

the Greenwood's

Gary & Sarah - Missionaries to Peru

October 2016

Dear Praying Friends,

It's a rainy Sunday afternoon here in the Andes Mountains, which is a nice relief from the five-month dry season. Usually I'm concentrating on the evening's sermon but tonight Miguel Longombardi will be preaching so I had a nice morning with Sarah planning how to be more effective as a family and as missionaries.

I hope each of you are growing in the Lord and enjoying God's grace abound in your lives. We have much to report.

The church is still not as large as it was a year and a half ago, but we have seen consistent growth during the past four months and are about to be forced to hold split services once again. We have had many baptism services during the past few months and at least 12 adults are preparing for baptism and 20 from our youth group are preparing to be baptized next month.

That leads us to the theme of discipleship. We are currently formally discipling about 45 adults. Our process includes four steps: Basic discipleship, advanced discipleship, personal counseling, and leadership training. The goal is for EVERY church member to complete each of these four steps.

Next week we have a three day disciple training retreat planned for 30 church members who will each be assigned at least 3 disciples. And the goal for each disciple is that they become disciple makers. I know it's not very original, that's why we're so excited about it. Sometimes it's better to think inside the box.

—Matthew 28:18-20 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

School is going great. It's the best year spiritually and academically. Our school won academic trophies and our teachers sincerely have a burden for each student and family. Please pray for a great harvest of families from this ministry.

We are renting two facilities for the ministry and the church is paying over \$2,000.00 in rent each month. We have outgrown the facilities and are now in the process of buying a half-acre to build on. It sounds like a small lot, but it is quite expensive (\$200.00 per meter).

The church has been working, giving and sacrificing to buy this lot. There are chicken roasts, garage sales, and many other events planned for the purchase of this lot in January. Pray for us, it will be a miracle if we are to achieve the deadline.

We desire to be a missionary church. So we have been supporting three missionaries, helping other churches, and preparing to send church planters. Our church sent a group to Cusco to help start a new church in the city, and another group of 12 musicians went to the jungle town of Puerto Maldonado to help advance their music ministry. Christian stayed behind to teach guitar, piano, cello, flute and harmonica. Just joking about the harmonica (that's my favorite instrument).

Thanks so much for helping us purchase our new van (we named it Shultz). It has been used on many ministry trips and outings with the school. It's not brand new and so has needed a few repairs, but everything is working great now. And we are amazed by God's and your goodness to us.

I've decided to take a month off from preaching to dedicate myself to administration. It's been great so far, God has led and many solutions are underway. (Like this prayer letter for example.)

Our family is mostly encouraged and growing. Only Jacob has yet to be saved. The rest of the children have trusted in the gospel and have been baptized. They are doing well in school and I believe have great attitudes and a sincere love for God.

Sarah has been physically weak for two months now. She needs your prayers as she seeks medical help and tries to help others at the same time. I was in the hospital for a week with a minor surgery. And I'm almost 100% recovered.

I'm learning just how small I am and just how big is our God. I'm enjoying my family and grateful for the incredible team we have serving together in this life. That includes you. Thanks for sticking with us all these years.

In Christ and Content,

Gary Greenwood

Sarah, Isaiah, Havilah, Isaac, Josiah, Jacob

I Cor. 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

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