April Newsletter 2026

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:

News/Ministry

This month has had its ups and downs. At the beginning of the month, the people and numbers in small groups seemed to have dwindled somewhat. At first, this was a worry, and discouragement tried to set in. However, during the middle of April and the last week, things started to happen.

ESL ministry

By the Lord's grace, we started an ESL ministry with a Peruvian English teacher, Moises, in his house and are reaching his neighborhood and the area for Christ. There were 3 students in the first class who accepted Christ in their hearts- Mia, Sandra, and Antonela. Four students came in the second week.

Rocio and I have been training in volleyball and soccer to reach out to the parents of Colegio Andino (Noah and Stephen's school) and build more relationships. There is a "classroom" parents' sports tournament the last week of May and in June.

Sports training with school parents

A second ESL outreach ministry also began at a church and a non-profit organization called City of Refuge, whose focus is on helping the poor. The first class had two groups. One elementary group of 13 kids and one high school and above group of 14 students (a total of 27 students). I was greatly encouraged through this in the area of teaching (photo on next page).

City of Refuge- ESL

A two-day marriage workshop was held in Huancavelica (approximately 4 hours from Huancayo). There were 13 couples participating. I assisted Pastor Alberto, a Peruvian pastor, teaching on the love of Christ, forgiveness, purity, and becoming one with Christ and our spouse.

Marriage Workshop- Huancavelica

The last thing we are praying for, encouraging, and striving for is that the house church group start forming their own cell groups. With the Lord's help, I visited Ruben and Linda's stove manufacturing company. They are the managers and also brothers and sisters in Christ who come to the small group. I shared a devotional with all the workers (about 9 people) and gave Ruben and Linda a book that serves as a guide to lead small groups, in the hope that this would be an encouragement to them, build their confidence, and let them know they can do it!

We continue to work in Tinyari Grande School with Rocio. There are 8 new students this year, and they all continue to learn about Christ and His word. There are a total of 30 students from 1st to 6th grade.

Circumstances

The only thing I could say about this is it was God. This month, I found myself saying, "I don't know if I can do this" many times when facing challenges; in fact, I felt like, "I couldn't do this." I just would continue asking God- "please work in me to will and to act in order to fulfill His good purpose." I recently read Exodus 31:1-10 and Exodus 35:30-36:1. Both passages are an

encouragement because God called Moses to make the tabernacle with so much detail (which I will not get into), but when He calls someone to do something He will always supply what they need to accomplish the task and He did just that with Moses, and He is so faithful in that in His timing He will do that with you and me.

Both passages speak of Bezalel and Oholiab- "whom the Spirit of God filled with great wisdom and understanding and with all kinds of skills- to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood and to engage in all kinds of crafts." Oholiab likewise was given the ability to teach it to others (Ex. 35:34). God also gave the ability to all the skilled workers to make everything I have commanded them: the tent of meeting, the ark of the covenant law with the atonement cover on it, and all the other furnishing of the tent- the table, the pure gold lampstands, and all its accessories.." "…He has filled them with skill to do all kinds of work as engravers, designers, embroiders in blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen, and weavers all of them skilled workers and designers. "So Bezalel, Oholiab and every skilled person to whom the Lord has given skill and ability to know how to carry out the work of constructing the sanctuary are to do the work just as the Lord commanded (Ex. 35:33-36:1)."

Imagine if you were Moses and God gave you all the tabernacle details, most of us would be like, "Where would I even start?" Much like even with Moses' calling, go to Egypt. His answer was Lord, are you sure? Me, I'm slow of speech? I won't know what to say; they won't listen. And God reveals Himself as the great I AM, the eternal, inexhaustible source of everything we will ever need. Thus, as we look back at Philippians, "God works in us to will and to act according to His good purpose." He who calls is faithful and will do it!

The other thing we learn from these Exodus passages is that a team of people was needed to complete the task, not just one person. The body of Christ is similar; the eye can't say to the foot you are worthless, not each part is vital to the whole. We are all being made a dwelling place for the Lord corporately and are a temple of the Spirit as it says in 1 Peter 2:4-5, ""As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— 5 you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house[a] to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

We see this in Exodus as well, when the tabernacle was completed! "…Then Moses set up the courtyard around the tabernacle and altar and put up the curtain at the entrance to the courtyard. And so Moses finished the work "…**34** Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. **35** Moses could not enter the tent of meeting because the cloud had settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. **36** In all the travels of the Israelites, whenever the cloud lifted from above the tabernacle, they would set out; **37** but if the cloud did not lift, they did not set out—until the day it lifted. **38** So the cloud of the LORD was over the tabernacle by day, and fire was in the cloud by night, in the sight of all the Israelites during all their travels." In other words, it's all worth it as the glory of the Lord fills and shines forth the beauty of a unified diversity in all its dimensions, with the Lord Jesus being the cornerstone.

Spiritually

"May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance." 2 Tess. 3:5

In the marriage workshop, I also learned to be more intentional about pursuing connection with my spouse and about staying connected with Jesus.

There were many times this month when I felt somewhat dry like the desert or like the branch withering away (drying up) in John 15. In John 15, there is an excellent encouragement for one who feels this way- "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain [abide] in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." There can be things that distract us from the Lord, and our focus starts to shift- especially worries of life – that can choke out the seed. It is in those moments when we need to get back on our knees and back in the presence of the Lord.

Yes, John 15 is very well-known, but are we applying it? Another way of saying "remain in me" is "stand firm in the faith" (as mentioned by Paul in 1 and 2 Corinthians, and also in Ephesians, when speaking of the armor of God).

1 Corinthians 16:13, "Be on your guard; **stand firm in the faith**; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love."

2 Corinthians 1:18-22, "But as surely as God is faithful, our message to you is not "Yes" and "No." **19** For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us—by me and Silas[a] and Timothy—was not "Yes" and "No," but in him it has always been "Yes." **20** For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God. **21** Now it is God who makes both us and you **stand firm in Christ**. He anointed us, **22** set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come."

These two verses encourage us greatly to believe and stand firm in the "Yes" in Christ to the promises of God. This is really only done through prayer. A phrase from a devotional I read described a person of prayer, "I'm sure that the men who dwell with God in prayer come to have a certain holy confidence; and when they own the promises of the Word of God as their own, they contemplate as though already having received it."

When we somehow see a "no" that the world or the enemy is trying to tell us, how are we to react? Feel like failures or give up? When there are challenges, difficulties, or trials, it is hard to continue trusting, to continue praying, to continue serving, to continue out of pure love for our Lord- not any results- but just for Him. And when we have let go of the "control" of everything else and grabbed on to Him out of pure trust, the inexplicable peace fills our hearts, and confidence rises within us because we know His Almighty presence is with us and He is all we need to be okay, to be safe, to be secure, to be loved, and assured. He is our refuge, and in Him we can abide! Psalms 57:1-2, "Have mercy on me, my God, have mercy on me, for in you I take refuge. I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings.." Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort! This, my friend, is a great encouragement to pray and be with our Lord. We have to let Him carry us when we can't go on, yet sometimes this is actually what we are fighting against. Remember Jairus, the man who cried out to God for the healing of his daughter- "I believe, help my unbelief."

Fundraising

March's giving was spectacular!!! We praise the Lord Jesus for His provision and grace through you. We are deeply grateful to each of you for your support!!! This is our third year. We must raise $57,930.00 for our fourth year to continue this ministry, trusting the Lord to provide and bring it to fruition. We are now at 60% of our fourth-year goal. Please help! 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 support our ministry financially. You can use the link below to contribute:

https://tnpartners.churchcenter.com/giving. You can also find this link on the Partners webpage: https://tnpartners.org. Create a free account and select Josh and Rocio Ivey as missionaries to support in Peru.

Prayer Requests:

1. Please pray for our family: For Josh and Rocio to be encouraged in the work of the Lord, for Rocio to be encouraged in her ministry as a mom with Noah and Stephen, and for our kids, Noah and Stephen, to grow spiritually, academically, in language, and in the Peruvian culture.
2. Please pray for those we are working with- Rocio in Tinyari Grande, Moises teaching English, and Pastor Leonardo at the City of Refuge center. That the Lord may continue to use them mightily for His kingdom and glory.
3. Please pray for the students at Tinyari Grande Elementary School that the Lord will keep them from all harm and that they will flourish in the Spirit, being a blessing to others.
4. Also, for English class students to come to know the Lord more deeply in their hearts and lives.
5. Please pray for the participants in the house church- Ruben, Lynda, and Jeni that the Lord put a fire in their hearts that they can't contain and give them the boldness to share Christ within their environments.
6. For Rocio and Josh (the Lord to do His will in us and through us in Peru)