

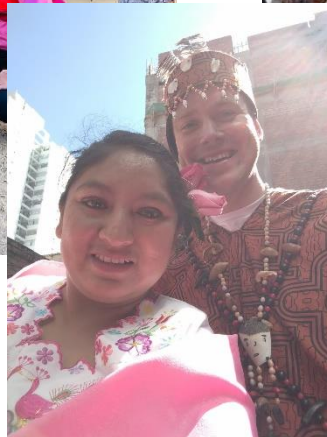
May 2024 Newsletter

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:

The year is going by so fast!!! This month has been busy. We had to travel to the U.S. for a week to attain more documents to apply for Joshua's visa. We could see family: Rocio's brother, Josep, and sister, Ledy, and Josh's mom and dad, Arthur and Mary Alice. To visit was a blessing. Other than that, interesting things have been happening here in Peru. During the time in Huancayo, we noticed that life here got very expensive. Many young people have no formal job opportunities, so it does not matter if you have a college degree; it is tough to find a job. Just an example is that two of our friends came to our house, one to fix something and the other to take care of Stephen and Noah for some hours, and when they got their payment, tears started rolling down their faces, and they said thank you many times, each in different times. The situation in Huancayo is tough economically for many people. Many professionals cannot find job opportunities and have to do what they can.

Our first goal in Huancayo is to build up relationships, and we got a great opportunity to do that by participating in a sports tournament and a cultural dance competition at our children's school, so Rocio and I are meeting with the parents of Stephen and Noah's classrooms, to practice soccer, volleyball, and basketball. Not only that, but we were able to participate in dancing; Joshua and Stephen's classroom parents danced a typical song from the jungle, and Rocio, with Noah's parent's classroom, danced a typical dance from the north of Peru, "Tondero." The opening was where each class presented a cultural dance from different departments of Peru. It was fun to be in and gave us a chance to get to know many parents.



We started passing out devotionals to the parents at the school and praying the Lord would touch their hearts and help them come to know him. We also have been meeting with Rocio's family on Mondays, and it is in our mind to speak with Rocio's family of Christ (please pray for them that God will open their hearts to hear him clearly).

The ladies' group Rocio started studying Proverbs together. It is slowly growing. They have met seven times now! Please pray for these ladies and more to come and this small group.

We have also started to pass out small devotionals to people in the neighborhood to people who have come across and met and plan to invite them to a Bible study in the future.

Circumstances

This month, I've often caught myself struggling with the lies of the enemy. Even in a prayer to the Lord, I told him I am willing to give you my all, even though I feel like it's not much. One day, I recalled that I was so distraught that I was able to lift my heart, my tears, and my prayers to heaven, pray for others' salvation, and pray for the Lord to work for His glory. This month, I seriously had very strong emotions in my heart. Much like Jeremiah 20:9-10 says, "But if I say, "I will not mention his word or speak any more in his name," his word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot." I felt that a lot this month.

On the other hand, it is also prudent to get to know people first. Ministry is an interesting process and takes time. All this to say, there is a hunger and a passion growing in my heart that the Lord is forming from within. I tell you this to encourage you, as it says in 2 Chronicles 16:9, "For the eyes of the Lord move to and from throughout the earth so that He may support those whose heart is completely His." Don't lose hope that Christ can use you for His glory as His instrument and is using you! This is what Scripture encourages us throughout the Bible. As I read about the body of Christ in Ephesians, that every part needs each other, the Lord encouraged me. Don't let the devil tell you that your willing heart and service to God are worth nothing. That is what is amazing about 2 Chronicles 16:9; in another version, it says, "whose hearts are fully devoted to Him." May the Lord increase our faith in Him. I feel like one of the ways is believing that God can and will use you for His kingdom. We may feel inadequate, unworthy, or not prepared. That's good because that helps us depend more on Christ and His grace, Spirit, and power to obey his calling and participate in His good works. I always love what God says to Moses when he says he is slow of speech in Exodus 4:11-12, "The Lord said to him, "Who gave human beings their mouths? Who makes them deaf or mute? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? Is it not I, the Lord? Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say." He created each of us for a purpose; let's cling and hold on to that with all our hearts as we look at God's greatness; he is great enough to use someone like me. Look at the disciples in Acts and how God used them, but also look at their trades, their growth, and their mistakes. God used them and can use us, so let's never doubt it! His kingdom is advancing, His word is being spread, and He wants us to be a part of it. All He asks for is a willing heart!

Spiritually

Acts 20:18-24, "You know how I lived the whole time I was with you, from the first day I came to the province of Asia. I served the Lord with great humility and with tears in the midst of severe testing by the plots of my Jewish opponents. You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house. I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me- the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace."

In this passage and throughout Acts, you can see Paul's unshakable commitment and devotion to Christ. The Bible verse of Jeremiah above and this verse both speak of the task of testifying of the good news of God's grace. Paul says his life is worth nothing if only he can finish the race and complete the task the Lord has given him. That is a very deep and high level of commitment and upon that we can evaluate our commitment with the task the Lord has sent us to do. Are we willing to give up our lives to share the gospel? John 15:13 says, "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." As we lay down our lives (time, talents, and treasures) as Jesus did, described in Philippians 2:5-11 the love of Christ is shown in us to others. But this is what it is to love others. In other words, we are all in this together as the body of Christ for the world, and I am so glad you are a part of it!

Fundraising

This past month's giving of May has been excellent, and we join in praising 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 60%! 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, your contribution is invaluable. 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. More hearts, minds, and eyes be open to Jesus
2. More doors be open to share the gospel
3. For wisdom and discernment to follow God's will
4. For protection from the enemy
5. For the love of Christ to spread throughout Huancayo and the Mantaro Valley
6. For Stephen and Noah to continue adapting to school in Spanish
7. For a medical campaign in August in Jauja (about 1 hour to an hour and a half from Huancayo)

Blessings in Christ!

