

WHOM SHALL I SEND?



PREPARING YOUR HEART, SOUL, MIND AND
STRENGTH TO SERVE THE PEOPLE OF PERU.



PREPARED BY THE MISSIONARIES ON THE FIELD IN PERU
WHO ARE WORKING WITH THE MISSION SOCIETY.

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HUANCAYO, PERU

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TRAINING GUIDE SESSION UNO

Every week of the online training (www.perutraining.weebly.com) is accompanied by a training guide like this one. Use these guides to help highlight some of the things you are learning. This week are getting started with our journey toward Perú. You are not "going to be a missionary." You are a missionary. We are going to take a look at some of the basic demographics of Perú.

Geography:

(Use the maps to fill in info from the video)



mongabay.com

3 geographic regions of Perú: _____, _____, _____

Name the mountain range in Peru: _____

Population / People of Perú:

The total population of Peru is _____, which is comparable to the population of the State of _____.

What is the percentage of Amerindian people plus Mestizo people in Perú?

_____ The percentage of White people? _____

Languages of Perú:

How many languages are spoken in Perú? _____

What are the primary languages of Perú? _____, _____, _____, and many native Amazonian languages.

Education / Literacy in Perú:

What ages attend school? _____

What is the cost of attending a government school? _____

Private schools cost around \$100+ USA per month in tuition, plus \$100 more for registration fees and \$150+ in school supplies (not counting textbooks).

The literacy rate in Perú is reported to be _____.

HOWEVER...

Income in Perú:

Average monthly income of North Americans = _____

Average monthly income of Peruvians = _____



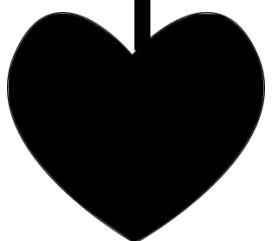
week one

Going with a purpose

The clock is ticking, and before you know it, you will be on a plane on the way to Perú. Are you ready for the adventure? Do you know why you are going?

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER THIS WEEK

1. Why do I want to be a missionary?
2. What gifts and skills am I planning on bringing with me?
3. What is the most important thing I need to be sure to bring?
4. Am I really sure I want to do this?





DÍA UNO:

WHAT AM I BRINGING?

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

-- 1 Corinthians 13.1-3 (NIV)

The first time the term “mission” was used was probably in 1598 when the Jesuits started sending members over the water as “soldiers of Christ” to “convert the heathens”. It comes from the Latin *misorinem* and means simply the “act of sending.” Work of that sort had already been going on for centuries. Paul, for example, was on a mission to share the good news of Jesus Christ with the world. Even before that, Jonah was sent to Nineveh with a warning from God to the people to change their ways or to face the consequences. There were also the prophets and judges and others who have been sent on a journey much greater than themselves and much greater than they could even imagine. As missionaries in the twenty-first century, we are doing nothing new. Instead we are simply joining a long line of men, women and children who have over the centuries been the hands and feet of Jesus Christ to a world without hope and peace. In the process, the body of Jesus Christ has grown from a handful to over two billion in the world today who profess a friendship with the son of God.

When I stop and think about what God has done using normal people, it floors me. Through the years, the people of God called by God have really not been anyone special. Often, they have been overlooked by those around them.

Take King David, for example. When Samuel came to anoint him as king, no one even thought of calling him from the fields where he was watching the sheep. His older brothers had the looks of a king. David, though athletic and handsome, was just a boy. He could protect the flock from lions and bears, but lead a country? No way. Regardless of what the people thought, though, God had chosen him.

And then there's Mary Magdalene. She was not really the kind of person to bring home to meet your family. She sold her body to make money. In polite society we would say she was a prostitute, but in other situations we'd use another term: she was a hooker. Why bother with the coarser term? Because what she did wasn't pretty, so we don't need to sugar coat it to make it more acceptable. Mary was despised by society—people crossed the street when they saw her coming and they talked about her behind her back. But in God's eyes she had a permit and a purpose. God called her, and after the resurrection, Mary Magdalene was the first missionary sent out to tell the Good News that death had been defeated.

Don't get me wrong now. God doesn't always call the least likely. Sometimes those who we think would be perfect for the job are called as well. Another Mary was like that. She was the kind of girl who studied hard and learned her lessons. She talked to God in prayer and she had a tender heart. I imagine she was the kind of person who would stop on her way to the market to jump rope with the kids just because she knew it would make them smile. I imagine she was the kind of person who cried when she saw injustice and who stood up for the rights of those who suffer. She was a good person and God called her to carry (literally) the Good News in her womb.



WHAT KIND OF PERSON ARE YOU TO BE A MISSIONARY? ARE YOU THE
MOST LIKELY OR WILL PEOPLE SCOFF WHEN THEY HEAR OF YOUR PLANS?



Regardless of the type of person we are there is one thing we need to have if we are going to be missionaries: we need to be full of love. It is a special kind of love, too. It's not the love we have with that special someone in our lives (or we hope to come into our lives). It's not even the love we have for our

friends that make us want to spend time with them. This kind of love is called agape in Greek and means a love with no strings.

As missionaries we have a very important job to do. We have to share the love—the *agape* love of God with a hurting world. That's going to be hard at times. Sometimes we're going to be hot and tired and the people we came to serve are going to be ungrateful, but we still have to love them. Sometimes we are going to want to scream because we see people doing things that make absolutely no sense to us, but we've still got to love them. Being a missionary isn't the same thing as taking a vacation. On a vacation we relax and enjoy the ride as others love on us. As a missionary we go to love on them...regardless.

In Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, he talks about this kind of missionary service. In the thirteenth chapter, he writes of what we can offer and what we *need* to offer.



I THINK YOU MIGHT GUESS WHERE I'M HEADED HERE, BUT BEAR WITH ME,
PLEASE. WHAT ARE FIVE SKILLS YOU CAN OFFER THE PEOPLE YOU ARE
GOING TO SERVE?



1.
.....
2.
.....
3.
.....
4.
.....
5.
.....

Now write them in the blanks below.

IF I , BUT
HAVE NOT LOVE, I AM ONLY A RESOUNDING GONG OR CLANGING CYMBAL. IF I
HAVE THE GIFT OF AND
CAN , BUT
HAVE NOT LOVE, I AM NOTHING. IF I,
BUT HAVE NOT LOVE, I GAIN NOTHING. (1 CORINTHIANS 13.1-3, *MY VERSION*)

DÍA DOS:

WHAT IS LOVE?



Love is patient, love is kind. It does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

-- 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NIV)

Okay, so I get it, as missionaries we've got to learn to love the people around us. Paul wasn't the only one to tell us this. Jesus did too. In Matthew 22:34-40, we read the story of a man asking Jesus which of the commandments was the most important. Jesus started out by saying something they'd already guessed: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind." They'd guessed this because it was something they already did. But then Jesus went on, quoting another part of their law (Lev. 19:18) saying, "Love your neighbor as yourself. Everything we've ever been taught, hangs on these two commandments."

As missionaries (and as simply followers of Christ) we need to keep both of these commandments in balance. The greatest commandment is that with all of who we are as individual people, we need to serve God. We need to take time to get to know him through daily Bible Study and prayer so we know who he is personally. Listening to the Sunday Sermon isn't enough to do this. It often helps, but the pastor or speaker is just sharing what he or she gained through his or her own personal study. We don't need to selfishly squeeze in on their

relationship with God. What we need is to have our own friendship with the creator of the world who loves us so much as to crave a friendship with us as well. This is the start of understanding the love of God.

To truly and more fully understand it, we need to put it into practice. We need to obey the second commandment and start loving our neighbor as ourselves. In the biblical sense, a neighbor isn't just the people who live next door. Our neighbors include everyone else who lives on the face of the earth. All of them. No exceptions. Notice Jesus didn't say to love your neighbor except those you don't like or those you don't agree with. Loving our neighbor means trying to see them with the eyes of Jesus. It doesn't, however, mean accepting everything they do. There's a lot of things others do that are out and out wrong. For example, it is wrong when one person hurts another person, and this type of action cannot be tolerated. Nevertheless, we've still got the commandment to love them. Through this commandment, we need to do all we can to share the love of God with them so that their lives may change by the power of the Holy Spirit.

I don't say this lightly and I hope it's not taken lightly either. We are in Perú and the history (even the recent history) of the country is not one of light and roses. In the 1980's and even 1990's large parts of the country were terrorized by groups doing horrible things to every day citizens. Some of the members of these groups are still organized in cells throughout the area. Peru is one of the top cocaine producers in the world. The fact of the matter is that there is a good chance we may meet terrorists seeking to have a tooth pulled or narco-traffickers whose children are participating in kid's club activities. As followers of Christ we still need to love them. Sometimes this is a love that breaks our hearts.

Let me be honest, that is the extreme end of the spectrum. At the opposite end are those who come and are almost annoying in the profound gratitude they have for us and for what we are doing. They might be so happy they bring yucca or potatoes from their fields—symbols of months of manual labor—for simply bandaging a wound. The love we have for them needs to be the same as for those who are harder to love.

Then there are those in the middle; those who don't necessarily catch our attention except when they do something that seems odd or strange or

downright annoying. They don't mean to be that way. It's just how they are. As a missionary there are cultural things we just don't get. For example, many Peruvians will not pick their teeth in public, but they have no qualms about picking their noses while walking down the street. If a bathroom is not available, the nearest wall or tree (even in the middle of town or along a busy road) will suffice. Most mothers, it seems, have no problem pulling up their shirt to expose their breasts if their baby is hungry. As North Americans, we might not understand why the people here do certain things and we might be appalled by what we see. Regardless of our gut reactions, one thing needs to override all other things in order to guide our physical actions: the love of God given freely with no strings attached.

Paul describes this love in 1 Corinthians 13.4-7: "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record or wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."

As a missionary, you are asked to make the agape-no-strings-attached love of God a priority. Are you prepared to do that?



THIS IS A SURVEY TO SEE WHERE YOU ARE PERSONALLY WITH SHARING THE LOVE OF GOD. INDICATE WHETHER YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH EACH STATEMENT BY WRITING EITHER AN "A" OR A "D" ON THE LINE.



- In any given situation, I am a kind person who is patient with others.
- I talk a lot about my accomplishments.
- I think I am better than others.
- As long as the right things happen, I don't care what others think of me.
- I like to have things just-so, a certain way.
- It is hard for me to forgive those who've hurt me.
- I think it's great when people get what's coming to them.
- I look out for number one.
- When things get tough, I look for a way out.
- I think I know what is best in a given situation.

DÍA TRES:

WHAT DO I LOVE?



Love never fails, but where there are prophecies, they will cease, where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophecy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears.

-- 1 Corinthians 13.8-10 (NIV)

In Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, he continues his discussion of love by returning briefly to the theme with which he started: gifts and graces and abilities. We all have them. We all have something to offer the kingdom of God and those who reside there. In the first day of this week, you were asked to list five things that you can offer the people of Peru as you prepare to visit here. Let's take a minute to revisit those. We'd said that even with those gifts, if they weren't offered in love, they were worthless. But God gave you those gifts for a reason and so instead of putting them on a shelf to gather dust, we need to be conscious of sharing them wrapped in the love of God. With this in mind, if you believe you can share them in love, let's put some weight on them.



LIST THOSE FIVE GIFTS AND ABILITIES AGAIN, BUT THIS TIME, LIST THEM IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE TO YOU. (IN OTHER WORDS, IF YOU COULD ONLY



DO ONE THING IN PERU, WHAT WOULD IT BE? LIST THAT ONE FIRST AND SO ON.)

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Why do you think those things are so important? Is it because you are a doctor or a teacher or that you love kids? Let's not fool ourselves, there are doctors and teachers just as good as you who already live in Perú, and there are people there who love the kids as much as you do, too. Just because we who live in a first world country deign to go to a third world country doesn't make us or our gifts any more special or more important than those to whom we came to serve. God gave us gifts and abilities and talents and they make us who we are. It is not the gifts themselves that make us special, unique individuals. It is, instead, the giver of these gifts. Through and with the love of God , we have been called out of an ordinary life to go and share our lives with others. Notice I didn't say "share our gifts." That was on purpose.

Being a missionary might mean one thing to us. It might mean going and pulling teeth or giving medicine or teaching or working with kids. It might mean going and doing something. But the honest truth of the matter is that it also just might mean going and simply being there. God's plans aren't always the same as our plans.

On some of the trips into the Amazon Jungle, the last leg of the journey is ten hours in the back of a truck. That's ten hours if everything goes according to plan. Over time, missionaries learn the only plan we can count on is that everything will not go as planned. The trips are unpredictable. Sometimes in a choice between driving into a pothole or driving over the edge of a small cliff, the cliff seems a better option. Sometimes the river rises too fast and we can't cross over. Sometimes the electricity goes out and we have to figure out a different way to do things.

We never know, and the thing of which we need to be the most aware is the fact that no matter what, the love of God is the most important item on our agenda. It isn't an option.

I overheard someone telling our son that the best thing and the worst thing about being a Christian is the same thing: As a follower of Christ, we don't live for ourselves. We live to serve others. That's why we have those talents. That's why we have the certificates and titles. That's why we have been called by God to serve the people of Perú. But what do we do if to serve them means setting our gifts aside? What do I do if everything that identifies me at home as

a responsible and productive citizen is not needed by God on this mission trip? If I really believe the word of God, it should not matter to me.

Okay, so the axle on the truck breaks for the third time on the road into the jungle. So what? Can God use me as we wait to share the love of Christ? You bet!

So what if the customs officials at the airport confiscate the supplies we were bringing in to “make a difference in the lives of these poor people”? Can I still be used to share the love of God? Yes, and maybe even more so now.

As missionaries we need to expect the unexpected. God allows it to happen, so that we can get out of the way to let God happen in our lives and in the lives of those around us. The trip after all, is not in our hands, it is in God’s.



A good prayer for us to remember at these times is the



I AM NO LONGER MY OWN, BUT YOURS.

PUT ME TO WORK DOING WHAT YOU WANT WITH WHOM YOU WANT.

LET ME DO SOMETHING; LET ME SUFFER.

LET ME WORK FOR YOU OR BE SET ASIDE FOR YOU.

LET ME BE RAISED HIGH FOR YOU OR BROUGHT LOW FOR YOU.

LET ME BE FULL, LET ME BE EMPTY.

LET ME HAVE ALL THINGS, OR LET ME HAVE NOTHING.

WITH ALL MY HEART,

I FREELY GIVE ALL OF ME TO BE USED OR THROWN OUT, WHATEVER YOU WISH.

AND NOW, GLORIOUS AND BLESSED GOD,

FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT,

YOU ARE MINE AND I AM YOURS.

AND MAY THIS PROMISE I’VE MADE ON EARTH BE ACCEPTED IN HEAVEN.

AMEN

There are some powerful ideas in those words. If we really accept them, we will let whatever happens on the trip be in God’s control. We’ll let God use us as God wants to. We might get frustrated. We might get tired, but through it all, we’ll keep the hope, peace and joy in our hearts because whatever we do, we will share the love of God.

Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 13.8-10, “Love never fails, but where there are prophecies, they will cease, where there are tongues, they will be stilled;

where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophecy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears."

The truth of the matter is that whatever we do on this mission trip, it is only temporary. The walls we paint will fade. The stomachs we cure of parasites will become infected soon enough. We will become “those North Americans who came to help us” in the minds of those we meet. The things we do are important, but the most important thing we do, is love.

It's that simple.

It's that hard.



TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO REFLECT ON WHAT IT WOULD MEAN TO YOU IF
YOU GO ALL THE WAY TO PERU AND DON'T END UP DOING ANY OF THE
THINGS YOU HAD PLANNED TO DO.



DÍA CUATRO:

IDOL CHATTER



When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

-- 1 Corinthians 13.11-12 (NIV)

A Peruvian missionary (that is a Peruvian national who is a missionary in his own country) once shared a message with a traveling mission team about idols. He said that it is a big problem here. A lot of people have idols. The problem is increased, though, when people from the United States coming down to help out bring their own idols with them.

The Bible speaks a lot about idolatry and how we as followers of Jesus Christ are not to have any. Over the centuries this command has been interpreted in various ways. For example, Jesus' himself said that we are not to love money for this love of our own bank account is the root of all evil. Others have said we are supposed to love our spouse and our children, but not at the expense of our relationship with God. Cross that line and they become our idols. Sometimes our cars or houses or boats or hobbies or jobs or whatever else becomes an idol for us. One of the dangers we face as missionaries is the simple truth that our home culture and our way of life becomes an idol for us. When that happens, we might as well just pack our bags and go back home where everybody "does things right" and "knows what's important."



WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS IN YOUR LIFE? WHAT DO YOU NEED TO BE COMFORTABLE? JOT DOWN A LIST OF THINGS IN THE MARGIN.



Mary (not her real name) had a tremendous heart, and she wanted to share the gifts God had given her with those “poor people who live in the jungle.” She’d never been to the jungle before, but she figured she could cope well. Spiders? Not a problem. Her son had had a tarantula living in his bedroom for a while. Snakes? No problemo, either. She’d killed enough of them in her garden to not be scared of them anymore. She was a person in control of her life, she loved God, and she wanted to do what she could to help out. She was a doctor, after all. She had the education and the years of experience. *She* had what *they* needed.

As the time for the journey south to the jungle drew closer, she got to thinking, though. Maybe *she* had what *they* needed, but she wasn’t so sure that *they* had what she needed. She was a professional and in order to do the job right, she had to have the right tools. That in mind, she packed her bags, being sure to put in a few bags of her favorite chocolate chip cookies (she needed them to wind down at the end of a long day), an electric fan (the jungle does get hot), and three cans of air freshener (“As much as I love those people,” she told her husband, “they’re gonna’ stink if they live in a hot jungle”). Bags packed, she was ready to go.

In the jungle, she did not have a very good time. On the second day she came back to her room to find the ants had discovered the cookies.

On the third day, as she barked at her helpers (how could she help it? She had not been able to relax the night before without her cookies), the power went out.

“Dang, it’s hot today,” she said to her translator. “I need my fan, and it’s electric. Tell those people waiting outside that we’ll have to reschedule.”

“We can’t do that,” the translator said. “Some of them walked two days to get here. It wouldn’t be fair to them.”

Although she protested, Mary persisted (that is, after all, a good quality in a Christian). Sweating through the day (and as it turned out, the next two as well), she met with patient after patient. She didn’t smile as much as she had the first day, though. “How could I,” she said later, “when it’s so blasted hot. A person needs a fan to be happy.” She hadn’t noticed all the thankful smiles from her patients as they left after seeing her.

Things went from bad to worse when on the fourth day the cans of air freshener ran out. (Actually only two cans ran out. The third one just disappeared.)

On the fifth day, Mary didn't just not smile. She pouted. She scowled. She was miserable. "How can anyone live in this god-forsaken land," she yelled as the last straw was placed on the camel's back (the evening meal arrived 43 minutes later than it said on the schedule...she'd timed it herself). Mary was never so happy to return back home where everything was normal.

If anyone had asked her, she would say she was a good Christian. The truth is that she would have been telling the truth. She *was* a good Christian. She loved the Lord and she loved her neighbor. She'd come to Perú to help some of them. She'd wanted to serve them. She'd wanted the trip to be a wonderful experience, but instead in her opinion, it had been a disaster.

Since the team had returned back to the states, she'd thought a lot about what went wrong, but she never quite figured it out. She never realized her idols had let her down. If she were honest with herself, she would have realized that the cookies, the fan, and the cans of air freshener were more important to her than sharing the love of God.

The apostle Paul tells us in his first letter to the church in Corinth, "When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known" (1 Corinthians 13.11-12 NIV).

As missionaries, we need to keep a few things in balance. We need to love the Lord our God and we need to love our neighbor. That's one of the things. We also need to be both adults and children. Mary was an outward adult with a childish heart. She wanted her idols that made her feel comfortable, and if she couldn't have them she felt justified in her tantrums. What she needed instead of her childish attitude was to be an adult about the situation, open to be flexible with the changes around her. At the same time she needed to have a child-like heart that was able to laugh in the face of her stinky, sweaty room. And then when she finally got back home, she needed to be child enough as well to savor the chocolate chips cookies like never before.

The truth is, we don't see all that God is doing in spite of ourselves. We might be uncomfortable without our toys and idols, but when we look past our discomfort and love those around us, we can help guide a lot of hurting people both into and in the Kingdom of God.



WHAT ARE THE IDOLS YOU JUST MIGHT BE BRINGING WITH YOU AS YOU
PREPARE TO COME TO PERU? LIST THEM HERE...AND THEN, LEAVE THEM
AT HOME!





DÍA CINCO:

THE GREATEST OF THESE...

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.

But the greatest of these is love.

-- 1 Corinthians 13.13 (NIV)



WOULD YOU SAY YOU ARE A PERSON OF FAITH? WHY OR WHY NOT? LIST
SOME OF OUR THOUGHTS IN THE MARGIN BEFORE WE CONTINUE.



The author of the book of Hebrews wrote, “Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see” (Hebrews 11.1 NIV). The chapter continues with an honor roll of men and women whom we can look to as models for our own faith. I need that list. As followers of Jesus Christ, we probably should all study this chapter every once in a while because the idea of *faith* is central to what we believe.

Historically it has been important as well. A number of leaders of the Protestant Reformation swing the pendulum from you’ve-got-to-work-your-way-into-God’s-good-graces all the way over to the opposite side of you-can’t-do-anything-to-deserve-God’s-grace-so-you-just-have-to-have-faith. Today it seems as though the popular opinion of many the church leaders is more in the center of the two. Regardless, the idea of having faith is very important. Okay, good. So I’ve got to have it. That’s good to know. My only question is then: what exactly is *it*? What is *faith*?

When I was in college I was struggling with this question, so I went to one of my pastors at the time. I wanted to know how my faith measured up to those around me, and if I actually had any at all. She told me I was asking the right questions, perhaps, but that I should approach it differently. She then shared

her definition of faith, using the letters of the word to guide her. "Faith," she said, "means simply ***Forsaking All, I Trust Him.***"

At the time, that really helped me. It helped me because it helped to refocus my questions. I could now ask myself if there were things in my life that I was willing to give up for God, and if there were things I was holding on to too tightly to trust God with them. As my faith grew (and as our faith grows), we discover it getting easier and easier to trust God will all of our lives. That's what makes it faith.

 IN HEBREWS 11, THE AUTHOR STARTS A LOT OF SENTENCES BY SAYING,


"BY FAITH SO-AND-SO DID SUCH-AND-SUCH. IN THE STATEMENTS BELOW,
WRITE YOUR NAME IN THE FIRST BLANK. THEN IN THE SECOND SPACE, WRITE SOMETHING YOU HAVE DONE BECAUSE YOU BELIEVE IN (HAVE FAITH IN) JESUS CHRIST.

BY FAITH

BY FAITH

BY FAITH



NOW ASK YOURSELF IF YOU ARE A PERSON OF HOPE? WHY OR WHY NOT?



JOT A FEW IDEAS IN THE MARGIN BEFORE WE CONTINUE.

As Ezekiel spoke and wrote the words recorded in the book that bears his name, the people of Judah were not being faithful to the commands and desires of God. Because of this, God punished them so that they would come back to being the people they had been created to be. In the midst of punishment, it is often hard to see the light at the end of the tunnel. That is where the people of Israel were, and so they were indeed a people without hope. As a people without hope it is easy to give up on God, and that's what some in Judah did.

The good news is that God didn't give up on them. In the middle of their hopelessness, Ezekiel wrote of a vision he'd had: "The hand of the Lord was upon me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones... and as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone..." (Ezekiel 37.1, 7 NIV). This was a good vision for the people of Judah to hear, because they must have been feeling dried out and dead like those bones. It must have

been good to hear that God was still with them and was there to offer them hope.

There was a time not very long ago when the people of Peru felt a dead, dry hopelessness, as well. During the 1980s and early 1990s a Maoist terrorist group called The Shining Path (El Sendero Luminoso) terrorized the people of the sierra (the mountains). Eventually the government saw the problem and stepped in to help. Unfortunately, they were often just as bad, and so the people didn't know who they could trust. People were being dragged out of churches and shot, their bodies left to rot because family members knew if they did anything to recover the bodies, they could be pointed out as sympathizers with one side or another. If that happened, they themselves could become the next victims. Tongues were cut out. Property was stolen. Things got worse. It's hard to have hope in a situation like this. It's hard to believe there will ever be an end. It's hard, even, to believe that God cares. It seemed as though God had packed up and left the mountains.

What's amazing, though, is that the grace of God continued in the lives of a remnant here. Even in the face of persecution, men and women and children still made the effort to meet for fellowship and to strengthen one another in the faith. God hadn't given up on them. Eventually the darkness of The Shining Path era gave way to the dawning of a new day. The dry bones began to see life again.

Today, although it is still difficult to gain the trust of those terrorized only a few short years ago, and although it might be hard to find anyone over the age of twenty or so who does not have a terrifying recollection of the time, there is still hope for a brighter tomorrow. At times this hope is so strong, it seems as though it can be tangibly felt.

So from where does this hope come? The words in Hebrews that we quoted earlier links hope and faith together: "faith is being sure of what we hope for..." And then the Psalmist tells us to "put your hope in God" (Psalm 42.5 NIV).



THINKING ABOUT THE UPCOMING TRIP, WHERE DO YOU PLACE YOUR HOPE?
IN THE HANDS OF THE TEAM LEADER? WITH THE MISSIONARIES ALREADY
LIVING HERE? IN THE PERUVIAN PEOPLE? IN THE PEOPLE PAYING FOR THE
TRIP? IN GOD?



The apostle Paul tells us that although hope and faith are good and useful, they are not the most important thing for those of us who follow Jesus Christ. He writes: "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. but the greatest of these is love" (1 Corinthians 13.13 NIV). We've just spent the past week looking at the love that a Christian Missionary needs to have in order to be effective. This is important to remember. It is *vital* for us to remember. As missionaries our primary purpose is not to prove our great faith to either ourselves, our church back in the states, or even to the people of the Perú. Our purpose isn't to bring hope, either. Hope is already here. It needs to be strengthened, sure, but it's here. What, then, is our goal, our purpose, our reason for forsaking all and trusting God as we travel to another land? It's simple. All we need to do is love our neighbors as we love ourselves. That's our challenge. May we be blessed in it.



SOME FRIENDS OF OURS ARE FULL-TIME MISSIONARIES IN RUSSIA. IN ONE OF THEIR NEWSLETTERS THEY WROTE ABOUT THE QUESTIONS OF FAITH WITH WHICH THEY HAD BEEN WRESTLING. IT WAS A GOOD LIST FOR US TO PONDER AND CONSIDER. THEIR QUESTIONS WERE USED AS A SPRINGBOARD FOR THE FOLLOWING EXERCISE. READ THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS AND MARK HOW STRONGLY YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH THEM.



ON THIS MISSION TRIP...

DISAGREE

AGREE

...I WANT TO BE ABLE TO SOMEHOW JUSTIFY MY OWN EXISTENCE. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

...I WANT TO FEEL LIKE I AM IMPORTANT. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

...I BELIEVE I HAVE SOMETHING THAT THEY NEED. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

...I WANT TO PROVE TO MY CHURCH BACK HOME THAT I LOVE GOD. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

...I WANT TO PROVE TO MY CHURCH BACK HOME THAT GOD LOVES ME. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

...I WANT TO BE AN EMPTY VESSEL TO BE FILLED AND USED BY GOD. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

...I WANT TO LEARN HOW TO BETTER LOVE MY NEIGHBOR AS MYSELF. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

...I WANT TO FIGURE OUT WHAT REALLY IS IMPORTANT. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7



A few facts about: Peruvian foods

- ☛ Quinua is a Peruvian high protein cereal with 25 varieties.
- ☛ Olluco is a Peruvian tuber with over 30 varieties.
- ☛ The potato is originally from Perú and they produce over 3000 varieties.
- ☛ The Tomato is originally from Perú, and it is a close relative of the Potato.
- ☛ The corn from Perú is a variety with the biggest kernels in the world amongst 32 others produced. Corn is originally from the Americas, including Perú.
- ☛ The Avocado is originally from Perú and they produce the softest variety.
- ☛ Peruvian food has 468 different registered typical dishes .
- ☛ The finest cottons in the world, Pima and Tanguis are Peruvian.
- ☛ The weeping willow is originally from Perú and it produces the base for aspirin.
- ☛ Tara is a Peruvian tree from which tannin is produced for the production of dyes.
- ☛ Yacon, a tuber similar to the yucca (cassava, manioc), is originally from Perú and is the base for insulin.
- ☛ Maca, a Peruvian root, known as Huanarpo Macha is what VIAGRA is made from; it has been in use in Perú for hundreds of years.

TRAINING GUIDE SESSION DOS

This is a week of looking not only at the people of Perú, but also at ourselves. What is my motivation for wanting to be a missionary to Perú? What does God mean to me? How has knowing Jesus changed my life? Questions like these are important to ask yourslef as you prepare to journey to Perú.

PART UNO

Grace and God

According to one definition, *Grace* is God's _____ given to us even though we don't _____ it.

According to John Wesley, there are three types of grace. They are _____, _____, and _____.

Prevenient Grace is _____

Justifying Grace is _____

Sanctifying Grace is _____

According to John Wesley, there are four things we use to help us to understand who God is. They are _____, _____, _____, and _____.

Personal reflection: Which of these do you use most when you are trying to understand God?

PART Dos

Peruvian Religion: A mix

In the video about the Bird of Paradise, what are some of the connections you see between the legend and the Christian faith?

What thoughts come to mind as you watch the videos showing the people climbing the mountain to worship the god of the glacier? What do you think about the fact that they are mixing ancient Peruvian practices and beliefs with Christian practices and beliefs?

PART TRES

Language and God

Some people are very immovable when it comes to Bible translations. They believe the translation they use is not only the best version available, but it is also the *only* true and accurate version available. The problem many times, however, is that the argument falls apart when we talk about people who speak another language. After listening to the interview with the Quechua woman, what facts of her story made an impression on you? Why do you think they impacted you that way?



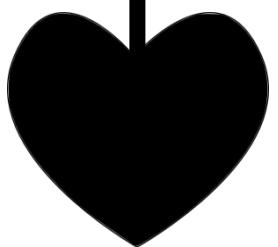
week two

Preparing the heart and soul

During the online portion of the training, we looked at some of the things that influence how we experience and understand God. One of the biggest factors wasn't mentioned: personal devotion. That's what we'll look at this week.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER THIS WEEK

1. How is my relationship with Jesus right now?
2. When did I first fall in love with Jesus? What difference has this made in my life?
3. If someone asked me who God is, what would I say?
4. How has my love of God made me want to be a missionary to Perú?



DÍA UNO:

PREPARING TO FIGHT



Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 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.

-- Ephesians 6.10-13 (NIV)



BE HONEST, IF SOMEONE TELLS YOU THEY ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF A SPIRITUAL BATTLE, WHAT ARE THE FIRST THOUGHTS THAT COME TO YOUR MIND?



I have to admit that for a lot of years, whenever I read this verse I would smile and nod and say something like, "Oh, okay. Got it." But the truth is I didn't really get it. I mean, with my head I could understand a lot about what it means to be in spiritual battle. I'd read the stories of Paul and Peter and the rest as they worked hard to spread the good news of Jesus Christ. I'd heard about their struggles and their difficulties and the people who threw rocks and insults and those types of things. The Bible is full of stories like that. But those are *Bible people*. They lived during a time when things like that happened. I live in the world today. A world of knowledge and science. A world where we can talk to somebody on the other side of the planet *and* see a video of them of them talking to me at the same time. We've come a long way, baby (as the old ad said). We've grown past this spiritual warfare stuff. If we've advanced this far,

surely God has, too. As I said, with my head I understood what Paul was trying to say. With my heart, though, I didn't think it really had any bearing on my life.

Okay, you can say it. I was dumb. I was wrong. I made a mistake. I was being rather egotistical and superior in my thinking. I understand it better now, not only with my head, but this time also with my heart.

Let me put it as plainly as I know how: spiritual battles are being fought in Perú. They are also being fought in China and Brazil and Costa Rica and Poland and every country on the face of the earth. Yes, they are even being fought in the United States. I can see it now. I think when we lived there I was so involved with living and the day-to-day activities of life that I didn't notice the things I couldn't see (Paul wrote that the battles are being fought in the heavenly realms and, truth be told, we cannot see things heavenly...yet).



IF SOMEONE WERE TO ASK YOU WHAT SPIRITUAL WARFARE IS, WHAT
WOULD YOU SAY?



Read what a couple of people have said about spiritual warfare stuff: Ed Silvoso, director of Harvest Evangelism (www.harvestevan.org) says, "The Church in the West today presents too easy a target for Satan. We do not believe we are at war. We do not know where the battleground is located, and, in spite of our weapons, they are neither loaded nor aimed at the right target. We are unaware of how vulnerable we are. We are better fitted for a parade than for an amphibious landing."

John Eldredge, author of the bestselling book *Wild at Heart*, says, "The story of your life is the story of a long and brutal assault on your heart by the one who knows what you could be and fears it."

Oswald Chambers, author of the classic devotional *My Utmost for His Highest*, says, "If we are going to be made into wine, we will have to be crushed; you cannot drink grapes."

And finally, Blaine Eldredge, young son of John Eldredge, is quoted as saying, "Every man is a warrior inside. But the choice to fight is his own."

That Blaine is a smart kid. God has given us what we need to fight against the "devil's schemes" (as Paul writes in today's verses). The question remains: are we willing to fight against the powers of darkness? We can. We should.

Okay, we must. To tell the truth, we don't have a choice in the matter if we are going to be missionaries.

In Perú, some of the missionaries who live here asked God to guide them in the direction their ministry should take (all of us need to be doing this to be sure that *our* ideas line up with *God's* ideas). Through prayer they felt led to a community outside of Huancayo called San Juan de Icos. It is a rural community complete with adobe buildings, a town square, local Catholic Church, and cows and donkeys walking down the street. As they explored the community, they discovered that although the local school is adequate, there were still a number of children who were not receiving a proper education. (Education in Perú is free to all children, but parents are still required to pay for uniforms, books, and other supplies, at costs that many families cannot afford.) Walking through the hills surrounding the community, they knocked on doors and spoke with families about the possibility of a school where their children could attend. At first the results were discouraging, but persistence and time paid off and in the end, around twenty students were enrolled. Working through the lawyer hired by The Mission Society to help out in situations like these, they received the proper approval from the proper agencies within the government and opened a school in an unused room inside of the city hall. School started well, but of the twenty or so enrolled, only about a dozen actually attended classes. This is typical in the culture, and so it was seen as a tremendous start.

In addition to classes, the team (which included both missionaries and Peruvian nationals) began a Kids' Club which met once a week on the town square. Again, they received proper approval from the proper sources. The club was timed so that students leaving the public school could also attend if they chose to (many of the kids walked a long distance to school and, with chores and family responsibilities, would not be able to return at another time). Again, like the school, things started well with children from the community coming together on Friday afternoons to sing praises to God, learn about the Bible (in a way that did not promote one denomination or Protestants or Catholics over and against the other), do a craft and share a snack.

One hot Friday afternoon, however, things changed. One of the teachers at the public school had a growing dislike of the Kids' Clubs. The ministry team never did learn exactly what the problem was, but she was bound and

determined to put an end to the stuff she considered nonsense. In the middle of the meeting, she ran out of the school gates toward the club meeting waving something in her hand like a whip. Entering the crowd of children ranging in age from about three to twelve, she began chasing them away; pursuing them down streets and alleys to be sure they would not return. In the coming weeks, some of those children never did come back to the Kids' Club meetings. Some stood on the edge and warned those brave enough to enter that "teacher's gonna' get mad."

In an effort to smooth the waters and start fresh, a meeting was held between the city council, the ministry team, and members of the local school. At the meeting, the school started by the missionaries was reaffirmed as a good and useful part of the community. In fact, the missionaries learned a number of the members of the city council had children or grandchildren in the school. The weekly Kids' Clubs were also given the green light as a vital part of the development of the families and the children of Iscos. It was a ray of sunshine breaking through the dark clouds of the past few weeks.

It, however, was not yet over. The teacher at the public school knew her freedom to chase kids away from the club meetings had been taken from her. She knew the city council had given their nods of approval. Still the children from the public school were hesitant to attend meetings. Later the missionaries learned the reason: the teacher was taking points away from the language arts grade of any student reported as attending the meetings in the park.



WOULD YOU CONSIDER THE EVENTS THAT HAPPENED IN SAN JUAN DE
ISCOS A SPIRITUAL BATTLE? WHY OR WHY NOT? ALSO, IF YOU WERE THE
MISSIONARIES HERE DURING THIS TIME, WHAT WOULD YOU DO IN THIS
SITUATION?



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DÍA DOS:

Getting dressed to go



Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

-- Ephesians 6.14-15 (NIV)

I know, I know. For some of you, today's thoughts might get a bit tedious if you don't like (or don't care) about the roots of words and where they come from. I think the journey is worth the destination though, so please bear with me for a few moments here.

There are three words of vital importance in the passage for today: truth, righteousness and peace. In English, we have at least a vague idea what these words mean. For example, if we tell someone to "tell the truth," we are expecting them to state the events of the case exactly as it occurred. If we say someone is a righteous person we either mean they are very cool (in a slang way) or that they are living their lives very closely to the biblical standards. And when we sing the old song *Let There be Peace on Earth*, we are singing about a time when, as the Bible says in Isaiah, the swords are beaten into plows. We have the basic idea of what it means to use these words. Let's dig deeper, though, and look at the original meanings in the Greek; the meanings that Paul was thinking about when he wrote this passage.

The word we translate as *truth* is *aletheia* (ἀλήθεια), and it refers to what is true in any matter under consideration, what is true in things concerning God and the duties of people regarding moral and religious truth. In a more subjective way of thinking, it is "that candor of mind which is free

from...falsehood and deceit." In other words, it is an idea of personal excellence. As followers of Jesus Christ, we need to keep this idea in mind. We need to remember that the truth we carry is not just the word of God or the Bible stories or the preaching and the sermons. The truth we carry is also the personal excellence in which we seek to live. Too often, we as followers of Christ give 110% at work or on the playing field, but when it comes to living the right life, we settle for a lot less. We cannot afford to be doing that, especially if we accept the fact that we are indeed in a spiritual battle and need to be aware of the schemes of the devil. It is important for us to wake up in the morning, hop out of bed and gird around our waists the belt of truth that reminds us of our obligation to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The ancient Celtic Christians had a great way of reminding themselves of the completeness of Christ in their lives: they would add a prayer to the day to day routines of life. For example when they put on their belts, they would say something like: *Lord, as I put on my belt today, help me to remember that it is like the belt of truth Paul talked about. Help me to remember to be excellent in all I do for the Kingdom today. Amen.*

In the King James Version of this verse it does not use the term *belt*. Instead it talks about girding our loins. That is an allusion to the story in Exodus when God told Moses to tell the people to get ready and to have their loins girded. What God meant by that was that they had to be ready at a moment's notice to leave the slavery of Egypt. In the same way, we as followers as Christ and we as missionaries of the Good News need to be ready with the examples of our lives to give testimony to what God has done in and among us.

Do YOU GIVE GOD 110% OR DO YOU OFFER ONLY WHAT YOU HAVE LEFT?
IF THERE ARE AREAS IN YOUR LIFE WHERE YOU COULD BE GIVING MORE, JOT
THEM DOWN IN THE MARGIN.

For the word we translate as *righteous*, Paul used the word *dikaiosynē* (δικαιοσύνη). This is a word that refers in the broad sense to the person who is as he or she ought to be in their relationship with God. It has to do with integrity, virtue, purity of life, and so on of the person. This is the kind of person we look for when we are looking for leaders within the church. In a narrower sense, the word refers to the justice or the virtue which gives each person his or her due.

Again as followers of Jesus Christ, we need to be righteous people. We need to be living our lives of excellence (remember the belt of truth) as lives filled with integrity and virtue. We also need to be willing to keep our eyes and hearts open to those around us.

It was on purpose that Paul chose to equate this righteousness with the breastplate. He knew that during a battle, if a soldier got a wound in the leg or the arm, he could survive, but in order to return home to fight another day, he needed to have his vital organs—his heart, lungs, and belly—covered. (By the way, I say *he* here because during Paul’s time it was the men who fought in the battles.) In the same way, we as believers in Jesus Christ need to be certain that our vital organs are covered. We need to protect our hearts from the attacks of the devil. We need to be sure that our lives are lived with integrity and virtue. When people see us, they need to be able to see the love of Jesus Christ shining through us. They need to see the sun’s light reflecting brightly off our breastplates of righteousness. Okay, I know not many of us wear breastplates today, but perhaps as we get dressed in the morning, we can say a Celtic style prayer something like this: *Lord, as I put on my shirt today, help me to remember to live my life in a way that you desire. Help me to be pure and honest and seek the light of your love in those around me. Amen.*



WHEN PEOPLE SEE YOU, DO THEY SEE A RIGHTEOUS PERSON OF INTEGRITY?

IS THAT JUST WHAT THEY SEE, OR IS THAT REALLY WHO YOU ARE?



Finally, for the word that we translate as *peace*, Paul used the word *eirēnē* (*εἰρήνη*). Its meaning is pretty much the same as we think of when we dream of peace: national tranquility, exemption from the rage and havoc of war, and so on. As followers of Christ, these ideas are good to keep in mind. But according to Strong’s Greek concordance, there is another part of peace that is important to us: there is a peace that belongs to the Messiah. This peace refers to the path that leads to salvation and to the “tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and content with its earthly lot, of whatsoever that is.”

Paul tells us that our feet need to be shod with the readiness that comes from this type of peace. Huh? Maybe I’m a bit dense, but that confuses me a bit. *Shoes* I get. *Readiness* I get. *Peace* I get. Put them together and I get lost.

But wait a minute, let me try it this way. We are missionaries, right? We go places. Sometimes we go places a long way from home, and as the old saying

goes, “the journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.” As we take those steps, we’re gonna’ need some shoes to protect our feet so we can travel again whenever God calls us. When I take long walks, I like to have shoes that are comfortable and sturdy. What if the shoes I wear when I walk with God are comfortable in that I have the peace that passes understanding (Philippians 4.7) assuring me that I am a child of God, and that they are sturdy in that I know in that assurance that nothing can separate me from the God’s love, no matter what the world throws at me (Romans 8.38-39). Those are shoes that I can wear. Again, let us pray with the Celtic church as we prepare ourselves every morning: *Lord, as I put on my shoes, help me to know the comfort and security of your peace. Amen.*

ARE YOU WEARING COMFORTABLE SPIRITUAL SHOES? ARE YOU SURE YOU
ARE A CHILD OF GOD? IF NOT, TAKE SOME TIME IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS TO
TALK WITH ANOTHER BELIEVER IN CHRIST TO SEE IF THEY CAN HELP YOU TO
REACH THAT POINT IN YOUR LIFE. DON’T LET IT STOP YOU FROM COMING ON THE MISSION TRIP (IT
MIGHT BE THAT GOD IS PLANNING ON THIS TRIP TO HELP YOU KNOW THE FULLNESS OF PEACE).

A quick story about a man here in Perú who gets dressed for battle every day. Physically, he doesn’t look like much. He’s short even by Peruvian standards and has a club foot. Spiritually, however, he is a giant. He is a missionary to his own people. What he does is simple. He starts with prayer, asking God to reveal to him a community that is in need of the good news of Jesus Christ. When he receives a word from God (which can come to him in a variety of ways), he sets off on foot, wearing shoes of the gospel of peace. He walks, sometimes for days, until he reaches the community. There, wearing the belt of truth, he shares the truth of God’s love with the people, working beside them in the fields or in the stores. As he does this, the integrity and virtue he wears as a breastplate, helps to convince the people of the truth of the message he is bringing. He knows he won’t stay in that community, though, and so he prays for God to reveal to him a leader for the spiritual community there. When he believes God has told him who it is to be, he continues to work with that person until he is sure that they regularly get dressed spiritually for battle on their own. Then it is time for him to start praying again. This time to see where he is to go next. Over the years, this man has brought the good news of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to more than 200 communities around Peru. When asked how he does it, he says he doesn’t. It is the power of God working through him as he dresses for battle.



DÍA TRES:

Shield of Faith...but in what?

In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

-- Ephesians 6.16 (NIV)

Sometimes we as followers of Jesus Christ believe we have the corner on the faith market. Sometimes we believe that we have faith, and the rest of the world does not. That is a mistake. I don't think I'm going too far out on the limb if I say that every person has faith in something. I mean, think of it this way: people go to the doctor because they have faith that they will receive a proper diagnosis and a cure. People go to the store to buy groceries because they have faith the food they want will be there when they get there. They also have faith that when they get the gallon of milk home that it will be fresh and safe to drink. They don't do scientific tests to see if any poisons or garbage was added to the milk. They simply open it up, pour it in a cup and drink. That's faith. We usually don't think about it as such, but it is.

The Greek word that Paul uses here is *pistis* (πίστις), and it means just that: a conviction or belief of the truth of anything. I have faith the sun will rise tomorrow morning. I have faith that when it rains it will fall down and not up. I have faith that my children will grow up to be wonderful, productive members of society (that is also a hope, but my belief is so strong in this that I believe it can be called *faith*, as well). I also have faith that Jesus Christ is the son of God and that he came to this earth to die on the cross so that I could have a friendship with God. I have faith that the Bible is the word of God. I have faith that he will come again someday to take those who follow him home to live in the houses which he has prepared for us. All that's faith, too.

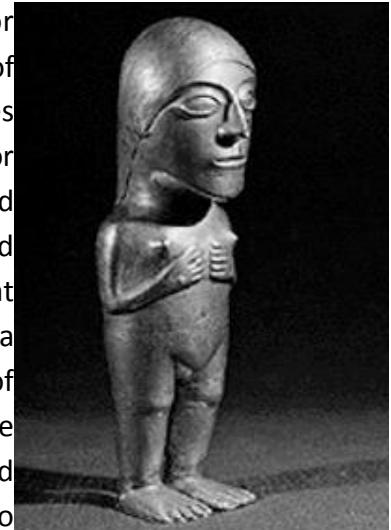


WHERE DO YOU PUT YOUR FAITH? IN THE MARGIN MAKE A LIST OF THINGS
AND PEOPLE IN WHICH YOUR FAITH IS STANDING.



But that is not the only faith in the world. In Perú, there are people who believe that as well. There are also people who have more faith in their pastors or their priests than they do in the Son of God. There are some who put their faith in the stones and rocks on the ground. There are others who are convinced of the truth that sacrifices of blood will turn the gods' anger away from them. There are some who have faith that what the gods' want are children. Others believe they want dogs. Some have faith in the power of gems to change their fortune. Others are convinced of the power of the position of the stars in the sky and the astrologers who can interpret them. All these are examples of faith, too.

Faith is not new to this country. For centuries, the people of Perú have been people of faith. When they first started climbing the Andes Mountains or planting crops in the coastal deserts or settling in communities in the Amazon Jungles, God was with them. As a young boy once told me, God was tickling their hearts, letting them know that they were loved and invited to come into a relationship with God. They listened to the voice of God, but unfortunately, God's voice was not the only one resounding in their ears. The devil had some evil schemes up his sleeve, and he began to shoot fiery arrows at them, trying to get them to falter and fall. The still, small voice of God calling out to the people of this region was too often drowned out by the sweet temptations of evil. The peoples' understanding of God was not complete, and as they created their own version of the heavenly courts, the image they had of the true God was tainted. Looking at their ancient religious faith, we can catch glimpses of the one true God, but more often than not, God is hidden.



One of the main gods in which these agricultural people held their faith was mother earth, whom they call *Pachamama*. Pachamama, however, is not a god of the past. In the faith of many of the people today, even many who claim a belief in Jesus Christ as the son of God, Pachamama still holds court. The people are still very close to the earth. They still farm the land (most of them still farm as their ancestors did using hand tools or, if they are fortunate, an ox or

donkey to plow). In order to insure a good outcome for their labor and to bring in a good harvest, for centuries people have felt the need to pacify Pachamama. One way in which they do this was to pour a bit of their *chicha* (a local corn drink that is delicious) on the ground before they drink it. Another way is to erect a stone pole or pillar in the field.

In Huancayo, there is a park named Parque Tupac Amaru. It is a beautiful park with walking paths and planted flower beds and fountains (sort of a Peruvian version of an English Garden). Scattered throughout the park are a number of signs telling visitors to protect the natural environment, and at one corner is a three sided pillar with the following phrase in English, Spanish and Quechua: *La paz prevalezca en la tierra — Allin kay pacha niñaypaq kachun — The peace prevails in the earth*. When I first saw it, I thought, “That’s pretty cool. We do need to think about peace on earth, and goodwill toward all...” I didn’t read it very carefully. It says “*in* the earth” not “*on* the earth.” The pillar in the park is not a declaration of a hope for all nations. What it is is a sacrifice to the ancient goddess of the earth, Pachamama. Scattered throughout the city, the valleys and the mountains are stone pillars giving homage to one of the fiery arrows of the devil.



WHAT DO YOU THINK: ARE WE OVER REACTING WHEN WE SAY THE SACRIFICES TO THE ANCIENT GODS IS A SIGN OF FAITH IN THE ANCIENT GODS? DO WE AS FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST NEED TO BE WORRIED ABOUT THINGS LIKE THIS OR IS IT “JUST A PART OF WHO THEY ARE AND WE CAN’T TAKE THEIR TRADITION AND CULTURE”?



The Apostle Paul tells us to take our shield of faith with us when we go out into the spiritual battle going on around us every day. Unlike the belt and the breastplate and the shoes we talked about yesterday, the faith he is talking about is not something we wear. It is something we carry. It is something we use. Maybe it will help if we think about it this way: The belt, breastplate and the shoes are something that we put on and it is with us to protect us and encourage us. The shield, on the other hand, is something we have in our hands and we use it. Maybe we can say the first items are passively affecting our lives, but we have to actively use the shield of faith if we are going to succeed in winning a victory over our enemy, the devil.

Maybe that’s why the noun can also be used as a verb: we use a *shield* (noun) to *shield* (verb) ourselves (and those around us) from the fiery attacks of the devil. We need to be proactive in our faith. It is not something we put on

and expect to take off at the end of the day. No, it is something we use every moment of every day. It's a twenty-four hour, seven day a week job for us. We need it because those fiery arrows can be tricky.

When I think of fiery arrows I think of something I want to avoid. I think of the old movies about the Middle Ages when they are storming the castle, and those defending the castle shoot a barrage of arrows back at them. Those down below, in order to protect themselves raise their shields above their heads to make a virtual ceiling. It works. But in order for it to work, they have to *do* something.

But the barrage of fiery arrows doesn't always look like a rainstorm of danger falling on our heads. Sometimes it looks like something we want to see coming our way. Sometimes we are attacked in the spiritual battles by a job promotion that would give us a higher wage, but the salary comes with less time spent with our families. Sometimes we are attacked by the sports car we've always wanted, but the car comes with insurance we cannot afford. Sometimes we are attacked by a cool hobby that eventually leads us to use all of our time in it, even at the expense of gathering together in a community of faith (Hebrews 10.25). We have to be careful.

Let us be honest here, there are a lot of really neat things about the history and the culture of Perú. They have traditions that go back hundreds and hundreds of years. Their art is fantastic. It's neat and it is tempting to take home souvenirs with pictures of the ancient gods. The problem is that some of those souvenirs just might end up being a fiery arrow that will have a big impact on our lives if we are not careful.

Our faith needs to be strong. Maybe I said that wrong. Maybe it would be better if I said, we need to be sure we have a strong faith in the right thing.

ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS WE WERE ASKED TO DO TODAY WAS LIST THE THINGS IN WHICH WE HAVE FAITH. IS GOD ON THAT LIST? IS GOD IN THE FIRST PLACE ON THE LIST? IF NOT, WHAT CAN YOU DO TO STRENGTHEN YOUR FAITH IN THE GOD OF GODS AND THE LORD OF LORDS?





DÍA CUATRO:

Helmet and Sword

Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

-- Ephesians 6.16 (NIV)

Let's talk about salvation for a moment. That's a word we use a lot as followers of Jesus Christ. "By his blood we are saved." "Salvation comes by faith alone." "I am saved by the grace of God." The Apostle Paul said in Romans that if we confess with our lips that Jesus Christ is Lord and believe in our hearts that God raised him from the dead, we will be saved. It is an important word to talk about and to have in our minds, because when we get to Perú one of the questions we might get asked is, "When where you saved?"

What they are looking for is not a "yes" or a "no." Instead, what they want is a "yes" followed by a date, and, if possible, time and place, as well. For many of the leaders in the churches of Perú, *when* you were saved is often just as important as *if* you are saved. Some followers of Christ have no problem at all providing the answers. The date of salvation is important to them as well. For them, the moment of salvation was a hinge-point in their lives and from that moment on they knew without a shadow of a doubt that they were in the loving arms of Jesus Christ.

Others, however, (and I put myself in this group) have a tough time identifying a specific date in their lives that changed everything. For them (us) salvation has been a long process with a number of road signs along the way that point out events that changed our lives and pointed us toward the loving Father. This doesn't make our salvation any less real than those who had a day full of fireworks and bright lights.

The Apostle Paul tells us to put on our helmet of salvation. That's the covering of our head. It protects our thoughts and our minds. Regardless of how you would mark your salvation, put on your hat and tell about it. Others will want to know.

WHAT IS YOUR STORY OF SALVATION? WHEN WERE YOU SAVED? WAS IT
ALL AT ONCE OR HAS IT BEEN A SERIES OF ROAD SIGNS POINTING YOU
TOWARD GOD? IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY, TAKE A FEW MOMENTS TO
PRACTICE RETELLING YOUR STORY.

Not only is the helmet of salvation important in our lives, so is the sword we take in our hands. Yesterday we talked about the shield which we hold in our hands to fight off the fiery arrows that the devil is shooting at us. Today, we talk about taking something else in our other hand: the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. This is the only weapon that Paul talks about as he tells us to get ready for spiritual battle. Everything else is for protection. They are things that are on the defensive. If we are strong in them, we will be safe. The sword, however, is for attacking.

In the letter to the Hebrews, the author wrote about the strength of the Word of God, saying it is "sharper than any double-edged sword," and that "it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12 NIV). The only weapon we need if we are to experience victory in the spiritual battles going on around us is the word of God, the Bible.

But a sword hanging above the fireplace in our living rooms is not going to do us much good. A sword on display in a museum is just going to gather dust. By the same token, a Bible sitting on the table and not touched is going to gather dust as well. A Bible sitting on the bookshelf is really nothing more than black words on a white page. They don't mean a whole lot. They don't have any power. The power that comes from the Sword of the Spirit is power that comes when you and I take the sword in our hands, open the Bible, read it, and put it to practice in our lives.

As people who claim a belief in Jesus Christ, we need to know who this Jesus Christ is. As people who are willing to leave the comforts of home to share the love of God with strangers in a strange land, we need to know who this God is. As people who call upon the power of the Holy Spirit to fill our lives, we need to know (say it with me now) who this Holy Spirit is. If we don't open the Bible

for a few weeks, few months or even a few years, we will not know. It's that simple.

Every day of our lives we make the effort to wake up, get cleaned up, get dressed, and get busy with the things that we "have to get done today." It's amazing how often we find the time and energy to do those things, but often cannot take the time to polish the sword of the Spirit as we read from the greatest love story ever told...the one in which Jesus came to be one of us so that we could become one family with the Father.

HOW IS YOUR TIME WITH THE LORD? HAVE YOU BEEN READING YOUR BIBLE? DO YOU READ IT EVERY DAY? WHETHER YOU HAVE A HABIT OF READING THE BIBLE OR NOT, MAKE A PROMISE TO YOUR TEAMMATES AND TO GOD THAT YOU WILL READ IT RELIGIOUSLY (YES, I'M AWARE OF THE IRONY IN THAT PHRASE) EVERY DAY UNTIL AT LEAST THE WEEK AFTER YOU GET BACK FROM PERÚ.

Now that you've made that promise, I need to tell you something else. Just reading the Bible is not enough. Reading it like a novel is a start, but usually a novel doesn't get to be a part of who we are in our day to day lives (yes, sometimes that happens, but stick with me here). The Bible is like any other book in the world. It is words on a page. It's stories that make a person laugh sometimes and cry at other times. But it is also more than that. For those of us who believe it to be the Word of God, it carries power to change and transform lives. Since that is the case, we need to read it differently than we'd read the latest best sellers. Let me offer a suggestion to help you get started (if you already have a regular habit of reading the Bible, keep it up. This is just a suggestion. Do what works best for you.)

First, find a place that you can be alone with God. This doesn't necessarily mean you have to physically be apart from everyone else (although it might). It helps me to focus on God if I am sitting in what I feel is a "holy place." Sometimes it takes me a long time to find it. Other times not. When we lived in the United States, there was bench underneath a dogwood tree in our yard. That was my spot for being alone with God. Sometimes my wife joined me there. Sometimes the kids or the pets. Regardless of who was with me, I knew I could be there with God.

Second, before you start reading, pray. Ask God to open up the Word in new and exciting ways for you. Ask to see how the words you read have meaning for the life you live. I'm not going to say that every day you are going to



have a new, wonderful revelation that will transform your life. Many times it is a word or two or a phrase that tickles your mind and wiggles their way into your behavior without you even realizing it.

Third, read the Bible. It doesn't have to be a lot. Just enough. I can't say how much *enough* is. Really it depends on the day and what's going on in your life. By this I don't mean if you are too busy to read more. Life can wait. What I mean is let the word of God guide your time. You might start reading and the first verse jumps out at you and you can't go on without thinking about those words. If that happens—do you know what?—you've perhaps read enough. Other times you might read chapters and chapters and when you try to put the Bible down, there is something that tells you to pick it up again. Allow it to happen.

Fourth, take some time during the day to think about what you read. Meditate on it. Mull it over. Toss it back and forth in your mind. Maybe try to put yourself in the story. If you are reading one of the letters or prophecies, try to imagine it was written directly to you in the situation in which you are living. This might be hard, but if you are wearing the shoes of peace, you don't have to worry. You'll be able to handle it.

Finally, pray again. Thank God for the words you've read and ask that the meanings and the actions of those words may be put into practice in your life. We'll talk more about prayer tomorrow.



THE FOLLOWING IS ONE WAY THAT YOU CAN GET STARTED READING THE BIBLE AGAIN. IF YOU STAY ON SCHEDULE, YOU'LL READ THROUGH ONE OF THE STORIES OF JESUS CHRIST (MARK), THE STORY OF THE EARLY CHURCH AND SOME MISSIONARY JOURNEYS (ACTS) AND A LETTER FILLED WITH JOY REGARDLESS THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AUTHOR (PHILIPPIANS). IF YOU DON'T STAY ON SCHEDULE, DON'T WORRY. WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS THAT EVERY DAY YOU SPEND TIME WITH THE LORD IN POLISHING THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD.



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| <input type="checkbox"/> Mark 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Mark 9 | <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 9 | <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 17 | <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 25 |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Mark 8 | <input type="checkbox"/> Mark 16 | <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 8 | <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 16 | <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 24 | <input type="checkbox"/> Philippians 4 |



DÍA CINCO:

Keep talking to the Lord

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel.

-- Ephesians 6.19 (NIV)

Over the past few days we have been talking about the importance of getting our spiritual lives together so that we can be ready to come to Peru. We've talked about spiritual battles going on around us, as well as ways to defeat the enemy through our devotional times and telling our stories of faith. Yesterday we even set up a daily bible reading schedule for those of us who have not been very faithful in this area of our lives (that's not a criticism, just a statement of fact). Today, however, we look at what may very well be the most important part of getting ready to come to Perú: Prayer. If we are not praying, we are not talking to God; and if we are not talking to God, we more than likely are not listening for God to be speaking back to us; and if we aren't listening for God to be speaking to us, we are not going to be ready to come to Perú.

Prayer is vitally important not only when you get to Peru, but also as you prepare to come. Why? Because if God wants you here to serve the Kingdom of God, the enemy of God does not. The spiritual battles will begin even now. Let me tell you a story.

Rob and Linda loved God and wanted to show their love by going on a mission trip to Perú. They had the skills they needed to make a difference. Rob

was a carpenter, and Linda was a school teacher. They loved children and had three of their own. Bryan was 15 and coming to Perú with them. Lisa was 19 and off at college (she wanted to come, but could not get out of classes. "Maybe next time," she said.) And then there was Jim. Jim was 21 and a legal adult now, and he was doing everything he could to enjoy his new found freedom. He knew his parents were coming to Perú, but to be honest, he didn't really like the idea. He liked having them around in case he needed them. And he needed them a lot. He'd wrecked his car twice in the past two years and had to call them to come pick him up from the side of the road somewhere. Six months before he lost his job because he simply didn't want to show up for work. He whined to his parents about the unfairness of it all, but they told him it was his own fault and that "if he wanted to be treated like an adult, he'd better start acting like one." Two weeks later they had to bail him out of jail for driving under the influence of alcohol. He made a lame excuse and promised not to do it again. So far he hadn't, but about a month before the team was to board the plane for Lima, Jim was given a warning by a police officer for unruly behavior at a local night club. The officer had brought him home to the custody of his parents (not the normal thing for an officer to do since Jim was a legal adult already).

The next morning, while Jim held his pounding, hung over head, Rob and Linda told him, "We love you, Jim, and so we've got to do this: The next time you get in trouble with the law, wreck your car, or get thrown in jail... you are on your own. We aren't going to go bail you out. You've got to learn from your mistakes."

Jim seemed to hear this, and since that time he'd been clean. He went to work on time. He didn't come home drunk or high. He was doing much better. That is, he was doing better until the night before Rob and Linda were going to leave. At 11:35 that night, the phone rang. Linda's heart sank, and Rob felt sick to his stomach. "Oh, no," they both said together.

Rob picked up the phone. "Hello," he said. "Yeah... no... no... We told you, Rob... Yes, we do love you... I know you don't understand, but... Yeah, it's because we love you that we aren't going to bail you out. You're on your own... Our plane leaves at 8.35... Yes, we are still going... We will talk when we get

back in two weeks... You'll be okay... And, Jim?... Remember, we love you and we are praying for you..."

That was the last time they talked to Jim until they got back. It wasn't easy for them. They didn't want to leave their oldest son in jail, but they had prayed about what to do with their son and believed with all their hearts (broken as they were) that they were doing the right thing.

God wanted Jim and Linda and Bryan in Peru. Some things happened on the trip that only they were able to handle. Lives were changed. They could see it happening in front of them. They could only pray that Jim's life was changing, too. God had a plan for all of them. When the enemy saw he could not turn them away from God's plan, he attacked someone very close to their hearts.

 IF YOU WERE IN THE POSITION OF JIM, LINDA, OR BRYAN, WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE? DO YOU THINK YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN SPIRITUALLY AND EMOTIONALLY PREPARED TO LEAVE JIM IN JAIL? IN THE MARGIN, WRITE A FEW OF YOUR FEELINGS AND THOUGHTS. 

In the first part of the verses we are looking at today, Paul writes, "*And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.*" We are, he says, to pray on *all* occasions. Not just when we feel like it. Not just when the pastor tells us to bow our heads and close our eyes. Not just before we eat a meal. We need to be praying all the time, no matter what is happening around us. Jim, Linda and Bryan were happy they'd been talking to Jesus.

Paul continues his thought by saying we are to take to the Lord *all kinds of prayers and requests*. This means that we don't need to be concerned about boring God or about our fears, concerns, joys or whatever are "too small a thing." It's perhaps a bit ironic, but God is too big to have anything too small to worry about. You are going to Perú to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ. Yes, someone else could do it, but for whatever reason, God chose you.

 AS YOU PREPARE TO COME TO PERÚ, WHAT ARE SOME OF THE "SMALL THINGS" THAT YOU NEED TO BE TALKING TO GOD ABOUT? WHAT IS HEAVY ON YOUR HEART? IS THERE ANYTHING WORRYING YOU? ARE YOU PRAYING FOR YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS WHO ARE STAYING "BACK HOME"? 

It might sound canned or that we are blowing things out of proportion, but this is something that every missionary needs to take seriously. If you are working with God to expand the borders of the Kingdom of God, you need to be ready for some push back from the enemy of God. Missionaries on short term trips have had loved ones die, fall and break bones, or be in car accidents right before they left. Some have lost jobs or have had their homes catch fire. Sometimes the attacks are more subtle (but no less painful) as friends tell missionaries they are crazy or not really doing what God wants them to do. Family members have opposed the idea of leaving the comforts of the United States. Being a missionary is not about taking a vacation to an exotic location. It is about being used by God to do God's work. Being a missionary is something that we need to take seriously. It is hard work, but worth the effort.



AS YOU PREPARE FOR THIS TRIP, GET COVERED BY PRAYER. AND DON'T BE THE ONLY ONE PRAYING. GET OTHERS TO BE PRAYING FOR YOU. PAUL FINISHED HIS THOUGHTS BY SAYING, "PRAY ALSO FOR ME..." IN THE SPACE



BELLOW, LIST FIVE PEOPLE YOU WILL ASK TO PRAY FOR YOU EVERY DAY FOR THE ENTIRE TIME YOU ARE GETTING READY TO COME TO PERU, THE TIME YOU ARE HERE, AND FOR AT LEAST TWO WEEKS AFTER YOU GET BACK.

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.



IT IS NOT ENOUGH JUST TO ASK THEM TO PRAY FOR YOU. YOU ALSO NEED TO BE IN CONTACT WITH THEM ABOUT HOW TO BE PRAYING FOR YOU. HOW WILL YOU LET THEM KNOW WHAT YOUR NEEDS ARE?



OKAY, LAST THING: PRAY FOR US, TOO. WE ARE ON THE FIELD RIGHT NOW AND GETTING READY FOR YOU TO JOIN US. WE NEED YOUR PRAYERS BECAUSE IT IS NOT EASY (IT'S A GREAT LIFE, BUT NOT ALWAYS EASY).



PLEASE REMEMBER TO BE IN PRAYER FOR US.

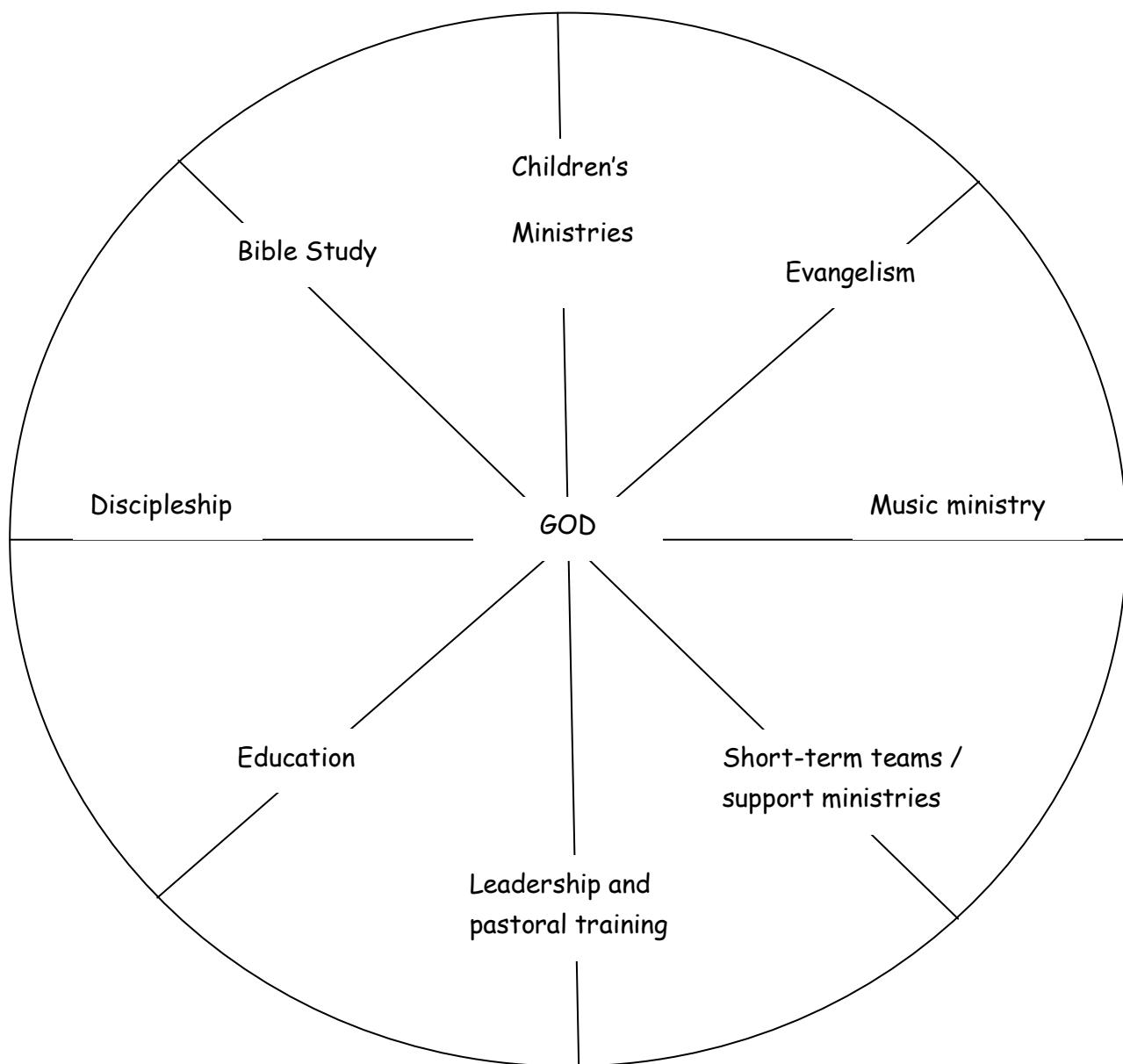


A few facts about: History and Geography

- ☛ The Plaza de Acho is the second oldest bull ring made in the world. It was built in the days of viceroy Amat in 1766.
- ☛ The National University of San Marcos is the oldest in the Americas and was founded on the 12th of May of 1551.
- ☛ The oldest newspaper in South America is *El Peruano*, founded by Simon Bolivar in Lima in 1825
- ☛ One of the highest train passes in the world is in Ticlio at 4818 meters above sea level (15793 feet). This passenger train departs from Lima once a week.
- ☛ The deepest canyons in the world are Cotahuasi with 3600 meters (11,810 ft) and Colca with 3400 meters (11,150 ft). Both are in Arequipa, the second most important city in Peru. The Colorado Grand Canyon is only 1600 meters in depth (1 mile).
- ☛ The highest dune in the world is Cerro Blanco, 1176 m (3858 ft) from the base, near Nazca, in the coastal Peru. Height from sea level is 2080 m (6791 ft)
- ☛ The Andes mountains in Perú have :
 - ☛ 50 peaks over 6000 meters (19,685 ft)
 - ☛ 1769 Glaciers
 - ☛ 12,000 lakes and lagoons of different lengths and depths

TRAINING GUIDE SESSION TRES

This week we want to look at how all of us fit together: you, us, them? Actually those are the wrong words to use when talking about being a part of the team. We are all together in this.



Thought questions for you and your team:

How is your team going to “fit” into this wheel of ministry? In other words, how will you work in conjunction with another hub of the ministry?

How can *you* help support and strengthen relationships and bring others closer to God?

How can *you* help to serve *another ministry effort* in the hub with the gifts and talents that you are bringing to Peru?

How will each of these ministries interconnect during your time here in Perú? How can each piece of the hub work together to bring people *closer in relationship and closer to God*?



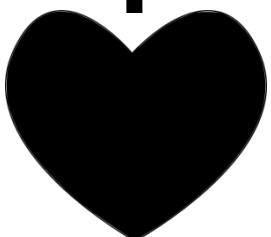
week three

We are the body

We are the body of Christ. As such we are working together to help others to enter and to enjoy living in the Kingdom of God. We could say, we are a team. A more Biblical image, however, is that we are a family. Like a family, though, there are going to be times of disagreement or misunderstanding. Are we willing to act like a family and do all we can to work through our tough times?

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER THIS WEEK

1. Do you like Peruvians?
2. Do you like North Americans?
3. If there is something you don't like or don't understand about the Peruvian people and culture, what are you going to do?





DÍA UNO:

DO YOU LIKE PERUVIANS?

The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

-- 1 Corinthians 12.12-13 (NIV)

Prejudice is nothing new in our world. I don't know for sure, but I wonder if even Adam and Eve had a bit of it in themselves after they were kicked out of the garden. I doubt I have to say it, (but just in case I do, I will) but prejudice hurts people just because of who they are or what they look like or what they believe. It isn't always easy to spot up front, but as the old saying goes, hindsight is 20/20. It is easy to see the prejudice after something has happened. Listen for a moment to what a few people have said about this festering sore on the face of the history of human kind (how's that for a gruesome image?):

An ancient Hebrew proverb reminds us that "Opinions founded on prejudice are always sustained with the greatest violence."

The French Enlightenment writer Voltaire wrote, "Prejudices are what fools use for reason" (18th century)

Laura Junot, Duchess of Abrantes, once said, "Prejudice squints when it looks and lies when it talks" (late 18th century and early 19th century).

North American philosopher William James has said, “A great many people think they are thinking when they are merely rearranging their prejudices” (late 19th century).

Finally, 20th century actor Clint Eastwood has been quoted as saying, “I’m interested in the fact that the less secure a man is, the more likely he is to have extreme prejudice.”

DO ANY OF THESE QUOTES STAND OUT TO YOU? WHICH ONE, IF ANY, DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE BEST? WHICH ONE MAKES YOU CRINGE INWARDLY WHEN YOU READ IT?

Everyone has a prejudice. That might be hard to read for those of us who profess Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, but it is true. I’m not saying we’re the kind of people to go out and beat up the people we don’t like. We’re not going to burn crosses in the front yards of our enemies. That’s an extreme type of prejudice. Perhaps that is the safest kind because it is obvious to those who see it. The problem comes in when our prejudice becomes too hidden... too much under the table. I knew a good Christian woman once who would tell you she didn’t have a prejudiced bone in her body. I thought she was right about that until we were talking about a family that would be coming to church. “They’re *black*, you know,” she said, whispering the word *black* under her breathe as if it were a bad word.

RECENTLY, I CAME ACROSS A LIST OF SIX DIFFERENT TYPES OF PREJUDICE.
LOOK AT THE LIST AND SEE IF YOUR OWN THOUGHTS FALL INTO THESE CATEGORIES.

Racism: People who are racist judge a person by the color of their skin (“red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in his sight...”), their race (“Everyone with slanted eyes has got to be Chinese”), their religion (“All those Muslims are terrorists”), their denomination (“We must be good Methodists, ‘cause we have food at our meetings”), their culture (“I can’t stand being around Greeks, because they always smell like garlic”), their language (“If they want to use our church, they need to learn to speak English”), their dialect (“Y’all come back now, y’hear”), the way they dress (“Those towel heads in Iraq got what was coming to ‘em”).

Classism: People who are classist are those who judge others by the amount of money they make ("What snobs. They live in a huge house with only the two of them"), how much education they have or don't have ("He'll never amount to anything, because he only has a third grade education"), or what interests they have ("What a stupid jock!").

Sexism: Sexists are those people who judge others by either what gender they are ("Men are such pigs" or "Quit being such a tomboy") or sexual orientation ("AIDS is God's punishment for all the gay people in the world"). It is important to note here that the question is not whether you agree with a lifestyle or not. The question has to do with the *person* involved.

Lookism: Lookists (is that really a word) are those who judge someone by the way they look. Going to the beach to ogle men with bulging muscles or women in bikinis is a form of lookism. So, for that matter, is beauty contests. Judging someone as intelligent simply because they wear glasses is also a form of prejudice.

Ableism: Sometimes we judge people by what they can or cannot do. Even if we do it with a good heart, feeling sorry for someone who is in a wheelchair or who is blind is a form of prejudice. Being jealous of someone who can do brain surgery is also a form of prejudice.

Ageism: Ageists are people who pass judgment on people just because of the number of years they have been on this earth. This is common in advertising in Perú, when stores put a sign in the window asking for a sales person who is "a woman between the ages of 18 and 24."



OKAY, IT IS TIME TO LOOK AT YOUR LIST AGAIN. DO YOU HAVE ANY PREJUDICES YOU DIDN'T THINK ABOUT (I KNOW I CAME UP WITH A FEW AS I TYPED THIS).



So why all this heavy stuff about prejudice? If we are missionaries, we need to seriously think about the way we look at and think about people. There is no room on the mission field for prejudice. There is no room for people to harbor any ill will against anyone they have never met before. Let me be honest, there will be things in Perú that you don't like and that you don't understand. So what? You are going to be in a different country so you need to expect it. Don't judge everyone by your own ignorance of how and why things are done.

I admit it. That last paragraph may be a bit strong. At the same time, though, it needs to be said. There have been missionaries who come to a country with a good, loving heart, but they end up having a miserable time because they didn't address the prejudices in their hearts and souls before they came.

Martin Luther King, Jr., civil rights leader of the 1950s and 1960s, stood up against prejudice of all kinds (and yet, even he, I am sure, had some prejudice as well. None of us is perfect.) He wrote in his 1963 book, *Strength to Love*, "There is little hope for us until we become tough minded enough to break loose from the shackles of prejudice, half-truths, and downright ignorance. The shape of the world today does not permit us the luxury of soft mindedness. A nation or civilization that continues to produce soft minded men purchases its own spiritual death on the installment plan."

The same applies to missionaries serving God as the hands and feet of Jesus Christ. When the apostle Paul wrote to the church in Corinth, he was writing to a church divided by conflict and a variety of –isms. Some were strong followers of Apollos and others of Paul and others of someone else. What they forgot was the fact that they really should have been simply followers of Jesus Christ. Into this fray, he wrote: "*The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.*"

Although Paul's letter was addressed to the church in Corinth, it has a lot of meaning for us today. You are at home getting ready to come to Peru. We are at home in Perú, getting ready for you to come to us. There are also national Peruvians here who are preparing for you to come as well. You are coming with gifts and skills that the people of Perú need. The people of Perú will meet you with gifts and skills that you will need. It's a two way street. In the words of Paul, we are a unit, a body made up of many parts. We are one body baptized by one spirit. How cool is that!

When you get to Perú, and all of us get to see one another face-to-face, we will be one body. A team. A unit. Bound together by the common good. There will not be us and them parts. There will be one body. There will not be North Americans and Peruvians. There will be one body. Paul wrote in his letter

to the Galatians, “There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3.28 NIV). That’s what it will be like when you get to Perú. That is, that will be how it is, if all of us do our part ahead of time to put our childish prejudices behind us.



OVER THIS COMING WEEK, LOOK AT THE BONES IN YOUR BODY AND SEE IF THERE IS ANYTHING ABOUT THE PERUVIANS YOU DON’T LIKE. MAYBE IT’S THE WAY THEY LOOK (THEY ARE, AFTER ALL, GENERALLY SMALL IN STATURE). MAYBE IT’S THE LANGUAGE THEY SPEAK (YOU’RE GOING TO HEAR A LOT OF SPANISH. IF YOU DON’T LIKE HEARING IT IN THE SUPERMARKETS IN THE UNITED STATES, IT JUST MIGHT BOTHER YOU IN JUNGLES, MOUNTAINS AND DESERTS OF PERÚ). MAYBE IT’S THE FOOD (WE HOPE YOU LIKE POTATOES, YUCCA, RICE AND CHICKEN. YOU’RE PROBABLY GOING TO BE EATING A LOT—AND WE MEAN A LOT—OF IT).



We are all one body in Christ. We are not a mission team made up of career missionaries, short term missionaries, North Americans, Peruvians, citizens of a first world country and citizens of a third world country. What we are made up of is simpler than that: we are simply a body made up of followers of Jesus Christ.

DÍA DOS:
THE SOURCE OF OUR GIFTS



Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

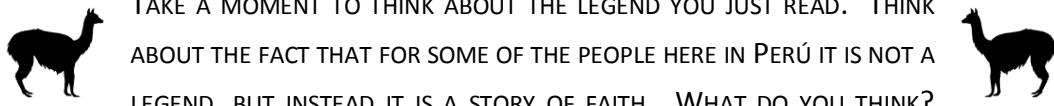
– 1 Corinthians 12.14-20 (NIV)

There is a legend here in Huancayo that says the great creator God of the people of Andes, a god named Con Ticsi Viracocha, first created a race of giant humans and animals. Long story short, those giants and animals could not get along and they continually argued and fought with one another. This made Viracocha angry, and so he changed them into a rocks (giant rocks, of course). After a period of cooling his temper, Viracocha decided to create again. This time, using the giants-turned-rock as models, he made people. Just a few of them this time. A few nobles. A few



pregnant women. A few women with children. And then he said to them, “Go out into the world and populate it. I’m sending each pair of you to a different part of the world. There are some streams and rivers and caves and fountains I’ve set up for you to come out of. Each pair of you is the start of a new people.”

And so the people went. Each to his and her own place. One of those places is just outside of Huancayo next to a 1300 year old temple called Wariwilka. The spring still flows were many of the local people still believe the first Wanka man and woman entered the world. His name was Inapucarancápia (E nah poo cah dah CAH pee uh), and her name was Uruacumbea (oo do ah coom BAY uh). Inside the courtyard of the temple are two doorways, one from which the first woman entered the temple, and the other from which entered the first man. Near each of the doorways is a tall tree, each of which boasts hundreds of years. One is thought to be the first man. The other the first woman. Even today, sacrifices are left in the hollowed trunks in hopes of appeasing the ancient gods.



TAKE A MOMENT TO THINK ABOUT THE LEGEND YOU JUST READ. THINK ABOUT THE FACT THAT FOR SOME OF THE PEOPLE HERE IN PERÚ IT IS NOT A LEGEND, BUT INSTEAD IT IS A STORY OF FAITH. WHAT DO YOU THINK?

WHAT FEELINGS DOES THE STORY CREATE WITHIN YOU? TAKE A MOMENT TO JOT A FEW THOUGHTS IN THE MARGIN.

The creation story we read in the Bible is one of a great creator God. Our God, however, did not make any mistakes (he didn’t have to turn the first creatures into stone to try again) and was much more intimate with us from the beginning. In the first chapter of Genesis we read that God said, “Let us create human beings in our own image.” That phrase shows the intimacy God wants to have with us. When we look in the mirror, we can see a reflection of God looking back at us (tarnished and imperfect, but an image all the same) instead of a reflection of giants-turned-rock. In the second chapter of Genesis we read that God created us with muddy hands and then blew the breath of life into us.

Throughout scripture we can find examples of God being hands-on with us. For example, speaking through the prophet Isaiah, God says, “Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you” (Isaiah 46.4). God

spoke to the prophet Jeremiah, saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations" (Jeremiah 1.5). Jesus even encouraged his closest friends in this when he said, "Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows" (Mathew 10.29-31).

As encouraging as those verses may be, they aren't even taking into account the greatest example of God's intimacy with us. John 3.16 reminds us that God loved the world so much that he sent his one and only son to come and be one of us. Jesus came not to be *like us* but instead to be one of us. That's how close and intimate the creator of the universe wants to be with us. John 1 reminds us that the Word (that's Jesus) became flesh and dwelled among us.

I've always liked the way the Spanish bibles translate those verses in the first chapter of John. In English we call Jesus *the word*, but in Spanish, they choose to use to call him *the verb*. That seems more accurate to me. (Okay, you Greek scholars, I am not talking about accuracy in the translation from the Greek. I know the literal word in the Greek is best translated *word* in English. What I'm referring to here is the idea and practice behind the idea of Jesus the Word.) Jesus is not a static person, idea, or thought. He's not just a thought on a piece of paper. He's more than just black letters on a white page. Jesus is alive and active. Jesus is moving and working in our world today through the power of the Holy Spirit. He is a *Verb* that is making a difference in my life here and now today. He is also a *Verb* (or at least wanting to be) in your life, as well.

IS JESUS ALIVE AND WELL IN YOUR LIFE TODAY? DO YOU SEE HIM WORKING
AND ACTING AND DOING THINGS IN YOUR WORLD? IF SO, HOW? IF NOT,
WHAT CAN YOU DO TO KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR HIM?

So what does all this have to do with our passage from Scripture for today? The words that Paul wrote to the church in Corinth are talking about the body of Christ and feet and hands and doing their different jobs, and how every one of us is important in the grand scheme of things. What does this have to do with God being intimate with us and about God wanting to be intimate with us and about Jesus being a *verb* instead of a *word*? What it has to do with all this, is

focused in on one section of Paul's writing. It is found at the end of the passage when he writes "*But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.*"

God knows what gifts you have and what weaknesses fill your life as well. Not only does God know your gifts and your talents, God knows them for everyone with whom you will be working in Perú. God not only knows those gifts and weaknesses, God gave them to you. Look at the words from the writer to the Hebrews: "God also testified to it [salvation] by signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will" (Hebrews 2.4). I'm not going to be all predestination about this and say that before you were born, God knew you would be coming to Perú for these few days and in order to make a difference in the lives of people, put this-or-that gift inside you. Maybe it happened that way, but I don't know. What I do know, though, is that God knew what would be happening in your life and knew what you needed to do in order to be truly happy. As a means of helping you to reach that happiness and joy, God gave you the abilities that you have.

There are people here in Perú who believe the source of their strength comes from offering a sacrifice in the trunks of ancient trees located in a 1300 year old temple. As missionaries carrying the good news of Jesus Christ, we need to remember that the source of our gifts and abilities is a God, a Word, a Verb that knows us and loves us enough to create us in their own image and blow the breathe of life into our lungs.

We are all different. God knows that.

We each have something to offer. God knows that as well... even more than even we ourselves know.

DÍA TRES:

I'M JUST AS GOOD



Each and every one of us has a gift from God. Each of those gifts are different. We all have a job to do and we are all important. These gifts come from God. Just like grace, we don't deserve it but they are there. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts need no special treatment.

– 1 Corinthians 12.20-24a (NIV)

Maybe you had the same kind of mind that I did when I was a kid. Every once in a while when I really didn't have anything better to do, I would ask myself, "If you had to be one or the other, would you rather be blind or deaf?" I never could decide. If I were blind, for example, I could "see" the people I love by touching their faces, but I would miss out on some spectacular sunsets. On the other hand, if I were deaf, I could see all those things, but all the music I love listening to could only be played in my head.

I hope you don't read that last paragraph as me being insensitive. It is not meant to be. It's just the way my mind worked when I was younger. Whenever I read this passage from 1 Corinthians, my mind jumps to those kinds of thoughts. Every part of my body is important. At least, I think it is. I really don't know what the appendix does, but God put it there for a reason so it must be important. I don't fully understand how a kidney works, but I'm glad I have

two. My hands and my feet let me do things and get me places. My throat allows me to eat food that gets nutrients to the rest of my body. I'm glad I have all these different parts of my body. If I didn't, I'd be in a lot of trouble.

Let me let you in on another secret, too: there are parts of my body that I don't want anyone to see. My guess is you are the same way. I wear clothes not only to be keep warm, but also to be modest.



LET'S PAUSE FOR A MOMENT AND EXPLORE THIS IDEA OF MODESTY FOR A MOMENT. FOR YOU, WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE MODEST?



The concept of modesty is very much linked to the culture and the climate. For example, people living high in the mountains tend to wear a lot more clothes (thus covering a lot more of the body) than people who live in the jungles (thus covering less). Each group of people has a different idea of what is appropriate in covering the body.

There is a story about a missionary who went to work in the Amazon jungle. The climate there is very hot and humid, and so the people wear less clothing, if they wear anything at all, except for a few beads and other types of jewelry. The missionary saw the way the people dress, and according to the definitions of his own culture, decided God wanted him to do something about the immodesty of the people there. He sent a prayer letter home, asking people to send t-shirts that he could give to the natives (not the most culturally sensitive term to use when referring to a group of people) so they could cover up the parts of the body he didn't want to see. The response from home was immediate (as *immediate* as it could be when a person is in the jungle), and a package of shirts arrived. The next time the missionary met with the people of the village, he joyfully passed out the t-shirts, explaining to the people how they were to be worn. They put on their new clothes, went about their business of the day, and the missionary returned to his camp to write a glowing letter of thanks to the people back home who had helped him teach "these people about the modesty of a good Christian." The next day, the missionary returned to the village. As he approached, he could see through the thick undergrowth, the reds, blues and greens of the shirts he'd shared the day before. As he entered the clearing, though, his heart sank. Yes, the people were wearing the shirts, but the previous evening, they had all cut large holes in the shirt which exposed the parts of the

body the missionary did not want to see. They did not do it to spite the man of God. They simply had a different understanding of what modesty is and what parts of the body should be covered.

Although we might not be traveling to the jungle together, there are some modesty issues that you may encounter. We need to be aware that it is very common for women to breast feed their babies in public without any blanket or towel to cover the breasts. It is also common to see men unzipping their pants to pee on a nearby wall, street sign, tree or whatever. They don't seem to mind at all that the sidewalk is busy or there are cars zipping by. We might be tempted to think it is wrong what they are doing, but we have to be careful. We need to remember that we do things that seem immodest and indecent as well. For example, picking one's teeth in public is rude and immodest. In the Peruvian culture it is a thing to be done in private.



THINK ABOUT IT: HOW DO YOU THINK YOU WILL REACT WHEN YOU SEE SOME THINGS IN THE PERUVIAN CULTURE THAT YOU THINK ARE RUDE OR IMMODEST? HOW WILL YOUR REACTION AFFECT THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU?



Let's get back to the passage from Paul's letter to Corinth. In it, he talks about "those parts of the body that seem to be weaker" and those parts that are "less honorable." Let's be honest with ourselves, there are some gifts that just don't seem to be worth the time or effort to bring into the light.

Okay, so I can knit a sweater. Big deal. What difference is that going to make in the Kingdom of God.

Okay, so I'm good at writing letters. Who cares? It takes a long time to write to one person. What difference is that going to make?

Okay, so I'm a good encourager. So I can make you feel better. Big whoop! I want to get out there and *do* something for God.

There are gifts that are behind the scenes that others don't see, but the truth is, if they weren't there those things happening on the big stage wouldn't happen. Think of a play at the theater. Yeah, the actors get all the credit for a great show, but if the sound effects person isn't on top of it all or if the person

opening the curtain falls asleep, or if the lighting is off, the actors cannot do their job well. Every part is important for the success of the program.

By the same token, what you are bringing with you in terms of the gifts God has given you is just as important as what anybody else brings. You were created by God to be the person you are and to share the gifts you have. Because you were created by God, you have value.

It surprises me when I go to art museums sometimes. There alongside the great paintings of the great masters is a framed sketch from the artist's sketchbook. It hardly looks like anything, but if I look hard I can see what the artist was trying to capture. In the same way, even if we feel like a reject from the creators sketchbook, we have value and worth.

Howard Finster is a great American folk artist with artwork in many of the great museums of the world. For a short time, we lived near the town where he lived and worked, and so we took a trip with the family to see the place. It is located in a residential neighborhood (of course, his home would be, wouldn't it?) just a few houses away from an open field that marked the edge of a state prison. His house had some neat architectural features to it, but what really caught our attention was the artsy stuff he'd painted on the walls and the sculptures he'd recycled out of garbage. If I'd done the same thing where I lived, I think the neighbors would have called the police to talk to me about the mess in my yard. They'd think I was a crazy fool. Because of who Howard Finister was, though, the house, the yard, and the art had value. Because of who God is, I have value as well.

So what if everyone else gets the honor and glory. What is most important is that I realize I am important to God.



THINK ABOUT YOUR GIFTS AND GRACES. ARE THEY ONES THAT GET ALL THE GLORY OR ARE THEY MORE OF THE BEHIND-THE-SCENES- TYPE OF THING?



DO YOU SEE THAT THEY ARE IMPORTANT IN THE EYES OF GOD? ARE THEY VALUABLE TO YOU?

DÍA CUATRO:

EVERY PART DOING ITS PART



But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

– 1 Corinthians 12.24b-26

For nearly thirty years, the Peruvian national soccer team (the Selection) has failed to qualify for the world cup tournament. That is why in 2007 Julio Cesar Uribe (HOO lee oh - Say SAR - oo REE bay) was hired to coach the team. He was a standout player back in his own youth during the 1980s and the Peruvian fans had great hope he would lead them to a new level of achievement. As he prepared to take over control of the team, he looked at the roster of players, considering each one very carefully. “I will call up only the best players,” he said of his actions. “All players are very important for Perú. We have a good team but we have to make it a lot better. It will be a different selection, a selection that will play every game with heart.”

We expect that when it comes to a sports team (or a concert orchestra or a staff at school or a... well, you fill in the blank). We expect every person on the team to do their part. If they are playing soccer, and the goalie decides it’s time to go get a cup of coffee when the opposing team is chasing the ball in his direction, we as fans are not very happy with him. He is a part of the team and has a job to do. If the third base player decides she needs to talk to her friend on her cell phone when the score is tied bottom of the ninth with the bases loaded, we are not going to be shouting our praises in her direction. She is a part

of the team and needs to be doing her job. If during the introduction, the mezzo-soprano in the opera decides she does not look good in a Viking helmet and goes in search of a French beret, the audience will not be throwing roses when the orchestra pauses for her solo, and she is not there. She, too, has a part to perform and the rest of us are depending on her. Of course, these are exaggerations of some stereotypes, but I hope you get the picture. We are all important. We all have a job to do. We all have to do it.



IF YOU KNOW, LIST IN THE MARGIN WHAT YOU WILL BE DOING IN PERÚ ON THE MISSION TEAM. WHAT IS YOUR ROLE? WHAT IS THE REST OF THE TEAM EXPECTING YOU TO DO...AND TO DO WELL?



This is what Paul was talking about in the last part of today's verse. He wrote: "*If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.*" You are an important part of the team coming to Perú. You might not be the leader. You might not be the most talented. You might not even understand why you are going because you don't know what you have to offer the people of Perú. Do not let that get you down, though. There is a reason you are on this team (we'll talk about that in a moment).

There is a very good chance that something good is going to happen on this trip just because of your being here. That is, something good is going to happen, if you are doing what you are supposed to be doing here. If you decide it is too hot to pound nails into the school building your team is constructing, and after lunch decide to go swimming in the parasite infected water instead of returning to the building site, you are not the only one who will suffer when you accidentally swallow some water (let me tell you from experience, intestinal parasites are not fun), you are not the only one who will suffer on the trip. Your teammates will have to make up for your slacking off. They will have to pound in twice as many nails and hold twice as many boards. Like Paul says, "if one part suffers, every part suffers with it." You really don't want to do that to your team.

On the other hand, if each of us decides to do our part, things will get done. Maybe not exactly the way we plan on it happening, but at least the way God wants it to be done. At the end of the week, the things you have accomplished for God will be honored. The manner in which this will happen varies. Maybe it will be a firm handshake and a smile. Maybe it will be the good

feeling you get inside for a job well done. Maybe it will be a gift to take home from the people you have served, or maybe even a dinner in your honor. Everyone who does his or her part, though, will be honored in one way or another. Just trust in God.

It is important to stop right here to mention this trip is not a time for jealousy. One thing about human nature is that some people will naturally stand out over others. For many of the Peruvian people here, we gringos all look alike. It is hard for them to tell us apart. Honestly, there will probably be times here in Peru that you will have a hard time telling the Peruvians apart, as well. There are some that we learn to recognize right away, though, because of the way they act or talk or carry themselves (hopefully they stand out for positive reasons, but the opposite is true, too). By the end of our time together here, some of the members of the team will be adored and fawned over. Others will be wall flowers. It might be tempting to feel envious of their popularity. It might be hard to fight back the anger you feel welling up inside you against your teammate because he or she is “so perfect” and the Peruvian people who have been blinded by the “glory” of your teammate (to get the full effect, read the words in quotation marks with sarcasm).

If you are the wall flower, you might feel like the brother of the prodigal son that Jesus talked about (Luke 15.11-32). His brother goes off and wastes everything his father ever gave, and yet when he comes back, he gets a big party. Dad never gave you a party. You were faithful for years and did your part. Little brother was selfish and gets even more back. How fair is that? You worked hard on this trip and what do you get? A hand shake and a smile. Big deal. Mr. Glorious over there got a cool blanket with alpacas on it to take home. These feelings are real. It is important not to deny them, but do not let them control you and make the trip miserable. Remember, the trip is not about Mr. Glorious or even about you. It’s about serving God.

Mr. and Mrs. Glorious, you also have to remember that. It feels good to be the honored one. It feels good to be praised and thanked. But remember, you didn’t do the work on your own. You are not a one-person show. You are a part of a team...the body of Christ. Remember the reason you are here. Be gracious, but also remember the wall flowers who did their part, so that you could do yours.



PAUL WROTE, "IF ONE PART IS HONORED, EVERY PART REJOICES WITH IT."



THINK ABOUT IT: DO YOU TEND TO BE MR. OR MS. WALLFLOWER OR MR.

OR MS. GLORIOUS? HOW DOES THAT MAKE YOU FEEL? HOW CAN YOU PREPARE YOURSELF TO REMEMBER THIS TRIP IS NOT ABOUT ANY ONE PERSON, BUT INSTEAD, IT IS ABOUT GOD AND WHAT GOD IS DOING?

God is already doing some great things, already working under the surface in ways we cannot even imagine. God is guiding people to be in the right places at the right time so that you are fully ready to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ. As we said earlier, there is a reason for you to be on this team. Do you know how we can say that? Because there is nobody on your team that put this team together. Yes, you have a team leader. Yes, you have someone in charge of getting the paperwork in and needed information to us on time. Yes, you have people praying for you (you did ask them, didn't you?). Yes, you even had someone ask you if you wanted to come and be a part of this grand adventure. All that is true, but still, nobody on the team put you together. God did.

God did with you what Coach Uribe did with the Peruvian Selection soccer team. Coach Uribe looked at the gifts and talents of each of the players on the roster and then decided who was going to play for him. If we believe this trip is what God wants us to be doing, God did the same thing. God looked at each and every one of us, at our gifts, our talents, our abilities, our personalities, and said, "Hmm, yeah, I think they will be good together."

Maybe you look at the people on your team and think to yourself, "Wow, I would never have thought I would be doing anything with so-and-so. We are so different." The opposite might be true, too, as you wonder why your best friend in the world is staying at home. A lot of times, teams are made up of people who are so different they would never hang out if they weren't about to travel to another country. That's what is really cool about the Kingdom of God. Everyone has an invitation to come in, and everyone has a chance to serve.

Ater talking with a number of pastors, that is one of the joys of serving a church. We get to see that happen a lot. Because of the nature of our ministry, we hear stories from people that we cannot share with others, but if they only

knew... It is a great thing to look out at the body of Christ and see a convicted felon sitting next to a police officer sitting next to a woman who still hurts because of the abortion she had when she was 16 years old sitting next to a grandmother who raised four children to adulthood sitting next to a peace activist sitting next to the recipient of a purple heart for his service in the Persian Gulf. They don't know all of each others stories, but they love one another and they serve together because the love of Jesus Christ is more important than their own ideas and thoughts and prejudices.

Our team is the same way. There are a lot of things we don't know about each other, but God knows everything. There might even be some things we know about others on the team that make us uncomfortable. God knows that as well. However, that didn't stop God from deciding to put you on the same team.



TAKE A MOMENT TO LIST EVERY PERSON ON YOUR TEAM (REMEMBER TO INCLUDE THE NAMES OF THE PEOPLE ON THE TEAM WHO ARE ALREADY IN PERU, BOTH MISSIONARIES AND PERUVIAN NATIONALS). NOW LIST BESIDE



THEIR NAMES WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT THEM AND WHAT THEY HAVE TO OFFER THE TEAM. REFER TO THIS LIST DURING YOUR QUIET TIME WITH GOD. PRAY FOR EACH PERSON ON YOUR TEAM BY NAME (OR IN GENERAL FOR THOSE WHOSE NAME YOU DO NOT KNOW).

DÍA CINCO:

I'M WORTH IT



Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But eagerly desire the greater gifts. And now I will show you the most excellent way.

– 1 Corinthians 12.27-31 (NIV)

As we prepare to work together as a mission team here in Perú with all our variety of gifts and talents and graces, there is one thing that is vitally important for us to remember: we are the body of Christ. We are not just parts of the body. Individually, yes. Together, though, no. We are the body of Christ working together with Jesus at the head.

There is a team leader of the group. There are missionaries with experience coming with you. There are missionaries who have been here for a while and so have a grasp on the culture. There are even Peruvian nationals who will be working side by side with us. We are many parts that come together to make a whole... the body of Christ.

There are leaders in the group. There are administrators. There are perhaps some pastors. Some among us are really good at understanding what is going on around us. There are others of us who can very quickly and easily get a new idea or concept to make sense in our minds. There might be some doctors

or nurses on the team. There will be people who speak different languages. Not a single one of us does all these things, but together we make up the Body of Christ.

As the body of Christ, nothing is impossible. As the body of Christ, walls of injustice and pain can come down. As the body of Christ, the people we meet in Perú will have their lives changed. As the body of Christ, we as a team will have our lives changed. As the body of Christ, the powers of evil will flee. As the body of Christ, we will make a difference for the glory of God.



WE HAVE A LOT TO DO, SO WHO IS IN CHARGE OF THIS WHOLE THING?



WHO ULTIMATELY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THESE THINGS TO HAPPEN?

We might not get to see these things happen, but they will. The change will be either very subtle or very wide open or thrilling. Either way, it will happen, because as the body of Christ, we are not in control. The body can do a lot of things, but without a nerve center, we can do nothing.

In his letter to the church in Ephesus, Paul writes, “Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior” (Ephesians 5.23b). Jesus Christ is the one who is ultimately in charge and responsible for all that happens on this trip.

Yes, we have been given gifts and abilities.

Yes, God has called us together to be a team for this mission to Perú.

Yes, God has included many different types of people on this team.

And, yes, God is not a giant puppeteer pulling our strings so that we do exactly what we are supposed to do. We still have free will and choice to make our own decisions.

But, yes, we need to trust in Jesus Christ enough to believe the success of this mission is not our responsibility. We have our part to play, but God is going to do amazing things in spite of us.

Sometimes mission teams come because the team members always wanted to see Perú. They might not openly admit that is their reason for coming, but once they get here, it becomes obvious very quickly. They don't blend with the local people. They are loud and boisterous. They drink beer (against our policy because Peruvian followers of Christ believe drinking is a sin).

They stay out late. They don't do whatever it takes to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ. The witness they give is not as positive as it could be. As they leave, the long term missionaries here have serious doubts whether they should be invited to return the following year. However, in spite of all this, God does amazing things. In spite of this, a number of people hear the good news of Jesus Christ and accept him as their Lord and Savior. In spite of us, Jesus Christ can work.



ARE YOU HOPING THAT JESUS WILL BE WORKING WITH YOU OR IN SPITE OF
YOU WHILE WE ARE HERE TOGETHER IN PERÚ?



Paul knows how important it is for us to be thinking about and talking about the gifts God has given us, and about the fact that we are the body of Christ working under his leadership. In the passage today, he even puts a priority and an order to the way these gifts are viewed within the body. He does not, however, stay there.

Paul tells us that we are to “eagerly desire” the greater gifts. We are not to simply be satisfied with where we are spiritually or with our gifts. Paul seems to be saying we can always be and do more. If we are the shy type who likes to hang out in the background, there is nothing holding us there. We can be leaders on this team. If we are the people who always take charge, maybe God is going to make us better followers on this trip. Whatever the “greater gift” is for us, we need to be looking for it and pursuing it.

But Paul doesn't just stop there, though. He goes further. Most of our modern translations of the Bible probably don't make this connection very easily. Our modern Bibles are different than the first scrolls on which the word of God was written. One of the big differences was that there were no chapter or verse markings. Another difference is the fact that in Greek, everything was written in capital letters with no punctuation. It flowed together as one (in some opinions) jumbled mess or as one (in other opinions) flowing thought and idea. Very few Bibles today are published with this flowing, continuous idea.

Unfortunately, because most translations put a line space or start a new paragraph or a title between the phrases “but eagerly desire the greater gifts” and “and now I will show you the most excellent way,” this messes up our

reading of First Corinthians. What's worse is that this "most excellent way" is separated from what it is by a new chapter.

What is this "most excellent way"? We've already talked about it the first week of our time together. It is love. Paul has just spent a good deal of time talking about each one of us having tremendous gifts and abilities, and talking about how each of these gifts and abilities needs the gifts and abilities of others in order to fully be used for the Kingdom of God. But then he goes on to remind us that no matter how great we are at anything, if we do anything without love, we are not doing any good.

The most excellent way of using our gifts is to do it out of love. We need to be using our gifts not as a way of building ourselves up, but instead as a way of building up those around us. As we prepare to work together as a team, it is important to know what gifts and abilities each one of us has, but it is vital for us to remember to love one another.

Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 13.4-7 that "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record or wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."

If we do that with one another and with the people we meet along the way, this trip will be a success and Jesus will be at work *with* us instead of *in spite of* us.



IS THERE ANYBODY ON THE TEAM YOU ARE HAVING ISSUES WITH RIGHT NOW?
WHAT IS THE ROOT OF THE ISSUES? WHAT FEELINGS DO THEY CREATE WITHIN
YOU? HOW ARE YOU DEALING WITH IT?

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A few facts about: Peruvian flora and fauna

- ☛ In Perú, one can find 1701 species of birds, more than any other country.
- ☛ Mejia lakes in Arequipa are the habitat of thousands of migratory birds. More than 150 varieties come each year.
- ☛ Perú is rich in wildlife with 34 species of primates, 361 species of mammals, 297 species of reptiles and 251 species of amphibious.
- ☛ Perú has 84 of the 103 ecological zones in the world.
- ☛ Entomologists in Madre de Dios found a Shihuahuaco (asterix) tree with 5000 insect species of which 80% were seen for the first time.
- ☛ The first catalog of Peruvian flora, categorizes 3000 varieties of which 524 are edible, 401 are wood, 334 are toxic for the use of insecticides, 213 are medicinal, 110 are used for colorants, 100 are used for the manufacturing of tools, 90 are ornamental, 36 are used for the production of oils and waxes, and 35 are used for the manufacturing of drinks.
- ☛ In Perú you can find close to 3000 types of orchids.
- ☛ Sunflowers are native to Perú and were domesticated around 1000 B.C. Francisco Pizarro found the Inca subjects venerating the sunflower as an image of their sun god. Gold images of the flower, as well as seeds, were taken back to Europe early in the 16th century.
- ☛ Four out of ten cereals are originally from Perú (quinua, corn, cañihua and kiwicha). The kiwicha is the cereal that the NASA astronauts take on their trips.

TRAINING GUIDE SESSION CUATRO

This week, we are going to take a look at the culture of Peru. Because we only have a short time, it will only be a quick look--a glance--at the diverse nation of Peruvians. You've already learned a lot about what life is like here. Keep those things in the back of your mind as we move forward today...

PART UNO

History in a nutshell

The first people to come from Peru arrived about _____ years ago.

The greatest empire in Peru was that of the _____.

The Spanish came to Peru in the year _____ conquering the Inca.

The _____ leaf is used culturally in Peru, but is also used to produce the illicit drug called _____.

The people who grow the leaves are afraid of retaliation from the police, the government and the terrorist movement called _____.

PART Dos

A History of Mistrust

In your own words, describe why some of the people have a mistrust of outsiders (especially Yanquis).

PART TRES

Food

Culinary experts have said the food of Peru is among the _____ in the world.

Cuy is the Quechua word for what North Americans call _____. It is a common food for the people who live in the mountains of Peru.

What kind of food do you want to try while in Peru?

PART CUATRO

Etiquette

Most Peruvians greet one another with a _____ on the cheek.
How do you feel about kissing people to greet them?

There are three hand gestures we need to be careful of using while in Peru. They are _____, _____, and _____.

Three important phrases in Spanish are _____ (“thank you”),
_____ (“please”) and _____ (“May God bless you”).

We need to be careful not to be too loud when we talk and interact with one another. How do you feel about this?



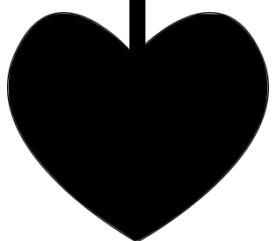
week Four

Cultural Service

This week we will be exploring two areas of the mission life: cultural differences and service. We are called not to be served but to serve. This is exciting work for which God has prepared us. What is more exciting is that we are called to serve people who are different than us...

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER THIS WEEK

1. Am I expecting the people of Perú to meet my needs?
2. Can I accept the fact that just because people are different than me, it does not mean they are wrong?
3. When “their way” is the way we need to do things, can I handle it?



DÍA UNO:

OFFERING WATER



If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.

-- John 7.37-38

Did you know that each year, a lack of safe water causes:

- 1.4 million child deaths from diarrhea?
- 500 000 deaths from malaria?
- 860 000 child deaths from malnutrition?

Unthinkable to those of us who live in the USA! We go to the sink every day and turn the faucet and out comes clean water. But not so in Peru. We go to the faucet (if there is a faucet) and out comes contaminated water. Those of us who serve on the mission field here have special multi-stage filters in our homes to protect ourselves and our families from parasites and contamination. But our Peruvian friends don't have filters. Some drink the water straight from the tap. Some know that boiling it is an option for better health (but still don't take the time to do it). Many don't have a faucet at all... they go to the local stream or canal or river and collect their water in buckets for use in their homes.

Have you ever been without water? Have you ever been truly thirsty? Can you imagine drinking water from a dirty watering hole – a river where cows and sheep wade in the water just feet from where you are trying to drink – a river where women are washing clothes and dishes upstream?

The prophet named Isaiah wrote: “The poor and the needy search for water, but there is none; their tongues are parched with thirst. But I the Lord will answer them; I the God of Israel, will not forsake them. I will make rivers flow on barren heights, and springs within the valleys. I will turn the desert into pools of water, and the parched ground into springs.

Guess what, Folks... You're it! We can't fix all of Peru's water problems. But God knows a better answer – he is sending you to be water for the people of Perú. Living Water. Clean, pure Water.

In John 7:37-38, Jesus said, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.” We generally focus on the first part... if anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. But the second part is SO important for us as missionaries... whoever believes in me will have streams of living water flow from within him. *Whoever believes!* In the past few years, the words in the Bible that have given me the most comfort and the most hope have been the “absolutes”... the words that leave no room for doubt. So for me, when I see words like “whoever believes”, it is an absolute for me. It doesn’t say, “for most of those who believe”, or “for the cute ones”, or “for the ones who show up in church every week”... no, it says “whoever believes”. That’s *me*!

Another absolute in that same statement is “streams of living water *will flow* from within him”. *Will* flow. Not “might flow”, but *will* flow. In other words, if I truly *believe* in Him, he *will flow* from me to others. In other words, within us is a wellspring of Him – “a bubbling surge of life that flows out of our innermost beings, satisfying our needs as well as the needs of others. We weren’t created to be mud puddles for Jesus – clogged, filthy wells. We were meant to be rushing rivers, pouring out His love and mercy to everyone around us. We were meant to be conduits of living water, the sweet and refreshing flow of the Holy Spirit coming in and flowing through and out of our lives.”¹



DO YOU BELIEVE THAT LIVING WATER CAN FLOW FROM YOU? ARE YOU A MUD PUDDLE FOR JESUS, OR ARE YOU A BUBBLING SURGE OF LIFE-GIVING



¹ Joanne Fluke – Having a Mary Spirit

WATER? WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO KEEP YOUR LIVING WATER CLEAN AND AT-THE-READY TO POUR OUT FOR OTHERS?

So there you have it. You will be in Perú for a week or so. You aren't going to clean up all of the waterways. You aren't going to dry up all of the mosquito holes and single-handedly cure every child's diarrhea. You won't be able to fix malnutrition. But you can provide Living Water to the people you meet. "God has chosen us to be vessels for His presence. As we dig our spiritual wells deep and rely on Him to help us keep them clean, as we daily prime the pumps of our spiritual hunger, Christ fills us with Himself. Then He places us strategically as living water drinking fountains in a drought-stricken land. Tall crystal goblets filled with His mercy, brimming over with His love. Lush oases where weary travelers come and taste and see that the Lord is good. You and I have been cleansed and filled in order to be spilled. A crystal-clear refreshing drink of Jesus Christ."²



HOW ARE YOU GOING TO PROVIDE LIVING WATER TO THOSE AROUND YOU? HOW ARE OTHERS GOING TO SEE CHRIST IN YOU? CAN YOU PROVIDE A CRYSTAL-CLEAR REFRESHING DRINK OF JESUS TO THE PERUVIANS? TO YOUR TEAMMATES (THAT INCLUDES NORTH AMERICANS AND PERUVIANS)? TO YOUR CHURCH?

² Joanne Fluke – Having a Mary Spirit



DÍA Dos:

WHO ARE THEY?

"Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!'"

-- Mark 13.35-37 (NIV)

The roads here in Peru are fun to travel. I, of course, write that rather tongue in cheek, because they are often unpaved, long and winding this way and that through a very high altitude. It makes for an interesting day. For example, about 29 kilometers (around 18 miles) outside of the city of Huancayo there is a glacier on a mountaintop called Huaytapallana. Although it really isn't all that far, the journey there takes about an hour and a half because the pavement ends just on the edge of the city, and then it winds and bends upward to the point where we start hiking (at an altitude of around 4000 meters or 13,300 feet).

The first time we climbed the mountain, our son, who at times experiences motion sickness, did great on the way up; but after seven hours of hiking in the cold in altitudes up to 16,800 feet, he didn't do so well on the way back. About a quarter of the way back to Huancayo, he quickly put his hands to his mouth, and asking the driver to stop, he quickly stepped outside to evacuate his lunch from his stomach. Really it wasn't much of a surprise. It happens here. And generally the people are prepared for it. The driver knowingly reached into

the first aid kit in the bus, removed the bottle of alcohol and poured some on a rolled up bit of toilet paper. The purpose wasn't to clean up anything (which was my first thought), but instead he meant for my son to use it to hold the tissue to his nose and breathe in whenever he felt nauseas. The people here know the tricks to cope in the altitude.

Other people here have told us other remedies. Some say holding a clove of garlic in your mouth and occasionally biting into it helps. Others swear by coca leaf tea (yes, that's the same stuff they make cocaine out of). Before we left for home, we ordered a few cups to share. It came with the leaves still floating on the top of the boiled water. The taste was nasty, but with enough sugar almost anything tastes okay. It helped a bit.

People have been living here in the altitude for thousands of years, and they've learned a thing or two about how to adapt to their environment. It's pretty impressive, really.



THINK ABOUT IT FOR A MOMENT: YOU'VE MADE SOME ADJUSTMENTS IN ORDER TO SURVIVE IN THE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH YOU LIVE. MAYBE YOU'VE HAD TO LEARN THE BEST TIME TO NAVIGATE TRAFFIC IN ORDER TO AVOID SITTING STILL ON THE INTERSTATE. MAYBE YOU'VE LEARNED THE SUPERMARKET HAS THE BEST CUTS OF MEAT ON THURSDAY MORNINGS. WHATEVER IT IS, YOU'VE LEARNED HOW TO MAKE THE BEST OF THE LIFE IN THE PLACE YOU LIVE. WHAT ARE SOME OF THOSE ADAPTATIONS YOU'VE MADE?



As citizens of a first world country, it is very tempting to think that we have all the answers. That we have so much to teach. The truth, however, is that we have just as much to learn. We'll be focusing on that more next week. For right now, we just want to think about the simple fact that we are from two different cultures that have learned two different ways to live and adapt to the worlds around us. Because of this, there are differences in the ways we think, we act, or we do things. With this in mind, there is something very important we need to remember: As missionaries, we are called by God to share the Good News of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Beyond this, we are not called to tell others their way of doing things is wrong.

We recently heard a story of a church board in the United States who refused to let a Hispanic congregation use their building for a worship service on

Sunday afternoons. The church was empty at that time of day, the faithful members of the church having already beaten the rival denomination to the best restaurant in town (okay, I know, my bias is showing... I'll stop...maybe). Anyway, the reasons given for not allowing the congregation to meet was that "Hispanics are known for not ever getting anywhere on time" and "If they want to worship God here, they just need to learn English and worship with the rest of us at eleven o'clock." That is, after all the proper time to worship God (Oh, darn, I did it again, didn't I?).

It breaks our hearts to hear stories like that, and we hear them more often than we would like to. It's hard because it appears as though churches like that one are more concerned with protecting their temple made with human hands than of spreading the Kingdom of God. Yes, certain things in the cultures we meet cannot and should not be tolerated. Human trafficking, for example, is wrong; and we as followers of Jesus Christ are obligated by our faith to do all in our power to stop it. On the other hand, showing up for meetings on time is a cultural thing that might be annoying to us who arrive thirty minutes early just to be sure we're on time. Just because it's annoying, though, does not make it wrong.



THINK ABOUT IT: ARE YOU WILLING TO LOOK AT CULTURAL DIFFERENCES
WITHOUT MAKING A JUDGMENT CALL? IF THERE IS SOMETHING IN THE
CULTURE THAT ANNOYS YOU, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?



The text from Mark that we read today has Jesus talking about the end of time and about when the Son of Man will once again appear on the face of the earth. He concludes the chapter by telling us that since we have no idea where or when it will happen, we need to be ready. We have to watch.

As missionaries, we have to do the same thing. Jesus may reappear with the sound of the trumpet while we are together on this trip. He might not. We don't know. We are confident, however, that he will make an appearance. If we are watching, Jesus will show us new and different ways of seeing the Kingdom of God at work. He will show us about our cultural differences and help us to both value our own and the other culture more. Why? Because Jesus will help us to see that it is not just the culture of the Peruvian people, it is also the culture of our brothers and sisters in Christ.



SO WHAT IS YOUR CULTURE LIKE? EVEN THOUGH YOU MAY NOT HAVE BEEN IN A LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRY BEFORE, YOU MIGHT ACTUALLY ALREADY HAVE SOME THINGS IN COMMON WITH THE PERUVIAN CULTURE.



WE'VE PUT TOGETHER A SURVEY TO FIND OUT. IT IS BASED ON GENERALIZATIONS ABOUT THE CULTURES AND IT IS NOT 100% ACCURATE, BUT IT IS DESIGNED TO BE FUN AND TO HELP US TO SEE HOW WE THINK. ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS READ EACH STATEMENT AND CIRCLE THE ONE THAT IS MOST LIKE YOU. DON'T THINK ABOUT IT TOO MUCH, AND DON'T GET CUTESTY AND CIRCLE BOTH. BE BOLD: CHOOSE ONE OR THE OTHER.

- A. 1. It is important to look at the facts and draw your own conclusions.
2. It is important to trust the experts.
- B. 1. Most things in life are clear-cut, black and white.
2. Most thinks in life are uncertain and gray.
- C. 1. What I think determines what I do.
2. How I feel determines what I do.
- D. 1. When a meeting starts at 7 PM, I am there by 6.30.
2. When a meeting starts at 7 PM, I am there by 8. Maybe.
- E. 1. If it's broke, throw it away.
2. If it's broke, fix it... again.
- F. 1. History is studied in school.
2. History is all around us.
- G. 1. It is important to look for the positive side of things.
2. It is okay to be uncertain about things.
- H. 1. "I don't know, so I'll tell them I don't know."
2. "I don't know, so I'll tell them what I think *might* be true."
- I. 1. Time is money.
2. Tomorrow is another day.
- J. 1. Beauty determines talent.
2. Talent is beauty.
- K. 1. I look out for number one.
2. We are in this together.

- L. 1. Standing out in a crowd makes you special.
2. Standing out in a crowd makes you a target.
- M. 1. Competition increases strength.
2. Cooperation increases strength.
- N. 1. Being aggressive is effective.
2. Being passive is respectful.
- O. 1. Logic and reason over what works.
2. What works over logic and reason.
- P. 1. The internet is a great tool to get information.
2. The internet is a window to the world.
- Q. 1. If I can't make it to a meeting, I'll call to let them know.
2. If I can't make it to a meeting, they'll figure it out when I'm not there.
- R. 1. Make a plan and stick to it.
2. Make a plan and stick to it until you have to change it.
- S. 1. Force of will is power.
2. Relationship is power.
- T. 1. Those in authority can be challenged.
2. Those in authority are there for a reason.
- U. 1. Laws are made to protect us.
2. Laws are made, but I ignore them if it's inconvenient.
- V. 1. Turn up the furnace.
2. Put on a sweater.
- W. 1. Reaching the goal is the most important part.
2. The journey is the most important part.
- X. 1. I tend to be an either/or person.
2. I tend to be a both/and person.
- Y. 1. I'm a goal setter.
2. I'll know the goal when I get there.
- Z. 1. Fifteen dollars a day? No thanks, I'll get a real job.
2. Fifteen dollars a day? Wow, when do I start?

TO SCORE THE SURVEY, SIMPLY GIVE YOURSELF ONE POINT FOR EVERY 1 YOU CIRCLED AND TWO POINTS FOR EVERY 2 YOU CIRCLED. ADD THEM ALL TOGETHER TO GET A TOTAL. YOUR TOTAL SHOULD BE BETWEEN 26 AND 52.

26 – EXTREMELY NORTH AMERICAN CULTURALLY... CAN WE SAY “GRINGO”

27-32 – VERY NORTH AMERICAN CULTURALLY

33-38 – SOMEWHAT NORTH AMERICAN CULTURALLY

39-40 – IT DEPENDS ON THE SITUATION

41-46 – SOMEWHAT PERUVIAN CULTURALLY

47-51 – VERY PERUVIAN CULTURALLY

52 – EXTREMELY PERUVIAN... DO YOU LIKE TO EAT CUY (GUINEA PIG), TOO?



DÍA TRES:

OFFERING MY LIFE WITH GOD

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.

-- Acts 2.14-17 (NIV)

The group had been in the church for almost 2 hours now. At least an hour of that had been spent singing. I think it was the same song for the entire hour, but maybe it had changed somewhere along the way and I just missed it. The songs all seem to sound the same to me...

Anyway, the preacher had preached and the translator had translated. It appeared that we were about to leave. Thank Goodness, because my feet were so sore from the constant dancing and singing and my head was throbbing from the music and trying to listen to so much Spanish and the translations. Finally, we are going to get to go to bed. And then it happened.

The preacher said something in Spanish. He was smiling and nodding his head and looking straight at me. "Me", I asked, pointing at myself? I looked behind me. Surely he was looking at the Peruvian behind me.

The preacher then said whatever he said again, in Spanish. This time, he had a little bit of a worried look on his face, and he turned to the translator and

repeated it. There was an exchange as the preacher pointed at me again and motioned for me to come to him. The translator then delivered the most terrifying news I have ever heard. "He wants you to come up and talk to the congregation. He wants you to tell a story about what Jesus has done for you. You need to come give your testimony."

"Me," I asked again, almost begging for him to say I didn't have to?

"Yes, you. It will be offensive if you don't. Please come tell your testimony. I'll help you translate."

I timidly walked forward, wondering what on Earth I was going to say. Suddenly, my mind was a complete blank. *Jesus? Who's Jesus? What has he done for me? What is a testimony? A story about Jesus? I can't even remember my own name right now, much less a story. What am I going to say???* It hadn't ever occurred to me that I might have to speak to anyone, much less an entire congregation. I wasn't at all prepared for this. I wasn't even sure what my testimony was. Was it when I was baptized? Or was it when I was so sick and in the hospital and Paula came from church and prayed for me? Do I even have a testimony worth hearing?

It was the longest walk from the front row to the pulpit that anyone has ever taken.



HAVE YOU EVER BEEN IN A SIMILAR SITUATION? HAVE YOU EVER BEEN
ASKED TO GIVE YOUR TESTIMONY? ARE YOU PREPARED?



Folks, I'm almost guaranteeing you that sometime on your trip someone is going to be asked to give their testimony or tell a story about what Christ has done for them. It is an important part of the culture here, to tell your story and share with others. And people here are always ready to tell their stories! You have to be ready, too. Let's get started...

TESTIMONY WORKSHEET

Life as a non-Christian: Attitude, behavior, etc:

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Actual conversion – How God brought me from darkness to light: (Use Scripture to testify about the saving message of the Gospel)

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Current state: With Christ as Lord and Savior, how is my life different; (What changes occurred; Trusting and obeying my new Master, etc.)

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Example: Paul giving his personal conversion testimony to King Agrippa (Acts 26:4-23):

- *His life before faith in Christ* (vs. 4-11): Paul told how he was raised very religiously, even as a Jewish leader. This lead to an “anti-church” and “anti-Jesus” campaign. Zealously, he went around destroying the church (which is one of the reasons he called himself the “worst of sinners” - I Tim. 1:16).
- *His day of salvation* (vs. 12-18): Paul then proceeded to share what actually happened the day of his conversion. He talked about how he was humbled and confronted by the Messiah – the Christ, who drove him to his knees, where he eventually sought faith and repentance.
- *His current state* (vs.19-23): Paul concluded his testimony by sharing how he was now obedient to his new Master, Jesus Christ, preaching that people should “repent and turn to God and prove their repentance by their deeds.” Ultimately, Paul seized the opportunity to turn his personal testimony into an evangelistic message that was intended for Agrippa himself, as well as many others who were present in the courtroom! (This serves as an example of how and why we

should share our personal testimonies of God's amazing grace in our lives to lost people.)



PREPARING YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY

All team members must be prepared to give their personal testimony
– To testify of God's amazing grace in your life. You will have many opportunities to share with believers and unbelievers throughout the trip.

Do not be embarrassed or ashamed of your testimony. God wants to use you. Share with people what you have seen, heard, experienced, and tasted in the Lord – indeed that He is Good!

Use the following guidelines to help you formulate your thoughts. Write it out, practice it, and be prepared to share it with team members at the team meetings.



HOW TO PREPARE A PERSONAL TESTIMONY

A carefully prepared testimony, empowered by the Holy Spirit, can be of immediate and effective use in nearly every witnessing situation. It should be our desire to present Christ in such a clear, attractive, yet simple way that those who hear will not only want to know Him too, but they will also know "how" to know Him intimately.



SOME CONSIDERATIONS – DOS AND DON'TS

DO

- Ask the Lord to give you wisdom and guidance as you write (James 1:5,6)
- Follow the three-point outline: "My Life With Christ"
 1. Life before knowing Christ
 2. How you came to know Christ
 3. Life after you received Christ
- Emphasize all points, regardless of when you came to faith in Christ (as a child, an adolescent or an adult).
- Begin with an interesting, attention-getting illustration/story, and close with giving thanks and glory to God

- Always reinforce what you are saying with Scripture, for the power is in the Word! (Rom. 1:16)
- Edit carefully, rewrite and memorize it!

DON'T

- Use Christian jargon. Words and phrases that would be unfamiliar to a non-believer (such as “I found Jesus”, or “I was totally depraved”). Though words and phrases like this are precious to us, they are often misunderstood and not comprehended by non-Christians.
- Be too wordy and/or beat around the bush (put into practice the truth of I Pet. 3:15 – what it means to give an answer of the hope you have, yet doing it with gentleness and respect).
- Speak about church denominations in a derogatory way. And guard against speaking harmfully about individuals and/or different people groups.
- Give the impression that the Christian life is “a bed of roses”.



CONCLUDING CONSIDERATIONS

- Share it with loving enthusiasm as you are filled and empowered by the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18).
- Speak loudly and clearly in a natural, relaxed tone of voice (avoid ministerial “twang”). Remember, when Jesus spoke, the crowds “were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips.” (Luke 4:22)
- Avoid mannerisms when you speak, such as rubbing your nose, jingling coins in your pocket, swaying, clearing your throat, and using “uh’s” and “ah’s”.
- Avoid arguing and other high-pressure methods of getting a “decision” for Christ. Remember, men are “born of the Spirit”, not through the persuasiveness or logic of men (note I Cor. 2:4-5).
- Smile often! “Let the joy of the Lord be your strength.” (Neh. 8:10) Pray the Lord would allow you to be radiant with your countenance and words.
- Memorize your testimony and practice it until it becomes natural.

DÍA CUATRO:

QUIET PRAYER



But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

-- Luke 5.16 (NIV)

The following is an excerpt from my journal when I was going through some mission training. In a way, it is me tattling on me. You'll understand a little more after you read it, but I will confess upfront... I'm not the perfect model of what everyone thinks a perfect Christian should look like! Not at all. And I thank Jesus everyday for being perfect in my place, because I know that I won't ever attain it! So, here goes:

Thursday, August 16

Today began with our growth group having a meeting for bible study. A study on Silence and Solitude – not my favorites! I admit, silence and solitude are unsafe and lonely creatures for me. Like some people are afraid of spiders and bugs, the fear of sitting silently or being alone is really overwhelming. I'm willing to have my “quiet time” and write in my journal or do my bible study, but actually not doing anything? You've got to be kidding me! Becky says that she has one day each month that she goes away for the day... no kids, no husband... just goes away to a park or a lake and sits with God. Susan said that she takes a one week retreat once a year – all by herself, no books, no TV, just her time with God. I can't even imagine! The torture! Maybe one day every-so-often (like once a year), but a whole week?! Ridiculous! These people are nut

cases... extreme Christians... I just can't be like that. Surely the Bible doesn't say that I have to do THAT!

My group suggests to me that I try to do it. Try to "fast" from doing and just be with God. Maybe start out with just one day a month, or maybe just a half day (I think they see the terror on my face) and work my way up... I'm secretly thinking that they are crazy and I can't wait to tell my husband about these loony toons!

So, of course, our class whole group session today was about Soul Care. The entire day is about taking care of our souls, about Jesus' practice of going off in solitude to refuel himself with The Father. All of my feelings were surfaced in scripture... loneliness in solitude, etc. Luke 5:16 – But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

After lunch, we were forced (some went very happily, I was petrified) to go outside and find a place to sit alone with God for an hour. No Bible, no journal, no nothing. I actually started to cry before I even got out the door to the parking lot! "I don't know how to do this. Where will I go? And hour?! Are you kidding me!? Yesterday we went through hostage training – wasn't that enough? Now you want me to spend an hour alone? Take me back to hostage training!"

So I had a serious rant at God – "Why are you making me do this? I don't know how to do this. Why are you trying to stress me out?"

What I didn't expect was His response. Almost immediately, he said, "I'm not stressing you out... you are. Just go with it." (I hate it when your mother comes out in God!)

Well, knowing that it is futile to try to argue with God, I went (but I was still very unhappy about it). I found a place in a small stand of pine trees. It felt secure and protected. It reminded me of the area where we used to play "fort" in front of our cabin in the mountains growing up. The ground was carpeted with pine needles and the trees seemed to naturally make a circle around me. This place felt secluded and safe and I hoped that the clock would tick quickly.

So I sat and wondered, "What do I do now?" I tried to pray and ask Him what to do, but He didn't really answer. Then it occurred to me that the

idea was more to listen than to talk, so maybe I shouldn't pray or ask for anything. This ought to be boring...

The first half of my time was awkward and difficult, mostly spent looking around and wondering what to do and what I was supposed to be getting out of this. I guess at some point I started to relax and notice things and just think.

God spoke to me in a pinecone, all prickly and closed up tight – I need to open up to others more in order for my seed to be released and bless others.

And he spoke through a wet twig that I was able to bend in half – maybe I would be more flexible if I were full of water. I'm too dry and brittle and fragile right now... I need to soak in more Water. (Living Water)

Before I knew it, the time was up. What seemed like an eternity earlier was already over. Just an hour...

What began as something I did not want to do (be alone) became something I was protective of! At one point during the hour, another person walked near my spot in the woods. I was very still so they wouldn't see me. I was hoping I wouldn't be found. Isn't that funny? I was protecting the very thing that I hated – silence and solitude!

God really had a lot to teach me today. Maybe I'll try it again sometime... I want to. I just have to get over my fear and remember that today was good...

I told you... I'm not perfect. Far from it. And I warned you that I am not the model missionary / Christian. I'm human. Every day is a struggle for me. I have to constantly reflect on my actions and my thoughts and pray for help and forgiveness. It's the only thing that keeps me from crossing the line and becoming a Pharisee (and most days, I know that I cross the line and have to beg for forgiveness and "get right" again).

Probably one of the things that gets me into more trouble is my own personality. I'm a Type A in a lot of ways. I love to make lists and I have a serious need to accomplish everything on the list. I am a perfectionist at heart – not only do I

expect perfection in myself, but I often demand it of others. I know it isn't possible and I know that it is a vice, but it still surfaces in me *a lot* and I have to fight that part of my personality. (I told you I was going to tattle on myself a lot today.)

So the idea of going off and doing nothing and being in solitude is multifaceted for me. Number 1 – For a Type A person, it seems like a waste of valuable time. How am I supposed to accomplish anything if I'm *doing* nothing?

Number 2 – I don't really want to be alone with myself. It makes me reflect on myself and my actions too much and I begin to see my imperfections too clearly... not good for a perfectionist.

Number 3 – I don't really know how to do it well (sit alone with God). Another strike for the perfectionist. If I'm going to do something, I want to do it well - To perfection. There really isn't a formula for how to be alone with yourself and God. There aren't steps to follow or guidelines or rules. How can I do it well if I don't know the goals and the guidelines and the rules???

Get the picture? This is ROUGH for me!

So, being the science-minded person that I am, I began to look for answers. There HAS to be a formula or a play book or answers to this! Right? Well, be careful what you ask for.

On the "doing" part... that isn't very relational. We are called to relational ministry. Jesus was in relational ministry. He could have just waved his mighty hand and made everyone understand, but he didn't. He related to people. He spent time with them. He sat with them, comforted them, talked with them, taught them... he built relationships. I've heard great people speak on the subject of "doing" verses "being" and it all boils down to the same thing... relationships are more important than accomplishing what's on the list of "to-do" items. Partially, it is hard for North Americans because our culture values "doing" and accomplishments. On the contrary, the Peruvian culture is not at all about "doing". They really couldn't care less if they accomplish anything today. But they highly value relationships! They just want to "be" with other people, to build relationships, to sit together... So for me, I have to really work on calming my urge to do, and really work on just being. Being still, being with others, being focused on people and not my list.

As to perfection... also not very relational. Jesus *is* perfection, but he didn't flaunt that to the disciples. He didn't go crazy when Mary poured perfume all over his feet ("That's going to stain the floor! Someone get a rag! Oh no, don't get that in your hair – it's alcohol-based, it will fry your hair. And by the way, this is very embarrassing for me."). Can you imagine?! In fact, the story of Mary and Martha (different story) is one that just eats at my soul. In my book, Mary should have jumped up off that floor and set the table! I mean, really! The King is in the living room! Get up and get to work, you slug! I understand the lesson in the story (don't send me hate mail!), I'm just saying that it is hard for me – I'm a perfectionist at heart. And I'm a do-er. Mary isn't *doing* enough. And Martha needs help making the dinner party perfect. Trust me – I would have been Martha in this story!!! And oh, how I *wish* I was a Mary! I wish that my nature was to be relational and it was natural and easy for me. But it isn't. I have to work at it.

So how will this play out for you? Just warning you ahead of time... missions is VERY relational. If you don't build relationships and focus on relationships more than on the task or job you have come to perform, you will fail miserably. In fact, if you do see your task or job as being THE most important thing that you are coming to Peru for, then your focus is in the wrong place. I know – it's hard. You want to "get the job done". But what exactly is "the job"? Trust me – Jesus says it's about relationships.

Your to-do list is this...

1. Pray – spend time alone with God.
2. Listen – just sit and listen to what he has to say to you.
3. Be – don't "do" anything, just "be"
4. Love – focus on loving well... love the people around you, love the Peruvians, just love whoever you come into contact with. Be relational.



DO YOU SPEND TIME ALONE WITH GOD? ARE YOU ACTIVELY LISTENING TO WHAT HE HAS TO SPEAK INTO YOUR LIFE TODAY? CAN YOU "BE STILL" IN HIS PRESENCE? CAN YOU CEASE "DOING" AND JUST "BE"? CAN YOU



SIT AT THE FEET OF JESUS WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT THE THINGS ON YOUR TO-DO LIST?

I still have a long way to go on my issues, I admit. And honestly, I still haven't taken a week off to go into solitude (actually, not even a whole day). I highly value my quiet time. And I can sit alone with God and a cup of coffee (I'm positive that God is a coffee drinker, too) and marvel at his creation. And we think together. And sometimes I like what I hear him saying, and sometimes I don't. But I still enjoy his company everyday, and I'm willing to continue to meet him for some silence and solitude... it's not so bad being alone with Him. He's alright.



PERU IS A VERY RELATIONAL CULTURE – THAT IS IN STARK CONTRAST TO OUR NORTH AMERICAN CULTURE. HOW CAN YOU BE MORE RELATIONAL ON THIS MISSION? WHAT THINGS OR ACTIONS DO YOU NEED TO FOCUS ON TO BUILD RELATIONSHIPS? ARE YOU MORE COMFORTABLE “DOING” OR “BEING”?



DÍA CINCO:

THEY THAT WAIT



But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

-- *Isaiah 40.39 (NIV)*

"I had to wait FOREVER in line at Starbuck's this morning! I swear, there had to be five cars in front of me!"

"*This computer takes sooooo long to boot up in the mornings. Something must be wrong. It is taking more than 2 minutes just to turn it on!*"

"Good Heavens! How long could it take to run 10 items through the scanner and pay! I don't have all day! And I think she has more than 10 items in her cart, anyway!"

"*Okay, he's 10 minutes late. How much more time should we wait?! He gets 5 more minutes, and then we're leaving. This is ridiculous!*"

If any of these sounds familiar, I have news for you... you are going to HATE the lifestyle in Peru. Okay – maybe hate is too strong, but you aren't going to be happy. This is NOT a fast culture. Not by a long shot. On the flip-side, you (North Americans) have been raised in a culture that values speed and efficiency. You have been culturally trained to expect almost instantaneous results. North Americans don't want to wait for anything. If a meeting is supposed to start at 9, then by-golly it better begin at 9, right?

True story... On the first day of the school year (for teachers), our school district always has a teacher convocation. All of the employees in the entire

district meet in the district's main auditorium for a series of speeches and motivational moments. The superintendent speaks, the school board members are presented and say a few words, a guest speaker gives a motivational speech, etc. One year, we had a new superintendent. This would be his first big moment with his employees. At exactly 8 o'clock, when the event was to begin, he rose to the podium and took the mic.

"Please close and lock the doors, as instructed," he said to the men in the back of the room.

All heads turned and watched as the three designated men in the back of the auditorium closed the doors and used their keys to lock them. You could have heard a pin drop. Then all heads slowly turned back to the new superintendent.

"It's 8 o'clock," he said. "It's time to begin the school year. I will not tolerate late-comers in my district. You are to set an example. Now, let's begin."

And with that, our school year began. Several employees were locked out that day, and it didn't make many new friends for the superintendent, but I don't think too many people were ever late to a meeting with him that year!



HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE SUPERINTENDENT'S ACTIONS? ARE YOU PUNCTUAL? DO YOU VALUE TIME? HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT TIME MANAGEMENT AND EFFICIENCY?



I have told that story to some of my Peruvian friends, and they are aghast at such an idea. That is so far from their culture that they have absolutely no frame of reference for such a thing. People are late all the time. It is a fact of life here. It's just how it is.

In contrast, let me tell you another story...

Last week, we were invited to a quincenera (a traditional birthday party for a girl when she turns 15 in Latin America). The invitation said that the party would start at 8 p.m. But we knew better, after all, we have lived here for awhile now and we know that nothing starts at the appointed time. So we asked a friend when we should go to the party.

"It's hard to say. If they say it is starting at 8, then you might go at about 9ish. They are probably going to have a party before the party, because the birthday girl won't actually appear until midnight – it's traditional."

"Midnight! Are you serious?!" I gasped for air and my head spun. "My 6 year old is invited to this party. Her bedtime is 8:30. Heck – MY bedtime is 10! When is this party going to be over? When the birthday girl appears, is that the end of the party?"

"Oh no! That is when they cut the cake and do the traditional dancing and serve dinner. The party won't be over until 3 or 4 a.m." she says.

We had already committed to going to the party, but we decided that we will go at 9ish and we will greet the parents and all of the other people from the church who will be there, we'll politely stay for awhile, then we'll make an "early" exit and get Sarah home to bed. So we leave our house at 9 and we are greeted in the street by two members of the band that is supposed to play at the party. They would like to borrow our speakers. (If the party was supposed to start at 8, wouldn't you think that the band would have their speakers there by now?) So we loan them our speakers, then they run off down the street in the opposite direction to borrow cables and microphones from another missionary. Hmm...

Needless to say, the party didn't start at 8. Nor did it start at 9. We sat in an empty banquet hall until 10:30. When we decided to leave, there were 10 people in the hall – 8 of which were band members (still not playing any music because they were still hooking everything up and testing the sound). The family of the birthday girl was nowhere to be found. We saw the pastor from the church (Hallelujah! We CAN prove that we tried to come to the party!) and one lady from the church. We politely told them that Sarah needed to go home to bed because she had been sick for two days and was on medication. All the way home, we kept asking ourselves questions... Why did they put a start time on an invitation that is so obviously NOT the start time? Is it cultural to show up to a party 3 or 4 hours late? How can you be the hired band for an event if you don't even have the equipment ready or available at the appointed time? I wonder what a quincenera is like, since we still haven't actually experienced one...



PUT YOURSELF IN THIS STORY... HOW WOULD YOU FEEL AT THIS MOMENT?

ARE YOU ANGRY / DISAPPOINTED / AGGRAVATED / BEWILDERED / OTHER?



The North American culture trains us in impatience. We live in a culture of express lines, express lanes, fast tracks, and instant action. We are not accustomed to waiting, and our attitudes show it when we are asked to wait or forced to slow down. A recent short-term mission team was ready for dinner at the appointed time (7:00). All were present and accounted for and had formed a line outside the dining area (very North American). At 7:10, some began to look at their watches and grumble. At 7:15, the grumbling turned to questions of "what is the hold up?" and "I'm starving! Are they ever going to let us in?" At 7:20, some were complaining rather heatedly at the career missionaries saying, "What is WRONG with these people? Can't they cook a meal on time?" At 7:40, some North Americans actually went into the kitchen and took it upon themselves to try to hurry things up by taking over and "helping" the ladies in the kitchen.

The point being, when you lose your patience and your North American attitude takes over, you usually lose your ability to be a good witness and example to others in the process. The ladies in the kitchen were embarrassed by what had occurred. They felt that they had lost the respect of the North Americans whom they were trying to serve. And they didn't particularly LIKE a couple of the North Americans when it was all over, due to the complaining and grumbling and impatience (those things translate in body language and tone of voice... you don't have to speak Spanish to have others know when you aren't happy).



SPEND SOME TIME WITH THESE VERSES AND MAKE A DECISION TO LEAVE
YOUR NORTH AMERICAN IDEAS OF TIME MANAGEMENT AND EFFICIENCY
BACK IN NORTH AMERICA. YOU'LL BE MUCH HAPPIER, AND YOU'LL BE



MUCH BETTER AT RELATIONSHIP BUILDING IN PERU IF YOU COME WITH PATIENCE ON YOUR HEART.

2 CORINTHIANS 6:4-6

COLOSSIANS 1:11

PROVERBS 19:11

1 THESSALONIANS 5:14

GALATIANS 5:22

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4

COLOSSIANS 3:12



A few facts about:

This and that in Perú

- ☛ Perú is the biggest producer in Latin America of gold, zinc and lead. It is the second world producer of copper. Antamina is the biggest copper-zinc mine in the world and Camisea is the second biggest gas reserve.
- ☛ You can find 28 different climates in Perú, making it to be one of the 5 biggest biodiversities in the world.
- ☛ On a sad note: The sixth most polluted city in the world is La Oroya, Perú. Because of mining issues, 99% of the people suffer from lead poisoning.
- ☛ In the ocean off the Peruvian coast one can find over 700 species of fish and 400 crustaceans. Twenty out of 67 species of whales in the world are there as well.
- ☛ The Amazon river, which starts in Perú, is the largest river in the world by volume (with a total river flow greater than the next eight largest rivers combined) and one of the two cleanest (Congo river being the other). It flows 150,000 cubic meters per second.
- ☛ The Lord of Sipan tomb, in Chiclayo, is the oldest in the Americas and the most magnificent. It can only be compared with the tomb of Tutankamon in Egypt.
- ☛ Caral, just 114 miles north of Lima, is the oldest discovered city in the Americas (3000 years BC).
- ☛ On the last coffee exposition in Paris, Peruvian coffee was voted the best by both American and European tasters, out of 33 presented.
- ☛ Electricity is 220 volt. That means if you are bringing anything electrical to Peru, be sure it takes 220 volts or you have a converter.

TRAINING GUIDE SESSION CINCO

If God called you to this team, He has paved the way for you. You trust Him, right? "For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

PART UNO

Prayer

What can you learn from the story about the short-term team and meal time customs?

Are you comfortable with praying for others?

Is prayer a “last ditch effort” or a “first line of defense” in your daily life?

PART DOS

Worship and Devotional Time

Fill in the blanks below from the Session 5 section Worship & Devotional Time:

Although you have done much _____ and _____ to get ready to come on this trip, it doesn't stop when you board that plane! We will be having _____ time set aside for _____, _____, and _____. It is important that we stay _____ and _____ to our _____ and to each other during our time of service.

PART TRES

Working with translators

Carefully read the following passage and circle or underline the words or phrases that you SHOULD NOT use because they would be very difficult for your translator to understand and translate.

Hello. My name is Tom Smith and I'm super excited to be here in Peru. Y'all are awesome for inviting us to come here and work with your kids. We just couldn't be happier about the opportunity to save all of these kids and bring them to Jesus. When I was knee-high to a grasshopper, I was saved and gave my heart to Jesus at VBS – right there in the sanctuary of FUMC in front of God and the world. And my mama just about had a heart attack right there in the front row of the church. It was an amazing day and I'm pretty sure that the earth shook and the angels probably couldn't believe their eyes to see me, a heathen sinner, yanked from the jaws of hell and given over to the love of Jesus. So I'm really excited to be here this week and to share my story with all the kids of Peru so they can know God and so they, too, can be scooped up and cradled in the arms of Jesus. It's going to be an amazing week. I just hope we don't sweat to death or burn up in that infernal Andean sun, know what I mean?! So, thanks for inviting us to your little village and we hope we can do some good here and save a lot of souls.

PART CUATRO

Serving versus Being Served

True story... after a group of missionaries had finished their work in an area overseas, the local people had a few words to say. "You gave us everything – you gave us schools and hospitals and libraries and food. You brought medical care and education. But you didn't give us the one thing that we wanted most... we wanted to be friends. You didn't give us friendship."

How does this statement affect you and the way you will work in Peru?

Fill in the blanks below from the Session 5 section Serving vs. Being Served:

It is important for you to treat your Peruvian _____ as exactly that - _____. They want to be your _____. They want to _____ you and they want to serve _____ you. And, although they are technically _____, they are servants of _____. Please do not treat them as your own personal _____, but instead work in _____ with them. They eagerly await your arrival and they are eager to meet their _____.

Please take some time and begin to make a list below of ways that you can honor your Peruvian brothers and sisters and build relationship with them while you are in Peru. What can you do for them? How can you serve them? What would be a meaningful way to show them your friendship and love?



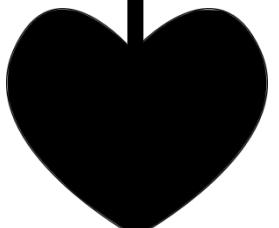
week Five

Looking back to look forward

This is our final week of devotions before you head down here to Perú. As you make your final preparations, take this final week to look back at the journey so far so see where God will lead you.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER THIS WEEK

1. What have I learned over the past few weeks about myself and my faith?
2. What have I learned about my teammates (remember, that is both in North America as well as in South America)?
3. What is it really that God wants me to do and learn in Perú?



DÍA UNO:

SANKOFA



Moses said to the LORD, "You have been telling me, 'Lead these people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. You have said, 'I know you by name and you have found favor with me.' If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people."

The LORD replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?"

And the LORD said to Moses, "I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name."

Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory."

And the LORD said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live."

Then the LORD said, "There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen."

-- Exodus 33.12-23 (NIV)

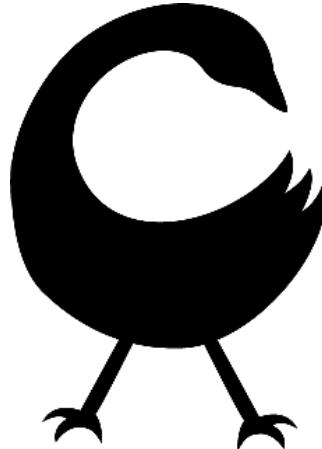
I love this passage from Exodus about Moses and God. There are other parts of the story where Moses actually looks God in the face and lives, but then there's this story. For me this version of the story of an encounter between one man and the divine is much closer to my own experience with God. God is bigger and greater and grander than I can even imagine, and as such, I cannot look God face to face and live. I need to see God the way Moses did here. I need to see God's back as God's passes by.

I don't know about you, but there have been a lot of times in my life when I wondered where God was when all the time God was right there with me. I was just too blind to see. I was just too preoccupied in my own life here and now to see what God was up to. It was only after God had passed by and the situation I was in was over that I was able to open my eyes, smack my forehead with my hand and say, "Ah, so God *was* there!"

Knowing that God was there in that situation helps me to know that God will be with me again in the next situation that comes around the corner. I might be blind again to the divine presence, but that doesn't mean I am walking all alone. God is indeed there.

There is an African phrase (I am still looking for something similar from Latin America) called Sankofa. The symbol for Sankofa is a bird looking back over its shoulder. It comes from the Akan language of Ghana and means literally "go back and take" but symbolically means "We can't move forward until we've looked back and seen where we've been." As a follower of Christ, this symbol has come to mean for me the very idea of seeing the back of God. God has been there in the past for me, and so I can be confident that God will be there in the future as well.

This week will be very short on devotions, but, we hope, long on prayer. We want to you stop listening to us so that you can listen to God directly. All that we will be doing is offering a theme that we ask you to explore with God. Read the theme and the verses. Think about it. Pray about it. Ask God to guide



you in it. Then close your mouth and listen. We've left some space so that you can record any thoughts or feelings you have.



FOR TODAY, PRAY ABOUT AND REFLECT ON WHERE YOU HAVE SEEN GOD AROUND YOU THIS PAST FEW WEEKS. WHAT HAS GOD BEEN TELLING YOU? HOW HAS GOD TOUCHED AND AFFECTED YOUR HEART?



Día Dos:

ANXIETY



"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?

"And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

-- Matthew 6.25-34 (NIV)

Okay, we've looked back now at where God has been showing us the glory of his presence over the past few weeks. Now let's look forward.

This passage of scripture comes from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. In the sermon, he lays out pretty clearly how we as followers of him need to act

and think and prepare ourselves to meet the world. You are preparing to meet a different world in just a few days. You might be a bit worried.



TODAY, PRAY ABOUT AND REFLECT ON THE THEME OF ANXIETY. WHAT ARE YOU ANXIOUS ABOUT? WHAT WORRIES DO YOU HAVE ABOUT COMING TO



**PERU? WHAT WORRIES TO YOU HAVE ABOUT LEAVING? WHAT IS HEAVY ON YOUR HEART AND
WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT IT?**

DÍA TRES:

AM I UP FOR THIS?



"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God^[a]; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going."

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."

Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe in the evidence of the miracles themselves. I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it."

-- John 14.1-14 (NIV)

As you prayed yesterday, one of your anxieties may have been, "Am I really up to this? Do I have what it takes?" If that was you, don't worry. You're not alone. In this passage from John, Jesus' closest friends had some of the same fears.

TODAY, PRAY ABOUT AND REFLECT ON YOUR OWN FEELINGS ABOUT YOUR ABILITIES. ASK GOD SPECIFICALLY IF YOU ARE “UP TO IT.” DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO TAKE THIS TRIP TO SHARE THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST WITH THE PEOPLE OF PERU?



DÍA CUATRO:

THE TEAM



In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."

At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

"Woe to me!" I cried. "I am 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."

Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

Isaiah 6.1-8 (NIV)

Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village. Calling the Twelve to him, he sent them out two by two and gave them authority over evil spirits.

These were his instructions: "Take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. Wear sandals but

not an extra tunic. Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave, as a testimony against them."

They went out and preached that people should repent. They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

-- Mark 6.7-13 (NIV)



YOU HAVE BEEN CALLED BY GOD AND ARE BEING SENT OUT BY JESUS. THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS GONE BEFORE YOU AND WILL BE WITH YOU. TODAY, PRAY ABOUT AND REFLECT ON THE TEAM THAT GOD HAS PUT TOGETHER (AND OF WHICH YOU ARE A PART). WHAT IS YOUR ROLE ON THE TEAM? HOW WILL YOU FULFILL THAT ROLE? WHAT ARE YOU EXCITED ABOUT? WHAT ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT?

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DÍA CINCO:

SAYING GOOD-BYE



After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

-- Acts 1.3-10 (NIV)

It won't be long now and you will be saying good-bye to your family and friends to get on the plane to fly to Perú. The disciples were sad to see Jesus go away from them. In the same way, your family will miss you. It is, after all harder to stay than to go.



TODAY, PRAY ABOUT AND REFLECT ON SAYING GOOD-BYE. IT IS NOT EASY, SOMETIMES. ASK GOD TO GUIDE YOU AS YOU GET YOURSELF READY TO BE APART FOR A TIME.



A very brief suggested reading list

You don't have to read any of these books to be a missionary, but if you are the type of person who loves information and really want to know more, here are a few ideas to get you started.

Celebration of Discipline by Richard Foster. This is an excellent spiritual guide book to help a person go deeper in their faith and love of Jesus Christ.

The Faith that Compels Us by H. T. Maclin. The story of the first years of The Mission Society. A great source for the history and founding theology of our agency.

Medical Missions... Get Ready, Get Set, Go! by Bruce Steffes. This is a great book for those considering coming to Peru on a medical mission so that they may be more prepared psychologically, spiritually and emotionally to be the hands and feet of Christ.

Peace and hope in the Corner of the Dead by John Maust. This is a tough book to read, but if you want to understand some of the history of the Shining Path Terrorist movement that held control of much of Peru during the 1980s and 1990s, it is a good place to start.

Secret of the Andes by Ann Nolan Clark. This Newberry Award winner is the story of an Incan boy who lives in a hidden valley high in the mountains of Peru with old Chuto the llama herder. Unknown to Cusi, he is of royal blood and is the 'chosen one.'

Where do we go from here? by Ralph W. Neighbour, Jr. One of the foci of ministry here in Peru is the development of Cell Groups. This book is a good introduction (and guidebook) to what we believe God is calling us to be and do.