

November 26, 2005

At a Glance:

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The Word of the Lord...

The LORD gives strength to his people; the LORD blesses his people with peace.

Romans 11:33-36

Strength and Peace...

I was walking out of Lenscrafters the day after Thanksgiving and had the chance to tell a policeman how much I appreciated our policemen and women. He seemed to truly appreciate hearing that. He laughed and said that not many people that day were appreciating them, as they were towing cars that were parked in that particular lot (which they weren't supposed to do). I thought about the difference in our police force, which, although there are exceptions, generally enforce laws and justice and are there for the protection of the people. How different it is from a country in which the police are inconsistent and corrupt, and do not have the trust of the people.

I have had some time during this Thanksgiving season to think about the things for which I am thankful. By many people's standards I wouldn't have much to brag about in terms of money, possessions, fashion, looks, marriage and kids, status, or power. But the warm sense of God's peace and strength pervades my entire being. He has given me such a sense of being his child, his anointed people. I think not only of how much I have in terms of worldly wealth compared to most of the rest of the world, but also how much I have in terms of family, friends, and purpose in life. And I always come back to the fact that most of all, I have

God's presence in my life, each and every day.

How much more thankful could I be; what more could I ask for than that?

Katrina Report...

As you know, Lucy and I went to Biloxi Mississippi from Nov 2-11 in order to cook for Katrina relief work teams. We stayed at First Pres in Biloxi, which has been set up as a command center to connect needs with resources. I was very impressed with the First Pres staff and congregation in the way they were responding to this disaster. By the time Lucy and I arrived to do our stint to help, it had been quite some time since the hurricane had hit. I did not expect to see the level of devastation along the coast that I saw.

Whole houses and buildings along the coast were either missing (piles of debris) or gutted, or damaged. The ocean actually broke down the doors of First Pres Biloxi and flooded the sanctuary with about 3 feet of water. Nearby First Pres in Gulfport was destroyed by the force of the wind and water. The pews were pushed up to front area and the waves lapped up over the balcony.

These two churches were sturdy brick buildings built across the street from the coast. You can only imagine how the smaller, wooden structures were battered down.

Cooking meant long hours in a hot kitchen, but what a joy it was to feed tired and hungry

workers that had been laboring hard all day, or send them out with a hot breakfast. We heard many stories of people who were surprised by the force of the wind and water but lived to tell the tale.

Please keep those on the coast of Mississippi and Louisiana in your prayers! Time has passed but so much of the devastation remains.

Quick Trip to Peru...

Is there such a thing as a "quick trip to Peru"? I will be finding out on Dec 7th-11th as I travel to Lima to attend the seminary graduation (equivalent of a bible college) of a young man who will be working for us in the future. This young man, who I first met in 1996 when he was 15 years old, is an orphan from the days of the shining path and has asked me to come down as his family. A couple who are friends and supporters of mine have donated their frequent flier miles so that I can go.

Please pray for my time in Peru for these 4 days - for safety and to be an encouragement to Wilber and for some details of his living and travel that need to be made before I leave.

Until next time God bless,

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