

June Newsletter 2024

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

June was hard at first, but praise the Lord, it ended well. The Women's Bible study small group praise the Lord is growing little by little. They are studying Proverbs together. About five ladies are participating. Some had strayed away from Christ and are coming back. Some have had to leave the traditional church because of the church's corruption and are participating in this ladies' group, but all of these ladies have a Christian background.

The sports tournament in the school was throughout this month. Rocio played volleyball with a team, and Josh played basketball with a team. This way, we got to know the parents better. We continue to write and pass out devotionals to school parents. Also, we have started a Bible study group with these parents, of which many aren't believers. We called it Lonchecito con La Palabra (Snack with the Word). The first meeting 5 came. One considers herself a spiritualist, another is just a non-believer, another is a Mormon, and another is a believer but with many problems. Also, the kids of the parents came and did an evangelistic kid's craft with some of the lady's group Bible studies.



This month, I could apply for a visa; however, there was an observation that must be corrected before processing. I traveled to Lima, the capital of Huancayo, and completed some documentation processes.

Our precious sons, Stephen and Noah, are adapting well. They like their teachers and their friends. They are growing up fast. Their Spanish has developed into Spanglish, which is a good sign that they are learning the language.



Pastor Beto has started a men's group on Tuesdays, which I am in also, right after the ladies' group. Four men came to the first meeting. One of the men in the group also meets with me on Fridays. Please pray for this group because it's not typical for men to get together; it's more common for Peruvian women. This is why many Peruvian men in the culture can be lone rangers and prefer to handle problems on their own. But we both know that doesn't work that well. So, the house is busy on Tuesdays. Busy in a good way.

I meet with Pastor Beto on Wednesday mornings, and we have also noticed that it is typical for many men not to really share their past, mistakes, hurts, and pains but bottle them up and say nothing of them. Thus, when getting together and opening up, Christ can bring much healing.

The last thing we continue to do is go to Rocio's family get-togethers. We spoke with one of her cousins, Guisela of Christ, when she opened up to us about some of her struggles. Slowly, yet we are not quite sure at what moment, we desire to share Christ in one of these family get-togethers. Rocio's family includes her aunts, uncles, grandma and grandpa, and cousins, who get together to eat once a week.

Circumstances

There were a couple of Bible verses that moved me this month. The Lord has been encouraging me or making my faith stronger to step out, but also to hold up the shield and use the shield of faith against the darts of the enemy. One day, the Lord told me, "Come on, man, lift up your shield." When the enemy's voices come against me when I try to figure out how, where, and what to share, he tells me lies of disbelief. The verse that helped me identify these lies was first the difference between Zechariah's and Mary's response when angels appeared to them from messages from the Lord in Luke chapter 1. Zechariah didn't believe the words given to him, which were a beautiful prophecy of a son that would be given to him and Elizabeth, and because of that, he remained speechless until the promise was fulfilled, and John was born. However, later, when Zechariah's mouth was opened again, the first thing he did was praise the Lord beautifully.

Mary's response to the angel's message of her being a mother of the Most High was awesome! After asking how this would come to be, Mary says, "I am the Lord's servant." Mary answered, "May your word to me be fulfilled," Right before her answer, the angel also said, "For no word from God will ever fail." (Lk. 1:37-38).

This is a verse that confronts or challenges disbelief. Zephaniah 1:12-13, "At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps and punish those who are complacent, who are like wine left on its dregs, who think, "The Lord will do nothing, either good or bad." Notice this verse speaks of complacency, meaning not stepping out of our comfort zone to follow God's callings. That is the beginning of disbelief. Though this verse speaks of those hiding wickedness and thinking that no calamity will come upon them, it also says that they think God will not do anything good either. When we are forced to step out in faith, that's what the enemy wants us to believe: God won't do anything good and much less with you. Even in Malachi 3:10, "God says: Test me in this, says the Lord, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it." Don't stop praying, don't stop seeking the kingdom and his righteousness, and don't stop believing! The One who was, who is, and is to come is doing great things in his timing, and we are in an age where God is working mightily! Even in John 5:17, Jesus says, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working." God wants us to join in His work. Though sometimes God has to open our eyes to see it Jesus says, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out more workers into his harvest field." Oh, Lord, open our eyes to the harvest field, show us where to go, who to help, and use us, oh Lord, for your glory. Ephesians 2:10 clearly states, "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." God has a plan for each of us, but it is our part to walk in it.

Just through these words, you most likely recognize the battle between disbelief/fear and faith. It is one we all have to face. As we step one step further out into the unknown, our faith in God increases as we witness that He is the one keeping us up as we focus on Him, His good works, His beauty, His honor, and His glory.

Spiritually

Likewise, I was encouraged by a verse in Malachi, really the entire book, but this verse caught my attention. Malachi 2:4-6, "And you will know that I have sent you this warning so that my covenant with Levi may continue, says the Lord Almighty. My covenant was with him, a covenant of peace and life, and I gave them to him; this called for reverence and he revered me and stood in awe of my name. True instruction was in his mouth and nothing false was found on his lips. He walked with me in peace and uprightness, and turned many from sin." I like that the way of life and relationship of Levi with God was one of uprightness and peace, that He revered God and was in awe of His name, and nothing false was found on his lips. So whole was his relationship with God that many turned from sin because of it. In other words, many repented from sin and followed Christ.

When sharing Christ, one of the hard things to say to people is that they are sinners, separated from God, and spiritually dead. But I think of Isaiah and when he saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on the throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. And the creatures crying out, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory," When looking at God's holiness, he immediately says, "Woe to me! I am truly ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty." The more and more we encounter Christ and his holiness, the more we notice our need for Him, how sinful our sin really is, and, therefore, how abundant the grace and love of God have been poured over us. There are no words to say to this; the only thing is to be in awe of His name and His greatness and kindness towards us.

I know John the Baptist preached repentance of sins, for in Matthew 3:8, John says. "Produce fruit in keeping with repentance." And I know Jesus did in Matthew 4:17, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." In fact, in Luke 24:46-68 he says, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised, but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." It's just my prayer, that Jesus may turn many from sin here in Peru.

Fundraising

This past month's giving of June 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 62%! 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 missionary to give.

Prayer Requests

1. For the ladies in the small group Rocio is guiding- for the strengthening of their relationship with the Lord and for them to be more and more like Christ as they draw near to him.
2. For our son Stephen, he is slower in his speech and adjustment even in English, so changing to a different language slowed him down a little more. Please pray for his development to quicken in the Spirit.
3. For a good balance of family and work for Josh and Rocio

4. For direction from the Lord (for Josh and Rocio)- may we always first follow Christ and then lead others to Him
5. For the parents in the school to come to a knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ and find hope, salvation, peace and joy in Him.\

Abundant Blessings in Christ Jesus!!!
From Josh and Rocio Ivey