



Message Ministries & Missions Inc.

Mission Update – February 26, 2009

“Sharing God’s Message of Hope in Action” - www.messageministries.net

Dear Friends,

In a few weeks, I'll be returning to Peru with Pastor Guy Weatherly and we'll meet up with missionary Hector Del Carpio and many of our Peruvian friends. We'll visit the churches, the feeding centers, minister to the pastors, encourage the workers, teach seminar classes at the Bible School and we'll leave talking about how much we learned from these humble, God loving, faith filled believers. In this letter, I'd like to share with you a few things I've learned in a deeper way from the Christians I've encountered in third world countries:

1. **I'VE LEARNED THAT LIFE is not made up of the abundance of things we possess.** In reality sometimes we miss out on LIFE because of possessions that have begun to possess us. Third world believers are poor in regards to earthly possessions but often richer than us in the things of God. They've learned to see past the mirage of materialism and instead embrace LIFE each day with Eternity's values in mind.
2. **I'VE LEARNED THAT FAITH doesn't necessarily change our circumstances to be what we want them to be.** FAITH changes how we view our circumstances and it changes us in the midst of them. FAITH gives us the strength to handle and grow in the midst of anything God sends or allows to come our way. I've learned that many of the poorest people in the world display the greatest measure of FAITH, as they must trust God each day for the food they hope to eat. All they have is their FAITH in God to get them through and it does!
3. **I'VE LEARNED THAT HOPE is a gift God gives which allows people with very little to make the most of every day.** Through HOPE they know God as the God of all HOPE and are learning to trust Him in everything, both the bad and the good. They share that HOPE with others in greater ways because they've experienced it first hand in greater ways.
4. **I'VE LEARNED THAT LOVE (AMOR) is the most amazing word in any language with the exception of the name of Jesus.** LOVE is a verb, a choice; a decision made by a heart that has dedicated itself to God more fully and completely. LOVE doesn't wait to be accepted first, encouraged first, honored first or given to first. LOVE loves, and in so doing brings glory to God and brings heart and reality to the message of Jesus Christ. *“Greater LOVE has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” John 15:13*
5. **I'VE LEARNED THAT GOD truly does love the whole world and have felt that precious love that comes because of Jesus death and resurrection.** God doesn't categorize people the way we sometimes do; by financial status, language, race or denomination etc. He just loves people because He fearfully and wonderfully made them to have a relationship with Him. I've learned that we can help Him love the world by reaching out to people with the same love and care that brought us into His Eternal Kingdom and then keeps us there.



Thank you so much for your continued love and support as we seek to fulfill the Great Commission while awaiting His return. **We're still learning so much and are still so far from where we want to be, but please know, we seek to love this world with the passion and heart that communicates the love and grace of our Heavenly Father.** We know we can only do that by God's grace and power! Thank you for trusting us with your support and please pray for us as we return to Peru in March and as we trust the Lord to meet all the needs associated with this ministry.

In His service,