

Thank you so much for your prayers and faithful support this month. We truly appreciate you, and the Lord will use your giving for the kingdom as we place it in his hands with faith. Here's where we are in:

News/ Ministry:

God continues to do what only He can as we participate in His work with others in Peru! The Lord is opening more and more doors as we follow Him and trust in Him. Three school parents accepted Christ in a Bible study group we started: one mom, Guisela, and one couple, Juan and Maria!!! Both parents' kids are Noah's (our son's) classmates. The parent's group is doing a Bible study on Jesus as the way, the truth, and the life. This group has met three times. Food/ snacks and daycare are offered. We also continue to pass out written devotionals/invitations to more parents during drop-off/pick-up hours.

The ladies' group that Rocio is facilitating continues to thrive and grow. They are in Proverbs 12 now, and some of these ladies help with daycare for the parent's meeting on Fridays. It has been an enormous blessing to Rocio to lead this group as the Spirit comforts and edifies her as much as every person there in those special times.

We went to the Siloe church in Huari on Sunday, and by God's grace, the church asked me to teach a message on the spot. I taught about trusting God, and how that opens the way for peace even in difficult circumstances, we may not understand. Christ encouraged the church through this! The church is also doing an evangelistic event, many brothers and sisters in Christ are helping with this Saturday and have invited Pastor Beto and our family also.

My parents, Arthur and Mary Alice Ivey, came to Peru in July and are staying with us. They are In Peru to help with the medical campaign August 11-16th in Jauja (about an hour and a half from Huancayo). Arthur, Beto, Joshua, and the brothers and sisters from the Jauja church have been getting things ready for this event.



Joshua in Huari

Stephen and Noah, our two boys, are working hard in school and did an exposition on what they learned in Spanish. Please continue to pray for them for their cultural adjustments and language learning.



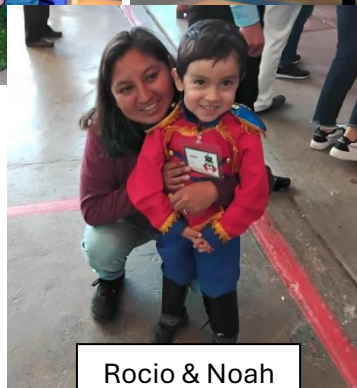
Stephen exhibiting



Noah w/ classmates & teacher



Stephen



Rocio & Noah



Noah

Circumstances:

Something touches my heart about how the crucifixion is written in Luke 23. When women were mourning for Jesus, he told them, "For if people do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?" Soon after being nailed to the cross, Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they not know what they are doing."

I think about the first verse; it is a good reality check for each of us. When things are green, do we fuss, fight, and argue over things that have no significance in the grand scheme of things? Jesus mentions that the tree is green because God Almighty is with them, bringing His kingdom of peace and tearing down the kingdom of darkness, but it was then that they were crucifying Him. Even then- pride, sin, disbelief, discontentment, and hate want to take over the hearts of men rather than a heart of humility, gratefulness, and faith.

We see Jesus' example of forgiveness upon one of the most unjust sentences in the universe. Many were mocking in disbelief and saying, "If you are really the king of the Jews, save yourself," and others saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is God's Messiah, the Chosen One." Yet one, next to Jesus, went against the grain. It was the criminal hanging next to him. After one of the criminals hurled insults at Jesus, saying, "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" The other criminal rebuked him and told him, "Don't you fear God, he said since you are under the same sentence?" We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

All the people who participated in the crucifixion of Jesus placed a sign upon the cross written, "This is the King of the Jews," yet it was the man next to him who recognized Jesus as the true king and took him seriously; in other words, had faith in the Lord! Not only did he have faith, but he had the humility to recognize and acknowledge the truth. He said, "We are punished justly, for we are getting what your deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Crucifixion was a harsh Roman punishment, but the criminal acknowledges despite that, "we get what our deeds deserve." This shows great humility, as pride is never willing to admit faults, much less accept consequences.

If we were conscious of what this man hanging next to Jesus is saying in those times when the tree is green, and still, we devour, bit, and destroy each other, I think there would be less pride, much less fighting just to be correct, much less selfishness to stand up for our own rights. Two verses that help are Ephesians 4:30-5:2, "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage, and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other just as in Christ God forgave you." Galatians 5:13-15, "You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other." In those moments, we can pray along with Zechariah 12:10-11, "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son." We deserved to be on the cross where Jesus was because it was our sins that pierced Him, yet it was He in our place. Sometimes, we ponder that too little, yet it is part of where real transformation takes place.

Jesus also describes what it will be like when the tree is dry in Luke 23:28-30, "Jesus turned and said to them, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. For the time will come when you will say, 'Blessed are the childless women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed! Then they will say to the mountains, "Fall on us!" and to the hills "Cover us!" This is to say things will get worse, more trying, more difficult what will we do then? How will we react then? Another passage that goes along well with Luke 23 about when the tree is green and when it is dry is Jeremiah 12:5, "If you have raced with men on foot and they have worn you out, how can you compete with horses? If you stumble on safe country, how will you manage in the thickets by the Jordan?" Part of humility is recognizing that no matter how hard things get, God is still God, and

we are only his servants; thus, who are we to question him? That's part of fearing the Lord, as mentioned by the criminal next to Jesus on the cross.

Spiritually

The previous verse is a great segway into thinking about how the Lord prepares us for His work in our lives. In a book called, "On Mission with God" by Avery T. Willis, Jr. and Henry Blackaby, in a section on King David, he states,

"You too, probably have experienced difficulties in your pilgrimage to follow God's leadership in your life. These difficulties may include things such as the failure of your heroes, the jealousy of others, frequent moves and uprootings, life-threatening situations, and disapproval of family members. Whether you realize it or not, these have helped prepare you for your assignment. Be aware that God is at work in the midst of what seems like problems, shaping and forming you to become the person He intends for you to be. From the time you are called until you fulfill, that call lies a valley of testing. God must develop your character to match your assignment (Blackaby 106)."

This is a very positive way to look at trials. God prepares us and shapes us to be more like Him and to match our character with the "assignments" or good works he has prepared for us to do in advance (Eph. 2:10).

Fundraising

This past month's giving of July has been great, and we praise God for His goodness and provision for His work in the field of Peru. We are deeply grateful to each of you for your support!!! To continue this ministry, we need to raise \$50,067.44 for our third year. We are currently at approximately 68%! We trust the Lord to continue providing and bringing this ministry to fruition. Any contribution is of great value to the Lord and his Kingdom in Peru and the world. If you feel the Lord Jesus is leading you to be in ministry with us financially. You can use the link below to contribute: <https://tnpartners.org>. Make a free account and choose Josh and Rocio Ivey as missionaries to give to Peru.

Prayer Requests

1. For the medical campaign in Jauja (August 11th to 16th) to go well, and many to be attended physically and spiritually. For many to come to Christ and find His healing, His peace, His power, and His love in this event.
2. For the parents that accepted Christ to be encouraged to continue in the faith
3. For Josh and Rocio for wisdom and guidance to partner/assist well with different churches, orphanages, schools, etc.
4. For the ladies in the small group Rocio leads to continue to grow more and more in Christ together
5. For our sons, Noah and Stephen to do well in school, it's all in Spanish.

