

With a piercing scream someone yelled “Run! Get out of there Pepe! The wall is falling!!” Pepe scrambled as fast as he could, but as he rushed to get out of the way of the massive wall made up of old *tapias*<sup>1</sup> that weighed close to 700 lbs each and were stacked 6 high, the wall finally broke apart when it smashed down upon Pepe’s waist and legs. As the dust cleared and the massive blocks of wall were strenuously removed, our mentoring group and 14 members from a team from McLean Presbyterian Church gathered around Pepe weeping and



praying for him. My father pinched his feet and legs, and said, “Pepe can you feel me pinching?” “No!” was his desperate cry. In tears, everyone prayed over Pepe that the Lord might spare him from paralysis. After a prayer, my father asked, “Pepe can you feel me now?” to everyone’s surprise he said “Yes, but not my feet!” His knees were bulging and it seemed to indicate serious broken bones. Everyone begged the Lord for Pepe’s legs, and miraculously he could now feel his feet and even move them! We quickly rushed him to the hospital where his

father (a nurse) received his hurting son. As they worked on his feet, and Pepe’s face turned pale from the extreme pain, he managed to cry out to his father, “Dad! Can’t you see that the Lord is trying to talk to you!?”

Last month I asked prayer for a house church that we hoped to begin in Pepe’s home. Pepe’s mother (Flor) and his father (Antonio) were waiting for us when we arrived and welcomed us into their home. Pepe, Caleb and I began to lift up the grace of the cross of Christ before them and within a half an hour, both Flor and Antonio were asking the Lord for his mercy and grace for their lives. I have never seen Pepe happier in his life.

Backing up to Sunday evening service before the “accident”, the Lord had put it on my heart to share the message from James 4:6-8: Humility. Submission to God in humility, resisting the pleasures of this world in Christ’s strength, dying to self daily, which requires living for God daily; cleansing our actions and heart’s motives from adultery –loving God solely above all else with all our heart, soul, strength and mind. In other words, find true joy and freedom in the brokenness of humility that glorifies God. Pepe had been “chewing” on the message of James throughout the week, and one night he prayed that the Lord would break him. The next morning he was broken, underneath tons of dirt and rocks, and instead of being angry that this would ruin his status as the best soccer player and scorer in Huanta, he was praising the Lord, and later on in the hospital he was telling me Romans 8:28 with a smile on his face!

Since the beginning of our meetings with Pepe’s parents, we have seen the Lord’s hands working mightily in his life and his family’s. His parents are eager to meet with us every Saturday, and always ask many questions about Christ and how they might walk more closely to Him. From the time when Pepe’s legs were hurt and his part of his foot was broken, he has asked me to continue to speak to his parents while he is bedridden. I have really enjoyed watching the Holy Spirit work in these meetings. All of a sudden I have a million things to say about Christ, and I have no agenda other than to lift up Jesus for over an hour. It is amazing that it is all being done in such a way that these new followers are able to understand, that Caleb is practicing his faith and that I am finding joy in glorifying Him who promised to be with me.

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<sup>1</sup> An old Andean type of brick that measures 5ft. x 3ft. x 3ft. – made with mud and rocks pounded together.

The mission's team from McLean Pres. Church (MPC) that prayed for Pepe was also an answered prayer for the rest of us. The Lord used them to bring Caleb and me closer. It was so gratifying to watch these students strive to hear every word that was spoken about Christ. A yearning in their hearts encouraged Caleb and me to speak more about everything we had learned about Jesus. We are no scholars, but there is something about having a passion for lifting up Christ that is contagious to others. Can you imagine students from the best schools in Virginia sitting and listening to two guys who haven't even been "properly educated"? The only way I can explain it is that Christ was working full time through us. Thank you for your prayers! It was so neat to be talking with some of the guys and girls of the team (when we weren't working on the construction of the new church building) and then to have my "little" (actually much taller) brother taking over and mentoring me through his powerful words.



As is the custom every time I come home from college, I have been sleeping in Caleb's room. This is probably the most beneficial time we share together for it is always full of laughter and happy times as we share stories, memories, visions and prayers. I have never felt more influential in someone's life than in Caleb's, for he hangs on any words I speak about Christ, and always brings up things that I've spoken in the past. I see great potential in his sincere desire to live for Christ in everything. A loving rebuke that I might confront him with during the day, will



be the petition of his heart in our prayers at night. How awesome is that? He is truly a man after God's own heart. He is practicing Christ's words through James: to humbly submit himself to God. He is resisting the devil; he is sincerely seeking to draw near to God by cleansing his hands and purifying his heart from all double mindedness. In being and doing all this, he constantly pushes me to walk with him in the same way. One of our favorite verses is from Amos 3:3 "Do two walk together unless they have agreed to do so?"

This verse states our view on friendship. Two do not walk together unless they have agreed to so, and two cannot genuinely agree on one thing unless they have humbly died to self and see Christ's way as the only way and motivating force behind all that we do. In sum, Caleb and I have agreed to walk together for life. We have the same goal in mind, and that is to serve Christ with all our heart, soul, strength and mind to the extent of life that Christ gives us.

So my most desired prayer request is that Christ would unify my brother, our mentor who is our father, and me even more profoundly, that we might follow Christ together all of our lives. Please pray that he would bind us together in a friendship that is closer than that of a brother's, and that he would take this wet clay and continue to form us even as we can see that the base of the pot of our life is starting to take shape. Please also pray for my father and mother who have poured their all into their children and the work here. They lift up Christ so high that they are suffering from the persecutions of this world. They lack strength, sleep, health and encouragement. Most of all, pray that the Lord would show us and you the dire need for dependence on Him through prayer.

In Christ's name,

*Nathaniel*