

The Word of the Lord...

"But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. ... Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. On what principle? On that of observing the law? No, but on that of faith. For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law."
Romans 3:21-24, 27-28

...Where, then, is boasting?...

We have been studying the book of Romans with our two summer interns, Tim and Matt. Scripture says "...you, then, who teach others, do you not teach yourself?..." (Rom. 2:21a) I am teaching, but I think I am learning (relearning?) the most. I am reminded again of the equality of all people as they stand before God without a savior - equally condemned. And, of all people who stand before God professing Jesus Christ, his work, and God's saving grace - equally and eternally saved.

The book of Romans never fails to ground me once again in solid, orthodox Christianity. It is Paul's most thorough statement of his theology.

So... where, then, is boasting? We have just finished a section in which Paul, after blasting the pagans for their horrendous ways of living, turns to the religious Jew (you know, the one who thinks he is saved because he was raised in the covenant family, can recite the law of God, and goes to service) and says, "What shall we say then? Are we any better? Not at all! We have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under sin...." (Rom. 3:9)

...ana that leaves us...where?...

I have to remember this every time I catch myself thinking "Well, THAT'S a stupid idea about God" ..or.. "Why do they live like that?" .. or.. "Its amazing how so many people don't care if their clothes match."

Where, then, is boasting?

I'll tell you where I think it is - boasting is the pride of our hearts coming out in the form of words. Boasting is what we do because we think we are superior to other people. Boasting is what we do because we think we know a better way to live, or think, or dress, or cook. AND... boasting has no place in the Kingdom of God, unless we are boasting about our Lord Jesus Christ.

You who teach others, do you not teach yourselves?

The answer is "YES", and boy..... am I learning.

...Cusco update....

Do you all remember Julian, the 12 year old boy who was lost for over a year on the streets of Lima and who returned home to Cusco this spring? He is doing well, always has a big grin and a big hug to give. He and his family have been coming to church - sporadically, but coming nonetheless. His mother, who has a terminal illness, is coming more faithfully than anyone! Six months ago she was bedridden, and our team doctor Brian Riedel began making some home visits and working with her to improve her quality of the life that she has left. She is our most faithful member of this family and walks 1.5 miles from her house to the church every Sunday! We are very thankful for all that God is doing in their family and also very thankful to have Dr. Riedel as such a solid member of our team. You can see Julian in the front of our "Cusco Adolescents Hiking" photo - yes! There are photos this time! (The address is at the end of the email). **Please continue to pray for Julian and his family.**

...Building guitars and building relationships...

Peter Beck has learned how to make guitars, and is using that skill to build relationships and bless our church plants. He had the idea that he would like to build a couple of guitars and take them to different church plants and communities that we visit to leave them as a gift, as most of the churches are very poor and often don't have good guitars for worshipping. The first of his dreams was realized this summer when we went to Santo Tomas. We took two beautiful guitars made by Peter to use during VBS and Youth meetings, and then left them for the church to use. You can see one of the guitars in the photo with Jorge playing the guitar in Santo Tomas.

Peter is also using this skill to build relationships with some of our youth. We have two adolescents, Miguel and Jonathan (brothers), who desperately want to learn how to play the guitar. They come to my house every Saturday afternoon to learn some chords and practice, but can't really practice as needed because they don't have a guitar in their house to practice every day. Both show great musical promise and definitely have the desire. Peter surprised them with an offer to help them MAKE a guitar which they can then keep! You can imagine how thrilled they were! Each Saturday evening, while Gretchen and I have the women's bible study, Peter takes these two boys to the upstairs room to work on their guitars. (You can see the photos of building guitars!).

...Santo Tomas...

The Becks, Norman, Jorge, Tim, Matt and I traveled to Santo Tomas for a week to hold VBS, check on the construction of the foundation of the new church building, work with youth meetings, and to visit and encourage Cayo and his wife Maritza, who are currently pastoring the church in Santo Tomas. The roads to Santo Tomas are horrible (!), and the trip takes 10 hours by bus. Still, it was all such a blessing and a joy. The kids at our church in Santo Tomas, many of whom were familiar from last summer, were excited to have VBS once again. We sang songs, played games (they loved anything involving a balloon), memorized Scripture verses, and studied the Catechism. (see photos!). Its so easy to

fall into the trap of planning VBS and going through the motions without remembering the reason why you are having VBS in the first place. The second day, we all had to remind ourselves of why we were there and spend some time in prayer. I believe God richly rewarded our desire to seek him in all of this. It was a very encouraging trip for all involved and worth the 20 grinding hours on the bus.

Being in Santo Tomas, 10 hours away from pretty good medical care, using a hot plate and pan to get hot water in order to cleanse hair and body in freezing temperatures, seeing the blistered cheeks of people who live in such a harsh climate, eating egg sandwiches and peanut butter sandwiches because of fear of getting sick from eating the local food, seeing the bathroom of the church (which is outside in the back yard - a hole in the ground)... All of these things remind me of how fortunate I have been in my lifetime with regard to physical comforts. Still, in being there, it really hit home as to what is important in this life. God is important, and his call to love him and love other people is important.

One of the kids that really touched my heart on this trip was a little boy named Brian. Brian is your typical, hyperactive, A.D.D. child. I don't know Brian's full story. I asked Cayo about him, and was told that when his mother was pregnant she apparently drank a lot and that resulted in this type of behavior... restless, extremely short attention span, etc. He is a kid with a lot of problems. But he is also a kid with a really sweet smile who wants to be involved and needs love. **Please pray that God in his mercy would touch Brian's heart.**

...Plans for the summer...

Our plans for the summer with our interns include helping with medical clinics and a possible trip to the jungle area. The medical clinics are run by Brian and Julie Riedel for medical students and professors from the States. It is a Christian based program that includes not just the physical aspect of health, but the spiritual and emotional as well. These clinics run from July 7th for two weeks and will include some travel. We will be assisting with translation and whatever else they need. **Please pray that God will use us for his glory during this time.** The interns have been working on building tables for

the training center in Pallpancay (one of Keith Powlison's area of ministry - see photos) as well as visiting some of the outlying areas where bible studies are being started. Our trip to the jungle will be to help build an airplane hangar for one of our missionaries who uses his piloting skills on the field. **Please pray for safety in all of these areas.**

Please also pray for my health. I have been sick for 2 months, starting with a cold, sinus infection, and now have had a chronic chest cough for a month. I just had chest and sinus X-rays which were both clear (thankfully). **Please pray for Dr. Riedel as he works with me to clear this up.** It is amazing how much the state of your health can affect your daily outlook.

I still love being a part of God's work here and send a profound THANK YOU to all who are contributing to keeping me on the field in every way.

**** Special prayer request:** I am considering extending my time in Peru by one year. Please pray about whether God would have you continue to support me for a 3rd year.

Never forget that we are storing up our treasures in heaven. :)

Photos:

<http://www.mtwsa.net/people/ldeadwyler-pl/03jun/>

Laura Deadwyler
Casilla 985
Cuzco, Peru
011-51-84-25-36-58

EMAIL:
ldeadwyler@mtwsa.org

WEBSITE:
<http://www.mtwsa.net/people/ldeadwyler.htm>