

July 3, 2006

At a Glance:

**Total Commitment
Medical Advice**

**Teams
Support Report**

The Word of the Lord...

"Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." Matthew 10:37-39

... Total Commitment...

My commentary on this section says:

10:38 *take his cross.* The first mention of the cross in Matthew's Gospel. The cross was an instrument of death and here symbolizes the necessity of total commitment--even unto death--on the part of Jesus' disciples

I think most of you know that these past 2 _ months I have struggled a great deal with missing my country and adjusting to this one. For some reason, after almost a year and a half of passionately wanting to return to Peru, I have found myself questioning why I'm here.

Things have started to come together this past month in terms of what I think God is showing me. I believe he is showing me (once again!) that it's not all about me, and it's not all about them.... **It's about HIM.** Its not as much about whether I serve in this country or that country (although I do believe he gives us each a calling for certain time periods in our lives), its more about HOW I love and follow him wherever I am serving him.

A few weeks ago a dear friend wrote these words to me:

In Deuteronomy 30:19-20 it says "**Now choose life**, so that you and your children may live and

that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. **For the LORD is your life.**" Isn't that cool! It really helped me to focus on what I'm choosing each and every moment...am I choosing Him as my life or things or people, etc. That helps me keep everything in perspective...I thought I'd share with you.

How awesome is it to **choose life** for this moment? Do I really want to live in the past or yearn for the future? God has me right here, right now - and he is no less good to me RIGHT NOW that he ever was or ever will be.

I have also been listening to a DVD series by John Piper entitled "When I Don't Desire God", which oddly enough, I bought before I left the States (before I realized I was in that situation!). A few things he said about his message stuck with me:

"I am not here to make you feel good about yourself - I am here to make you so happy in God, to feel so good about God that you forget about yourself."

And points 3 and 4 of what his conference was about:

Point 3: "I am not on a mission to put your happiness above God's glory. I am on a mission to put your happiness IN God's glory. God is most glorified in you when you are most satisfied in Him."

Point 4: "I am not on a mission to make you feel good about yourselves. I am on a mission to help you feel so good about the greatness of God that you forget about yourselves and live a life of love making others glad in God."

...to live a life of love making others glad in God... To forget about myself...

Most days I feel far from this, but it is what I long for! As I live in the moment, can I forget about myself long enough to share the greatness and glory of God with others?

People will see what is genuinely in my heart, and my prayer is that God will restore my heart with complete love for him.

... Medical Advice...

It is typical here to receive all sorts of medical advice once people realize you are not feeling well. I've heard of all sorts of remedies, from drinking a certain type of tea, to eating a certain green leaf that will "cure diabetes", to bathing in urine to bring your fever down, to tying live frogs on your head for 3 days to cure a headache. (My headache is usually gone in 3 days regardless). Here is the latest medical advice I heard, which was told to someone by a doctor: **Don't take a shower for at least 10 minutes after you eat or you'll get stomach cramps.**

... Teams...

A quick note about summer teams: please pray for them! Please pray that God will protect all of us; that they will be able to make a contribution with their work; that they will be able to get to know and care for the Peruvians here, and that God will be at work in each and every person that comes... he knows what they need!

... Support Report...

I am up to 91%! ☺ That is good news. Please keep praying that God will bring in the total amount of support that is needed.

God bless,

Laura Deadwyler

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Donations:

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Laura and Rut at Palpancay



Laura, Denise, Mary at Machu Picchu