

September 2024 Newsletter

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:

Praise the Lord; many things happened this month of September. Bekah Baxter and Casey, who work in a ministry called The Chosen Vessels, came to Huancayo, Peru, to do a training. They work with cross-cultural workers around the globe. They came to minister to some Peruvian leaders in a 3-day training centered around debriefing and caring for workers in Christ. Servants of the Lord from Huancavelica, La Merced, and Huancayo came for this leadership training. It was such a blessing to share and hear everybody's story, the work that God has done and is doing in their lives, and the common difficulties we face together. We mediated in many different activities about what God wants to do, what he has done, and what he is doing in our lives. "Community is where we gather to understand and participate in one another's stories and together shape the destiny of our collective future (Stringer 208)." We were very thankful to be a part of God's work in this training.



(From left to right: Raul, Arthur, Robyn, Keli, Mary Alice, Bekah, Antonela, Pastor Beto, Rocio, Joshua, Casey, and Miguel.)

The lady's Bible Study group is growing and has had three new people add on, praise the Lord. They continue to study Proverbs, and they are now in chapter 20. Also, it was interesting that a lady named Carol, whom we met who works at Colegio Andino (Stephen and Noah's school), shared with us about her uncle who has cancer in his throat; he is 77 years old and is on the verge of passing away. She visits him daily and lives in Concepción, an hour away from Huancayo (where

she works each day). We shared Christ with Hilberto, Carol's uncle, in the hospital with Car, and he prayed to receive Christ. Carol was very grateful for the help and comfort for Hilberto.

Regarding ministry to men: Daniel and Diego, two college students studying dentistry, are enthusiastically responding to Biblical Scriptures as we have met twice so far. We shared about the old and the new man and the battle between the kingdom of darkness and the kingdom of the Beloved Son. The Lord has given me what to share with other men to encourage as I prepared for brother Willy. We will look at the book of Hebrews, which encourages us not to shrink away but to stand firm and live by faith to inherit what has been promised, the very best example being Jesus himself. This was very encouraging to me; Josh, as the Lord, helps me in this discipleship process.

We also began ESL classes this week for Peruvian doctors who are learning English to do a medical campaign in Egypt under the lead of a missionary and brother in Christ, a Peruvian missionary in Jordan. There will be translators from Arabic to English, so the Peruvian medical staff must know some English to treat patients. Please pray this medical campaign goes well and that the Lord helps Peruvians learn language skills.



Circumstances/ Spiritually:

Sometimes, we can feel like we are spread out too much. What I mean is demonstrated well in the cooking process. Many different ingredients go into a dish to make a good meal. As I think about this month, I picture us putting a little seasoning here, going to the other counter and put a little bit of cilantro or herbs over there, placing some toppings on the dish back yonder, and a little bit of spices, salt, pepper and a touch of oil over there... all in the hope that it all comes together, even though I have no idea how.

Well, life can be like that sometimes. The picture of a tapestry is shown in many writings to portray that the author of our story is God. Though all we may see is a bunch of random colors, like blue and green, all over the place from close up; however, when God allows us a glimpse into his heart and mind to see as He does, we see God holding everything together and the tapestry as a

masterpiece. And all those ingredients weren't, in fact, random but had a purpose much greater than we could see. He is forming a meal (a banquet even), something beautiful in His timing, where it will all come together harmoniously. As we look back, we know with all our hearts that only God himself could have orchestrated and executed His divine plan in our lives for His glory and kingdom.

Colossians 1:15-20 comes to mind: "The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross."

There is a huge application with the Colossians passage above. If God is holding everything together and sustaining it from His hand, why do we try to hold everything together and place it on our own shoulders? During the "chaos," when one feels overwhelmed, may we recall and ask the Lord for that peace, an overwhelming peace beyond all understanding in the truth that God is sustaining us and not ourselves. And we rest in the unfolding of our lives because the Sovereign King and God of the universe is consummating everything in Christ Jesus. Christ is our hope, peace, wisdom from God, holiness, righteousness, and redemption (1 Cor. 1:30).

Isaiah says in Isaiah 26:3-4, "You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast because they trust in you. Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord himself, is the Rock eternal." It is faith- allowing God to hold you and all things in your life that will bring peace. So let's give our lives to the Lord, let Him be God and hold it all together, unfold our lives, and do His work with us with loose and open hands entirely given to the Lord. Please stop trying to hold on and let the river of the Spirit take us over. If we want to save our life, we lose it, but if we lose it for His sake, we find it or gain it. If we are willing to trust in God and take steps of faith into the water, we'll see He comes through every time.

Final thought:

Isaiah 61 mentions that Jesus was sent to the poor, brokenhearted, the captives, and the prisoners to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. The response to this is worship and praise rather than despair. Despair will set in when we are trying to hold everything together, but praise will come as we allow and trust in the Almighty, all-powerful, majestic God and King of the universe. May the trust we place in Him bring peace, and the faith we place in Him sprout of rejoicing and praise as we stand in awe of His wonders and glory and give Him the worship due His name.

Further down in chapter 61, Isaiah mentions: "I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with jewels." May we exalt and testify always to the King of Kings as 1 Peter 2:9-10 says, "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." To circle it all back around, Romans 12:1-2

tells us that the best act of worship according to God's mercy is our own lives, is giving our lives to Him, "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

Fundraising:

Fundraising This past month's giving of August has been great, and we praise God for His goodness and provision for His work in Peru. We are deeply grateful to each of you for your support!!! We must raise \$50,067.44 for our third year to continue this ministry. We are currently at approximately 71%. 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.



Stephen & Noah (our children)