



In the spring of 2009, Nancy Lane worked in DBU's Office of Undergraduate Admissions. She had been there a short time—since graduating with her Bachelor of Arts in summer of 2008—and was studying for a Master of Education in English.

Lauren Robertson, still an undergraduate, had taken a part-time job as a student worker in the same office. The spring semester in Admissions is always busy, full of high school seniors making campus visits and getting their paper work in order.

Both girls' schedules were full. But when Lauren's friend and goalie of the Lady Patriot's soccer team mentioned to Lauren that DBU's soccer and volleyball teams would be spending spring break working in orphanages, something sparked an interest in Lauren.

The athletic teams would be traveling to Lima, Peru and ministering to orphanages through DBU's Global Sports Mission Initiative. The description of the trip was enough to convince Lauren she needed to help.

So she set to making 800 salvation bracelets to send to Peru. Each bracelet, which requires a black, red, blue, white, green, and yellow bead to help explain the steps toward salvation in Jesus, had to be handmade. So Lauren recruited co-worker Nancy to help.

Nancy reflects, "Never when I was sitting there making bracelets in Lauren's DBU apartment did I think I would be living in the same country where these bracelets were going."

Once the team returned from Peru, Lauren discovered that the bracelets had been distributed everywhere except for one orphanage—Hogar Sagrada Familia, an orphanage that alone housed nearly 800 children. Because there were not enough for all the children, they had not been able to give them out at all.

"Since that moment," Lauren expresses, "God put on my heart to share the gospel with those 800 children. After that conversation, I started trying to find out about this orphanage and those children who needed to hear about Jesus."

The stories of how Nancy and Lauren individually felt called to Peru are slightly different, but with the same result: both girls felt the sadness of little children living without the love of their parents, and more importantly, without the love of a Savior. They knew the Lord had called them to go.

In faith, they began planning a short-term trip. During that trip, Lauren and Nancy both felt an undeniable urge to spend the next year of their lives working at Hogar Sagrada Familia with nearly 800 orphans.

By this time it was March of 2010, and only two months later, the two girls returned to Peru and moved into the orphanage that would be their home for the next year. Employed as teachers at the orphanage, Nancy taught high school English classes, and Lauren taught religion in the elementary grades. They taught at least one Bible study every night of the week and began ministering outside the orphanage as well. At first there was little direction. The orphanage threw them into their new assignments. But eventually the girls settled into Peruvian life, and their circle of influence started expanding into other parts of the city.



the least of these...

Nancy Lane & Lauren Robertson's Journey to Peru

Through connections they made, five public schools in the area allowed them to come into their classrooms and teach the Bible to the children. Nancy and Lauren's schedule was, at times, extremely hectic, but it seemed the longer they stayed in Peru the more avenues they were given to share the gospel.

Soon the year Nancy and Lauren committed to at the orphanage was nearly over, and both wondered what was next. They knew their time in the orphanage had come to an end—but their time in Peru had not.

So they found an apartment to rent, moved out of the orphanage, and discovered in the process that the Lord expanded their ministry.

Now partnering with local missionaries and believers, Lauren and Nancy have ventured to start their own ministry. They feel they have been charged with starting church plants throughout Peru, especially in the poor region where they currently live.

"Day to day life in Peru is much different from life in the States," explains Lauren. "It is made up of taking buses, walking up sand hills, driving around the city in motorcycle taxis, and going to local markets."

"We live in the friendliest country you can ever imagine," she continues. "It is a poverty stricken city, so the only thing people really have is each other."

Not only that, Nancy jokes, but it also helps that they have lighter skin, hair, and eyes because it makes people prone to stare and easy to get their attention.

On a serious note, she adds, "We realize that what we have in mind to do here is something that only the Holy Spirit can do. So in the midst of much prayer and seeking Him, we are coming into contact with many people who are hungry for the Lord."

To date, they have been able to see four different house churches formed—churches which are held in people's homes or in the streets and are attended primarily by lower class Peruvian girls, mothers, and their children who have become Nancy and Lauren's friends.

Much of their ministry is impromptu and happens as the Lord puts people in their path. Ultimately, their hope is to see people become disciples of Christ—disciples who will heed the Great Commission and seek to make more disciples.

Although both Lauren and Nancy would modestly deny it, the truth is that they are exactly the kind of student that DBU hopes to have. They love the Lord and seek to be used by Him, even if that means being far from home and being forced to learn a new language, culture, and people group.

"The first few months I hated living here," explains Lauren, "and the Lord was the only person I could rely on. He taught me that He is the only sufficient One who I can rely on during the hardest and best times of my life. Now, I love life here, but I still have to constantly rely solely on the Lord."

Nancy adds, "I am so thankful for the opportunity to serve here, and while I do not know how long God will have me here or what will happen with our ministry, I hope that I am someone who can bring glory to His name."

