On Sunday afternoon we did the same with the other church that is further south. But, that same day at night, there was the presidential announcement of social inmovilization starting on March 16.

We have brothers and sisters over 65 mostly in Lurín and our concern is that just that week they had problems with the water supply, most have informal jobs, others earn minimum wages... but God is good, some received support of the S / . 380.00 (because the Government said that they were going to give it to the women). Others not, but... God is good and faithful, on Wednesday of that week the mother of a boy who goes to Sunday School calls me to ask me to lend her money, because she was in a terrible situation. The husband no longer had a job because of staying at home to avoid contagion, they did not have to buy water. As a family there are 8 and they live in houses with plastic-lined walls ..., another family has their son with leukemia, ... but God is good and faithful and even though we are also having a hard time ... God teaches us to share.

And in that feeling, just as in San Juan de Miraflores, God has touched hearts and has allowed that in the midst of their own difficulties, needs have shared and we managed to gather an offering of S / . 581.60 in order to support other families.

Even a brother from the church died and due to the current situation, the bodies have to be cremated and they did not have the resources. But God allowed us all to put a little bit.

Here where I live, we are helping the guardians as a family and the neighbors, we share with the gentlemen who collect the garbage, with the passing policeman, and we do not do it, it is God in us who moves his church to make himself present.

There are so many ways to be Church, with messages, online studies, words of encouragement on social networks, cell phone calls, video calls, sharing something small, cleaning your building, taking your neighbor's dog out, shopping for the elderly, bringing them a magazine,...., maybe we don't take photos, we don't publish it, because we don't do anything extraordinary. It is the love, mercy and grace of God that surprises us every day, sustains us and teaches us.

Oh!!!!!!... God is WONDERFUL, AMAZING!!!!  
Deus e TREMENDO. Dios es MARAVILLOSO

May God continue to guide and care for us.  
A hug, friend and dear sister.

Jessica Solar.