

St. Paul's Palm Sunday concert to benefit orphans in Peru

The Blyth Festival Orchestra performing in Ingersoll April 13

JOHN TAPLEY
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The Blyth Festival Orchestra will be featured in a Palm Sunday concert at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Ingersoll on April 13 where a freewill offering will support orphans in Peru.

St. Paul's has partnered with Knox United Church in Embro in planning a mission trip to an orphanage in Peru in February 2015 through Friends of the Orphans Canada.

"We've been looking at trying to do an international mission for a while," said Kathy Smit, chair of mission at St. Paul's about why the church is joining what

will be Knox United's third mission trip to Peru.

She said she approached Knox United about a possible partnership after hearing about its mission trip efforts.

"It was just magic in terms of the stories (they told)," Smit said. "For us, it's a good opportunity as a congregation."

Paying their own way to go on the mission, participants will spend nine days working at the Casa Santa Rosa orphanage, which is home to about 100 children.

A list of projects they will undertake while they are at the orphanage located about two hours south of Peru's capital Lima is still being worked out.

"We usually have a whole list of items so people can pick and choose what they do," said Doug Hazen, an Ingersoll resident and elected member of the Board of Directors for Friends of the Orphans Canada. "Everybody has a talent."



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On a mission

Doug Hazen, Kathy Smit and Rev. David Thompson display information boards about a joint mission trip St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Ingersoll and Knox United Church in Embro are planning at an orphanage in Peru in February 2015. A freewill offering that will be collected during a Palm Sunday concert featuring the Blyth Festival Orchestra at St. Paul's on April 13 will help out the orphans at the Casa Santa Rosa orphanage about two hours south of Peru's capital Lima.

A veteran of 10 mission trips, including seven to Peru, Hazen is helping coordinate the Knox/St. Paul's effort at Casa Santa Rosa and is among those planning on making the trip.

He said he knew he was hooked on mission trips after his first experience.

"It's something that's deep-rooted in you and you have to go there to bring it out," said Hazen.

In a country where the average wage is about \$8 per month, money raised by the churches will go a long way toward helping the children at the orphanage, he said.

Participation in the mission trip is open to the community at large.

"We're always interested in people joining," Smit said.

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Following their nine-day mission at the orphanage, trip participants will spend an additional five days in Peru and have the opportunity to visit the Ican ruins at Machu Picchu.

Performing excerpts from Vivaldi's Gloria and other pieces, the Blyth Festival Orchestra is donating its talent for the concert at St. Paul's, which will also include hymns from Rev. David Thompson, interim minister at St. Paul's.

"We're hopeful we can get a good audience," Thompson said. "This is St. Paul's operating in the larger community to make a difference in the world."

The Palm Sunday concert at St. Paul's begins at 4 p.m. For more information call 519-485-3390.