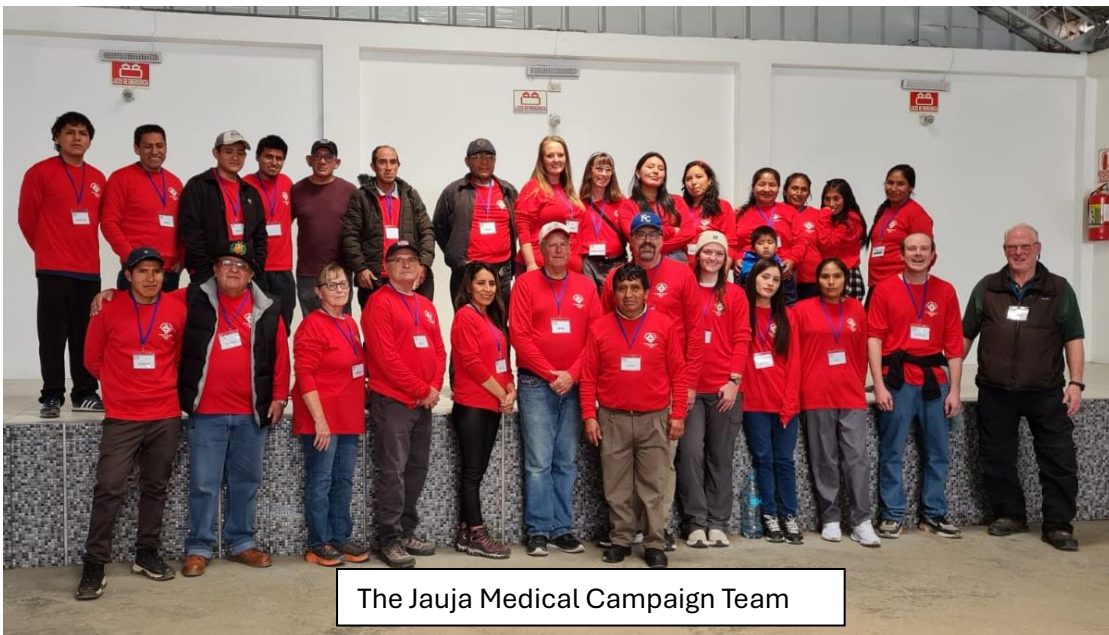


## August 2024 Newsletter

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:

August was an amazing month as the Lord was incredibly at work in the lives of so many people. A medical campaign was done in Yauyos, Jauja, with a team of Peruvians from Huancayo, Huancavelica, Lima, and Jauja, and a medical team sponsored by Stonebridge Church came together to do a medical mission. The leaders were Pastor Beto, Pastor Hugo and Irma from Jauja, and Arthur Ivey. Each person did their part, and Lord worked mightily: During the campaign, there were 1167 attentions, 617 medical attentions, and 550 people who received reading glasses. There were 914 gospel presentations, 484 professions of faith, and 21 reconciliations with the Lord Jesus Christ. It was a privilege to be a part of this as I helped translate for April, a nurse from the U.S. in the medical area.



Back in Huancayo, the Lord has also been moving in awesome ways. The Women's Bible Study group that Rocio facilitates has been witnessing many answers to the members' prayers. One lady hasn't been able to find a job in a long while and was able to find a job; praise the Lord (this is not easy in Huancayo). Another married lady from this group was struggling to get pregnant for a long time and was discouraged because of this and recently became pregnant. Also, another of the ladies from the group gave me a little feedback and said that the Bible studies and the Word are shared very beautifully in this group.

In the "Menú," or restaurant Rocio and I sometimes eat breakfast at, a man was tearing up by himself next to our table. I approached him and asked to pray for him; he allowed me to. So we

prayed and then talked for a little while. As he was going, I sensed the Lord strengthened him to keep going, and I also sensed that many more men need that encouragement to spur one another to keep going. The owner of this menú has two sons in college, both studying dentistry, and I also asked for a day to share with them. These two young brothers, Diego and Daniel, are in their twenties and agreed to speak with me about the Bible. They told me it was very interesting, and they accepted Christ and gave their lives to the Lord! The Lord is putting more and more in my heart to visit people, possibly one-on-one or just one family. This is working a little better than trying to gather people. A group might form, but the Lord has been working through starting to share one-on-one. I have met with four guys so far, and all have appreciated it. Please pray that this work of the Lord continues to spread, touching more hearts. This was very encouraging to Rocio and me as we sensed God was leading us in this direction. Praise the Lord for his faithfulness.

We also continue forming relationships at the Huari church (about 30 minutes from Huancayo). We were privileged to go and witness a baptism of three ladies in a river in Cochas, along with the Huari church. We hope and pray the Lord shows us his grace in working with his church more to reach the community there.



Baptism in Huari

### **Circumstances:**

Isaiah 7:9b, "If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all."

When we often feel weak, overwhelmed, or discouraged, the decision must be made to stand firm in Christ Jesus, especially when those hard times are coming. Jesus knows what is coming, but we don't, and He knows when we will need his grace to carry on. In Mark 14, when Jesus was having the last supper with his disciples, he mentioned that one was going to betray him; not only that, but he also mentions the verse that says, "I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered." This is when Peter says, "Even if all fall, I will not." Jesus' response is truly I tell you, "Today-yes-tonight-

before the rooster crows twice you yourself will disown me three times." In the midst of this, however, Jesus knew his disciples needed grace to carry on, so he broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take it, this is my body." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to His disciples, saying, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many." Despite that, Jesus knew what was going to happen. He offered himself his life as a sacrifice of grace for us. After this comes in Mark 14 comes the Garden of Gethsemane when Jesus asked the Father to take this cup away, but not his will but the Father's will be done. Then, in the end, when these things Jesus was talking about in the Last Supper do happen, there is only one left standing. It was Jesus on the cross. All had been scattered and fallen away, but in the midst of insults, mockery, torture, pain, and even death, Jesus Christ stood firm when we could not. When I feel like I can't stand, Jesus is standing for me because He is much stronger than me. He stood firm in faith, in His trust in God the Father, doing his will, knowing that God would not abandon Him to the grave and defeated death and sin for you and me because He stood firm despite bearing all our pain and all our suffering, our punishment, our affliction, our transgressions. He was crushed for our iniquities, our wounds. Did he back away? No, he stood firm through every minute of it out of his inexplicable unconditional eternal love for you and me. He stood firm so that now, as we follow in his footsteps, we can too.

He says something important to the disciples in Gethsemane who are falling asleep, "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." So, when we feel weak and can't go on, may we remember Jesus. Hebrews 12:2 says Jesus is the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. And even beyond that, may we see Jesus alive, still standing for us before the Father, because death and my sin and your sin did not defeat him, for he is standing victorious, fighting for us every day and every minute. That is what gives us the strength to stand firm in our faith.

### **Spiritually:**

Isaiah 7:9 was said to the king of Judah, and Isaiah told him this. The context is two kings teamed up to fight against Jerusalem. The fear described in the house of David was: "The hearts of Ahaz and his people were shaken, as the trees of the forest are shaken by the wind. (v. 2)." Isaiah was sent to tell the king, "Be careful, keep calm and don't be afraid. Do not lose heart because of these two smoldering stubs of firewood-because of the fierce anger of Rezin and Aram and the son of Remaliah. Aram, Ephraim, and Remaliah's son have plotted your ruin, saying, "Let us invade Judah; let us tear it apart and divide it among ourselves, and make the son of Tabeel king over it." Yet the Lord says: "It will not take place, it will not happen...the head of Ephraim is Samaria, and the head of Samaria is only Remaliah's son. If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all."

Following this, a sign was given from God to Ahaz: the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel...for before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings, you dread will be laid waste (Is. 7:14-16). Recall that Immanuel means God with us. The best reason always to not fear is the Lord's presence, to remember that God Almighty is with us! Psalm 46 is awesome and reminds us of God's power and presence, but we will only see part of it: "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we

will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of dawn.... **The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress...**He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth. He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire. He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." **The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress."**

The way Isaiah 7:9 ("If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all.") applies to us in Peru is when the Lord is at work; the enemy comes to attack us with many lies of discouragement or doubt about the Lord's work in our lives. We stand firm in the presence of the Lord, who fights for us and is always by our side. As we hear and focus more on His voice and abide in His presence, these lies dissolve in strength; they dissipate and vanish like the wind. We all stand firm in Christ, who always stands firm for us, who sustains us, and who is with us always to the very end of the age, much like Moses, when Aaron and Hur had to hold his hands up one on each side so the Israelites overcome the Amalekites in battle. We need the Lord and each other to win the battle.

#### **In 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 70%. 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 Jauja church's follow up of those who accepted Christ in the medical campaign and discipleship opportunities to take place.
2. For the two young men, Diego and Daniel, who accepted Christ to continue to grow in Christ
3. For all the ladies in the ladies Bible study to continue to grow in trust in the Lord.
4. For the church in Huari and that the Lord will open doors for Rocio and me to share there.
5. That the Lord will continue to lead Rocio and me to people to share Him with
6. For our sons, Stephen and Noah to flourish in Peru and in Spanish, they are working very hard to in school.
7. For the Lord to bless my parents, Arthur and Mary Alice who we have been working with these last 2 months.

Blessings in Christ!

