

November Newsletter 2023

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:

Circumstances:

When I was little down, I heard the Lord speak to me through Luke 8 which speaks of Jairus. Luke 8:40-42, 49-56 says, "Now when Jesus returned, a crowd welcomed him, for they were all expecting him. Then a man named Jairus, a synagogue leader, came and fell at Jesus' feet, pleading with him to come to his house because his only daughter, a girl about twelve, was dying. (Pause..Jesus stopped on the way to Jairus' house to heal a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years) During this time....While Jesus was still speaking, someone came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader, telling him, "Your daughter is dead," he said. "Don't bother the teacher anymore." Hearing what was said, Jesus said to Jairus, "Don't be afraid; just believe, and she will be healed. When he arrived at the house of Jairus, he did not let anyone go in with him except Peter, John, and James, and the child's father and mother. Meanwhile, all the people were wailing and mourning for her. "Stop wailing," Jesus said. "She is not dead but asleep." They laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. But he took her by the hand and said, "My child, get up!" Her spirit returned, and at once she stood up. Then Jesus told them to give her something to eat. Her parents were astonished, but he ordered them not to tell anyone what had happened."

Let's think of the moment when the people from Jairus' house came and told him, your daughter is dead; don't bother the teacher anymore. Jairus didn't do that because he put his hope in Jesus. There can be things in life that want to crush our hearts and break our souls. But we have this promise in Psalms 34:17-18, "The righteous cry out, and the Lord heals them and delivers them from their troubles. The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." Jesus heard what the people from the house said and told Jairus, "Don't be afraid, just believe, and she will be healed." Whether we cause our circumstances, or they came to us unexpectedly, the Lord is close, and the Lord is near. If we cause unfavorable circumstances, our hearts can still get crushed. If we didn't, our hearts could still break. But here's the thing: either way, we can feel as if God has abandoned us due to guilt or resentment. Jairus doesn't listen to those voices; he listens to Jesus saying, "Don't be afraid, just believe, and she will be healed." Isaiah 57:15, "For this is what the high and exalted One says- he who lives forever, whose name is holy: "I live in a high and holy place, but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite." If you feel like you need a lifting up of the Spirit from discouragement, a lack of hope, or even from the pit take heart. He lifted Jairus' spirit from the terrifying news of his daughter when he was trying to get help, and he literally lifted up his daughter from the dead.

Psalms 112:6-9, "Surely the righteous will never be shaken; they will be remembered forever. They will have no fear of bad news; their hearts are steadfast, trusting in the Lord. Their hearts are secure, they will have no fear; in the end they will look in triumph on their foes. They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor, their righteousness endures forever; their horn will be lifted high in honor." Jairus was looking into the face of death and "bad news," and Jesus

comforted him through it with his presence and comforted him with His words of hope and lifted him up spiritually and lifted his daughter literally from the dead. Do you need lifting from the Lord from being discouraged due to hard obstacles, circumstances, wounds, hurt, or pain? God is a God of Mercy. And I have had the great privilege, as have all of us, brothers in Christ, to experience how gracious, compassionate, loving, and abundant his mercies are in my life. "Remember, Lord, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you, Lord, are good." Psalms 25:6-7

The way God looks at us, at you, at me or remembers us or thinks of us, if we could only see ourselves how He sees us and see things how He sees them, we would be healed. It is not what you do; it is what he does- and the good things we do sum up to nothing, and the wrong things indebt us nothing compared to His great love. It is only his mercy that saves, heals, and sets free. It's from Him, not us. That's why I believe there is a combination or mix of mercy and God's goodness in Romans 12:1-2, "Therefore, I urge, you brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God- this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is- his good, pleasing, and perfect will." There can be hurt; there can be pain. I am a witness that despite that, God's mercy is greater than your hurts, God's love is greater than your shame, and God's goodness is greater than your sins. Because we are in his hands, as it says in Psalms 33:11, "But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations." Praise God for his faithfulness!! May our hearts worship him always in Spirit and truth with everything we have because he is worthy. Therefore, let's cry out together with the blind man; despite the crowd telling him to be quiet, he cried out all the louder, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" He received his sight back, and Jesus told him, "Your faith has healed you."

Spiritually

I want to encourage those who feel overwhelmed, as we do right now, with so many things we have to get done to move to Peru. As much as we can always try to operate in the Spirit and at his pace and not run ahead, it isn't easy when the waves come. When we get overly stressed or frustrated easily and have attitudes we may not like, it is likely a sign that we are trying to do things in our own strength rather than follow Christ step by step. That's where obedience and faith meet in that daily step-by-step. I pray for all of us that the Lord will give us of His patience; and that, He can do with us as it says in Psalms 139:23-24. "Search me, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." May the Lord bring us the peace of his presence and the diligence of a good servant to trust Him actively, lay all things (the results) at his feet, and place them in his hands. Lack of trust in the Lord is a huge heart issue. Look at Psalms 119:109, "Accept, Lord, the willing praise of my mouth, and teach me your laws. Though I constantly take my life in my hands, I will not forget your law." When we run ahead of God rather than walk in Spirit, we take our life in our own hands or the results in our hands and feel like everything is too heavy or falling apart. Meanwhile, the Father brings us back and helps us recognize that we are always in His hands and sustaining us through it all.

Fundraising

Please pray for more supporters. Monthly, we are making half of the annual budget that needs to be met for the third year. We are trusting the Lord to continue to provide and bring this ministry to fruition. We need to raise \$50,067.44 for our third year, and we are at 44.3% of that amount. 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 the Ivey missionary to give). Blessings in Christ!

