

ALIGNMENT OF MISSION AND METHOD IN LATIN AMERICA CHILDCARE IN PERU

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In Peru, systemic poverty and illiteracy have combined to create glaring needs which may be viewed as transformational frontiers. Latin America ChildCare (LACC) in Peru addresses these frontiers through the practice of transformational development, bringing hope to needy children through the gospel of Jesus Christ, quality education and ministries of compassion. Yet, the ministry of LACC in Peru has been hindered by an ill-defined identity. Families and staff at LACC schools knew little of LACC's mission or the methodology used to accomplish its goals. Consequently, prior to this project, they were unable to function as a team, being misaligned in their purpose, goals, approach, and accountability.

This project clarifies the identity of LACC in Peru by comparing its history, philosophy of ministry and its methodology to those of LACC in Costa Rica—an older and much larger branch of LACC. Biblical-theological research addresses God's heart for the poor, while the general literature review addresses the practice of transformational development and the importance of alignment of mission and methodology for a development organization. Throughout the project, emphasis is placed on listening to the needs, concerns, and solutions provided by the target population, seeking a culturally contextualized solution that avoids the false assumptions projected by ethnocentric monoculturalism. The project enhances the capacity of those working within the LACC context to operate as an aligned team, serving the needs of children and families more effectively.