



We have been informed that...

**Missions: Health Messengers and Night Messengers
"Hogar Clínica San Juan de Dios" - Arequipa (Peru)**

The Health Messengers



- The Medical Missions forming part of the social and pastoral care programme are entrusted with to the Pastoral Care of the Sick and the Social Pastoral Ministry Directorate, which is celebrating its 12th anniversary this year (2011).

The Missions reach out to the poor who are unable to travel to the towns and cities and are in need of treatment in their home villages, where in many instances no specialist care is provided.



Your Health is In Good Hands



So far 70 Missions have been conducted in different provinces in the Arequipa Region in the southern zone of in the country and as a result of these 12 years' work, 57,480 people have been cared for, receiving medicines completely free of charge and on some occasions, clothing and food as well.

Through their authorities, the villages request the presence of a Health Messengers Mission to visit their localities. They organise and find transport and board and lodging for all the Co-workers from the Hogar Clínica who go to the area to provide the service.



An average of 45 co-workers perform these missions, which last for three days. The Messenger Teams include physicians providing different specialised services, nurses, technicians and volunteers. It takes more than one month to prepare and organise each mission, which is why only five missions are run each year.

The Night Messengers

Concern for public health in towns and cities lay behind the idea of going out to look for the homeless poor, sleeping rough, and wandering the streets during the daytime.

For three years now a group of co-workers (employees and volunteers) have been going out during the week seeking their target groups; they now know exactly where to look for people suffering from alcohol and drug abuse problems, and sex workers, whose problems have turned them into invisible townfolk.



The work consists of visiting them in the places where they sleep overnight, bringing them something to eat and drink, such as porridge and sandwiches, and some warm clothing and blankets, shelters, and jackets, because the temperature drops steeply during the nights and sometimes during the year to below zero.

The messengers establish contact and try to strike up a friendly conversation with them, as a result of which their “new friends” will subsequently go and see them in the Hogar Clínica when they need treatment after they have been involved in fights, or simply because of the effects of their alcoholism. In some



cases they also go to government hospitals for treatment under TB programmes, or to be admitted for treatment of cirrhosis of the liver, etc., with the Pastoral Care Directorate (Hogar Clínica San Juan de Dios) paying for part of the treatment.

In 2010, the Night Messenger Team provided medical care for for 325 people, and processed more than 216 documentation formalities: getting duplicate National ID cards, diagnostic tests, surgical operations,

death certificates, and so on.