

March 2022

Thank you so much for your 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...

Circumstances:

Many times this month, I got caught up in this overwhelmed feeling when everything felt like too much to handle. There is a choice to make in these moments, which is hard and difficult. When it feels like too much, do I revert to childish ways, or do I grow up? Childish ways would be to pitch a fit, throw something, yell, and lose self-control because I am not getting my way. Growing up and being an adult involves faith- despite the present hardship, holding fast and tight upon God and his promises even in the suffering, no matter how hard or how long. Quietly be still, know that He is God and wait on Him even when everything around you seems to be falling apart; still, stand firm and wait on the Lord. Such was Israel's situation when they were trapped in front of the Red sea and behind Pharaoh's army. Their response was one of terror, and they asked Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us out here to die? Then Moses answered, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm, and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still." If we are able to wait still before the Lord even while suffering, he is able to fill us with peace.

So think of many of the Israelites' responses to Moses during challenging situations- you already see the one above. If we also look at the miracle of the manna and the quail, the Marah when the bitter water was turned sweet, and the water from the rock, all the Israelites' responses were what the above paragraph would describe as childish. Many of our responses can be that way also. Granted, they did go through really tough circumstances, so to say their response was childish is a little harsh, but I do so just to emphasize the importance of a response of more maturity in the faith. I am just reminded of the verse in 1 Cor. 13:11, "When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me."

In the book of Hebrews, when the author is speaking of the Israelites' fear to conquer the promised land because of the giants that lived there (Num.13), he says this: *"You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. For, "in just a little while, he who is coming will come and not delay." And, "But my righteous one will live by faith. And I take no pleasure in the one who shrinks back." But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved."* When overwhelmed, we also have to choose – to take courage and stand up and face it or shrink back. In moments like these, it's good to remember this short verse of Joshua 1:9, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Courage comes from the presence of the Lord Almighty with us!

Most of us do not have the choice to shrink back anyway; the only option is forward. But may the Lord help us all to live out our faith, not just speak of it. May the Lord help us get up and fight the good fight, though there may be defeats, wounds, injuries, etc.-

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you may stand against the devil's schemes." Eph. 6:10-11

We may need a moment to breathe or think, but in the end, to make the right decisions for His glory. As I was reading in Exodus about the design of the priests' outfits, something caught my attention. In Exodus 28, the priest's breastpiece is described. "There are to be twelve stones, one for each of the names of the sons of Israel, each engraved like a seal with the name of the one of the 12 tribes....Whenever Aaron enters the Holy Place, he will bear the names of the sons of Israel over his heart on the breastpiece of decision as a continuing memorial before the Lord. Also, put Urim and the Thummim in the breastpiece, so they may be over Aaron's heart whenever he enters the presence of God. Thus Aaron will always bear the means of making decisions for the Israelites over his heart before the Lord."

That would be a prayer for us when we are boxed in to make tough decisions; may they be from our heart before the Lord, and may they be selfless decisions, bearing the names of those we love and care for. (Also, take into account that the Holy Spirit is described as our seal in the New Testament).

Fundraising:

This month, praise the Lord, we had many opportunities to do mission presentations! There were opportunities to present with a small group at Stonebridge, a Peruvian potluck at Stonebridge, and a men's breakfast at RUMC. As of February, we have \$68,510.00 with pledges and one-time gifts, and by God's grace, one more supporter joined! This is 65.2% of the target goal.

"If you listen carefully to the Lord your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases of the Egyptians, for I am the Lord, who heals you." Ex. 15:26

Many times in fundraising, we can pressure ourselves to start to worry about the how and the when of God's work. And when others ask, the eagerness grows also. This week praise the Lord; through a dear brother in Christ, I was encouraged to let go of that pressure and trust in Christ. I learned that I don't need to push the time but instead solely focus on what the Lord has for me to do, to ask and spread the word out right now. That is planting the seeds in obedience and just trusting the Lord for his will and timing. We plant the seeds, and the Father produces the growth. I am reminded of Acts 1:7, "It is not for you to know the times or the dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Even more so, I am reminded of the pressure and weight of the law that sometimes we try to uphold in our own strength and come to a breaking point. The opposite of the heavy weighted pressure of the law is grace! "For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace." (Rom. 6:14) If we could just feel the freedom of grace pouring over us, removing the heavy yoke of the law, and learn to walk in grace, we will find rest for our souls! As it says in Mt. 11:28, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." And I genuinely think you could only say my yoke is easy, and my burden is light when we hand it all over into the hands of the Father by trusting in Him through faith.

Prayer

Please pray for Huancayo, Peru.

Due to inflation in Peru, gas prices are rising and everything with it. There has been a six-day strike in Huancayo (the city where we plan to start). It started with a transportation strike because the gas prices were too high to keep transporting. This strike affected the inflow of food from farms into stores. Along with a transportation strike, there is also an agricultural strike- the fertilizer prices and other plant-growing products have also gone up. So due to these high prices, there is a lack of food in stores, and people are becoming desperate. There have been 50 wounded and four dead in these strikes so far. However, due to this uproar of the townspeople in Huancayo, other villages, cities, and towns have started to do the same- go on strike. The inflation is at some level worldwide due to Russia/ Ukraine, which was a gasoline resource). Still, in Peru, it is mainly because of such a corrupt government that has placed incompetent people in high ranks, neglecting the cry of the people affected.

Logistics

Every 15th of the month, I receive a gifts/donations report for the previous month and send out a thank you card within ten days. Every 5th of the month, I send out the last month's newsletters.

We also have a website you can visit, www.iveyperupartners.com, for more information.

You can give online by going to www.tnpartners.org or send a check to the Partner's address (**Partners** 1000 Whitlock Ave, Ste 320 PMB 283 Marietta, GA 30064). Create a free account online and select Josh and Rocio Ivey-Peru when giving. Any amount is helpful for the kingdom!

Blessings in Christ!!!



We celebrated Stephen's birthday
March 17th with his classmates and
teacher. He turned 3 years old!!!

