

## **Good Shepherd Cathedral Prison Ministry**

Lucha, a member of the Good Shepherd Cathedral congregation, has been working with prisoners in the Santa Monica Prison in Chorrillos for 41 years, teaching them various handicrafts and then helping with the sales so that they have a small income. She is now also involved with high-security Virgen de Fatima Prison, also in Chorrillos. Currently 90 women are in the program in the Santa Monica Prison and 100 in the Virgen de Fatima Prison. Lucha obtains many of the necessary materials for the work from friends and family members.

There is a crèche for children up to 3 years old that are living in the prison with their mothers; there are currently 19 children, although there have been as many as 40 in the past. Before the pandemic Lucha obtained clothing, personal hygiene products, milk and other useful donations with help from the church and friends. This has become more difficult with the pandemic but Lucha has committed to providing 3 children with diapers and hygiene products since their families cannot afford these.

Materials are collected from Lucha's house as she cannot visit the jails in the current circumstances.

Previously Lucha would celebrate the Day of the Child, of the Senior Citizen and Mothers' Day with the inmates.

During the pandemic she has prepared bookmarks with encouraging Biblical texts to send to the women. Lucha recently held a videoconference with them, and the prison wardens maintain contact with her. She is much appreciated by all. After their release the ex-prisoners can continue their contact with this Ministry.

The Good Shepherd Cathedral provides funds for the prison ministry. Additional support for this program is always welcome in the form of financial contributions and donations of supplies. For additional information regarding the Prison Ministry and how you can contribute, please contact Jean Samaniego at [samaniegopritchard@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:samaniegopritchard@yahoo.co.uk).