

March 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

Noah and Stephen started school on March 8th and have been attending a national Spanish school. They have been picking up many words and phrases in Spanish through this. Stephen celebrated his birthday in school, at home, and with a Peruvian family on March 17th, when he turned five years old. We have taken them to a trout farm, the zoo, and different playgrounds so far. They are adapting well, little by little, to Peru.



(Noah and Stephen at school)

By God's grace, we started discipleship each Monday with Rocio's mom, Mery, who lives in Sapallanga and has a house there. The exciting thing the Lord has been putting on our hearts is that God will hopefully move in this area. Jheni comes to one of Beto's Bible studies on Saturday and has a kids club/ Sunday school with about 20 to 30 kids in Sapallanga. We visited Jheni there and plan to assist her consistently. Sapallanga is about 40 to 50 minutes from Huancayo (where we live).

As I was reading 1 Thessalonians and how this church was a great example in many ways, it was very encouraging. There are two passages: 1 Thessalonians 4:9-10, "Now about your love for one another we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. And in fact, you do love all of God's family throughout Macedonia." What I like about this verse is that it makes you think of location, that the love is spreading all throughout the region. Such is our prayer for Sapallanga and Huancayo as well. The other verse is 1

Thessalonians 1:7-10. If you want to take a look, they were living examples to their whole region without even having to use many words.

The Lord has helped me develop a Bible study for Rocio's mom, and it has been amazing to see it come together. It's about John 14:6 on how Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. But we go into lots of detail in each of those. This Bible study will most likely develop into a study of about ten sessions, which we plan to use for others. The Lord has given me this and put it in my heart, and so far, the meetings have been Spirit-filled and led.



[Josh, Stephen, Rocio's mom (Mery), and Noah]

Pastor Beto, the Peruvian pastor we are working with, traveled this month. I was able to assist him by leading four of the Bible study groups. In each one, I felt the Spirit helping me very much to share the message, and the Spirit flowed to those listening as well. It was a huge blessing for both the online study Bible groups and the face-to-face group. Through these experiences, I have been learning about the power of prayer in ministry and the importance of questions to make the small group more dynamic.

Circumstances

A few Bible verses helped us deal with uncertainty about how, where, and who to get involved with and seek Christ's guidance in this regard. We are asking God for discernment and wisdom on all the details of how to serve. We have received some answers from God that we have acted upon, but we are still seeking more.

Colossians 1:9-12, "For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God **to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives**, so that you may live a life worthy of the

Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light."

Notice in the prayer above that we ask God for the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives to fill us with the knowledge of His will so that we might bear fruit in every good work, being strengthened with all power according to His glorious might! That is our prayer this month for discernment to move in God's will and do what He tells us to with faith that we may be led, walk, and keep in step with the Spirit (Gal. 5:25).

Along with the prayer above, another verse in Colossians complements this verse harmoniously. Colossians 4:12-13, "Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that **you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured.**"

This verse encouraged us, asking the Lord to help us stand firm in all God's will, mature and fully assured. There can be lots of discouragement, stress, and doubt. But the Lord tells us to stand firm in faith—in confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

Spiritually

Along with the above passage regarding firmness and assurance, Ephesians 4:14-16 is good "until we reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."

God wants us to be strongly rooted in Him, in His truth, and in His love. We don't want to be like the infants, tossed back and forth by the waves and blown by every wind. If every attack of the enemy or every lie He tries to feed our hearts and minds knocks us down, we need to hold on more to the truth by faith. This month, there have been waves. However, we are learning to ask the Lord along with David in Psalms 61:2-4, "From the ends of the earth I call to you, I call as my heart grows faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the foe. I long to dwell in your tent forever and take refuge in the shelter of your wings."

There will be waves and winds, but in 3 John, the Lord encourages us to walk in the truth. 3 John 3-4, "It gave me great joy when some believers came and testified about your faithfulness to the truth, telling how you continue to walk in it. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth." As we walk in the truth of the Word of God, as we walk in the good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do, as we walk in obedience to his commands (2 Jn.6), and he commands that we walk in love, we are walking on the paths God has for us. Walking in the truth is much different than just knowing it intellectually. It is the outworking of

our faith in those truths and how we allow them to shape and affect our decisions and daily lives. The firmer our faith in the truth, the less prone we are to buy into the enemy's lies and be tossed around.

This month, we pray that God strengthens our roots in Him so that when the storms come, we are building upon the rock, and our house will still stand. Notice that all the refuge, power, and strength to protect us from that storm come from the rock, not the house. And though this may be a simple analogy, I pray the same over your families, also.

Ephesians 6:10, "Finally, be strong in the Lord and his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that **you can stand** against the devil's schemes....Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, **you may be able to stand your ground**, and after you have done everything, to **stand. Stand firm** then..."

And here is why we stand firm: the Lord will fight for us! "Don't be afraid. Stand firm, and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still (Ex. 14:13-14). This verse was when the Israelites were captured between the Red Sea in front and the Egyptian army behind. However, the Lord split the sea, and the Israelites walked through it. Thank you, Lord, for your deliverance, immovable faithfulness, and steadfast love. Help us always to trust you in any and every situation. In Jesus Names, Amen!

Fundraising

This past month's giving of February giving has been amazing, and we praise God together for his goodness and provision for His work in the field of Peru!!! The amount given all together was \$6,240.00. We need to raise \$50,067.44 for our third year for this ministry to continue. We are at approximately 50%. We trust the Lord to continue providing and bringing this ministry to fruition. 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 Gospel Teachings in the discipleship groups and Bible studies to spread and for Christ to reach others through them.
2. For God's discernment for Rocio and Josh on how to fit in and serve
3. Pray for Pastor Beto to be encouraged in the ministry and for strength from the Lord to continue pressing on in the Lord's work.
4. Please continue to pray for Noah and Stephen's transition to Peru.

Blessings in Christ!

