

...seek those things which are above, where Christ is...

On Belay

Your Ministry
with the
Shaw
Family
in Peru

...For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God...

Winter 2004

SIM

By Prayer

To the "rope holders" of the "climbing" team

Growth and the Process of Sanctification

God made us for purpose and meaning, and so we sense a strong need for these things in our lives. But we naturally tend to seek for affirmation and significance in things that can never really provide them. But God has so much more for us if we will just trust Him with our lives.

Do we recognize how much God loves us and wants to make us a blessing to Him and the people who He has created?

That is a question we are challenged with, in our little community of believers, tucked in the small mountain villages here.

We had a very special time with the team from our church at College Park in Indianapolis. They brought with them some very encouraging and biblical teaching on the process of sanctification and "lifestyle discipleship", which came straight out of Scripture, and into our hearts. As we continue to grow in faith, we have been encouraging one another to rest in the security and significance of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ.

Our Christian spiritual growth depends on the power of the Holy Spirit as He transforms us into His image. It is a wonderful experience in which we participate through our personal relationship with Him. While it is wonderful, often it is not an easy process.

We enter into this process by surrendering to Christ and His will for us. The more completely we trust Him with our lives, the greater work He does through us. As we step out in faith, we may use His strength to actively cultivate a willingness to sacrifice and commit to serve. We may even accept the privilege to suffer for the glory and gain of Christ.

In God's eternal kingdom, in His plan for us, we do not need to pursue significance. We are in Christ and so we are already significant in what really matters. Because of this, we can trust in His timing, that our affirmation will come from God. Through resting in Him we can serve with right motives, not trying to enhance our own significance, but patiently waiting for real affirmation from Him.

"If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory." Col 3:1-4



We recently had the opportunity to help dig and install water pipe so that these friends can have healthier living conditions. David and Marcelina are VERY happy to have running water to their house. A very big encouragement for this family, who are the only Christians in their village. We are also helping to introduce simple and more efficient ways to build and use wood stoves, which is an improvement over the traditional "three stone fire" commonly used here.



Alberto and Santiago are two brothers who faithfully work to minister in the remote villages, feeding Jesus' sheep. We recently sent them to attend a course on how to teach others to read and write in Quechua, which has traditionally only been a spoken language.



belay (bi-lā') vb. To make fast a rope, to secure a person at the end of a rope. n. a rock to which a mountaineer anchors himself, or another, by a rope.

Eight came from Elizabeth, Colorado visiting and helping roof a meeting place for the Church at Cotahuasi. Folks from College Park Baptist Church have also been a big help the past two years.



Although it is not yet finished, now there is a safer and more attractive facility for the worshippers. As you can imagine, it is a great encouragement to this growing church in the "capital" of the province.



We have been asked to help construct a meeting place for the small church in this village of "Pampamarca", which means "flat place".



The brothers and sisters of the little pueblo Huillac ("wee-yak") give their "greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" to the brothers and sisters in the U.S. This is one of the new churches.

Praise Him

Praise Him for the growing team of faithful Peruvian brothers who are spiritually growing and continuing in the work here.

Praise Him for the faithfulness and consistency of prayer and financial supporters of the work here.

Praise Him for inspiring the sacrifice and vision in those who come to help in short term teams. (Thank you College Park in Indianapolis & Harvest Bible in Elizabeth, Colorado for your visits in 2003).

Praise Him for the vision, health, and opportunities He gives each of us in the church, to live for His glory according to His will and purpose.

Please Pray

Pray for the completion of the church building at Cotahuasi.

Pray for the financial needs of the various aspects of the work: evangelism, church planting, discipleship, radio, construction.

Pray for the coordination and work of HCJB and others who are helping plan and implement the local radio project.

Pray for our family's physical health and energy as we seek to continue in obedience.

Pray for our family's spiritual growth as we seek to mature in our personal walk with Christ.

Pray for God's love and wisdom as we raise our two precious daughters, Janelle and Cassandra, in often difficult situations.



It's God's gift of faith, expressed in people like you who are making the ministry here successful.

Thank you for your sacrifice for the sake of the gospel. May the Lord bless you abundantly as you continue to serve Him daily in the opportunities he has given you. And in this new year, may you receive all the blessings our loving Lord has for you.

Love,
The Shaws

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We ask that one-time or occasional gifts be designated to our "ministry" account. Thank you.