

## July 2021 Newsletter

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:

God has helped us this month! Rocio started night classes in Phlebotomy training 3 days a week for a month and God through this somehow has revived a flame in her again. This was really huge to be honest because Rocio was a nurse in Peru and her credentials weren't able to transfer over. The Lord really helped me out because two weeks of this was my time off from work, so I could take care of the kids. This was truly God working things out in the unseen, and though it was a lot, as we look back on it we can see His hand of grace and wisdom moving over us.

This Bible passage fits well with this month for Rocio, me, and our family

Deuteronomy 8:2-10, "Remember all the Lord your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years, to humble you/afflict you and test you to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commandments. He humbled you/ afflicted, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Your clothes did not wear out and your feet did not swell during these forty years. Know then in your heart that as a man disciplines his son, so the Lord your God disciplines you. Observe the commands of the Lord your God, walking in his ways and revering him. For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land- a land with streams and pools of water, with springs flowing in the valleys and the hills; a land with wheat and barley, vines and honey, a land with bread will not be scarce in anything; a land where the rocks are iron and you can dig copper out of the hills. When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you."

I will spare you the details on difficulties, but the car broke down 3 times this month while we were with the kids - we had to pull over and call a tow truck and do vehicle repairs. While I was waiting on the tow truck (for a while), there was a bookstore nearby, and I had bought some to read- one was called "The Purpose of Man-Designed to Worship" by Tozer and Letters to the Church by Francis Chan. Both were a huge encouragement to me to read. One of my prayers was that God revives a spirit of worship within us, that may be somewhat rusted up or quenched, and the Lord was truly doing that and continues to. The Tozer book had some pretty good insight on worship (as something much more than just singing). A very brief quote is, "God now is busy redeeming the people back to Him again, back to the original purpose, to be mirrors reflecting God's glory." The Lord always knows how to encourage us in the midst of trying circumstances. Even when I look back on that no fun experience, I can see God's hand at work.

Fundraising

We have one new couple that added on our monthly supporters and one family we were able to do a mission presentation, by God's grace and goodness! As of June by God's grace and goodness, we have \$46,360.00 in pledges and one-time gifts. In the Partners account is \$18,235.75 (part of the \$46,360.00). Thanks to the Lord that puts us at 46% of the launching goal. Basically, we are getting approx. \$965 a month total from 12 monthly supporters currently, and there are 3 future monthly supporters that have pledged \$13,200.

I was somewhat reminded of Noah's ark as a fundraising metaphor this month. We are not sure if people actually mocked Noah in the Bible or not, however, it is a possibility because in Hebrews 11:7 and 2 Peter 2:25 he is called a preacher of righteousness and that his faith condemned the world, and in the context of Genesis he was among a wicked people that displeased the Lord. Anyhow, it took Noah a long time to build the ark approximately 55 to 75 years. (He was 600 when the flood came and had his first boy when he was 500.) Not getting lost in these details, Noah trusted in God without seeing for a long time and continued to build until it was finished, despite possible ridicule or misunderstanding. Sometimes as one steps out in faith, it may not make sense to others, and maybe even sometimes not to himself. But this is why we rest on

God's wisdom, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. Don't be wise in your own eyes, fear the Lord and shun evil." (Proverbs 3:5-7) Also, when choosing David, God says, "The Lord does not look at the things that man look at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." I can't claim I know many details, but I know one, the Lord called us to step out in faith and that's what Rocio and I are trying to do. I think the enemy may be mocking us more than any person per se about this calling. But we are encouraged to "whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men." Col. 3:23—Notice this verse says, "work at it"- meaning work at it, using active faith, like Noah who consistently built and built because the Lord told him to, and He trusted in the Lord.

### Spiritually

In regards to character growth, it helped me start out thinking of why some people may tend to focus on strengths more than weaknesses, and why sometimes one can get easily offended when someone corrects him. And when he does get corrected, he just reverts to what he is doing right instead of wrong. Romans 8:26-27, "In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will." It's painful, but truly to be able to continue to grow and thirst more for God- He wants to give us more and more of Himself and for this, we empty ourselves more and more of ourselves. How we do that is by actually focusing on asking God's help to work on our weaknesses, and that His Spirit will come in and transform and empower us to crucify the flesh, and do God's will. So when it seems like other people just focus on what you are lacking, a way to interpret this positively is that God really wants to give you more, show you more, and for this he wants you to grow! As we surrender our weakness to God, he will use it for his glory- 2 Cor. 12:9, "But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore I will more gladly boast about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me."

This really counters the lie from the enemy that I constantly have struggled with ever since high school- "you're not good enough", "what you do is not enough", and a list can go on. Just Jesus tells me, "where you are lacking, "I Am"- enough." This has been a painful process for me to realize. Oh, Lord helps us to operate in your power and the power of your Spirit and not in our own strength.

