

¡CORONAVIRUS in PERÚ!

...it's everywhere....

Wow! Coronavirus sure has a way of controlling our lives! All of my friends in the USA are feeling the impact as well. The grocery stores are acting crazy! The people are annoyed, confused, cautious, and frightened. In Perú, it really looks no different, except for having even stricter orders to stay in our homes. Christians, here and in the USA, are a little worried that church services won't be normal for possibly a year. I've been housebound ever since March 15th, I never anticipated such a spiritually and psychologically challenging trial during my internship here in Tarapoto. While I can start a pity-party newsletter, I would actually like to share with you the blessings God. Ever since the quarantine started, the Fowlers and I have been reading a couple chapters from the New Testament every day, and I'm still studying in I Peter for the women's Bible study Techy and I started. This verse has really stuck out to me.

"All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever. And this is the good news that was preached to you" I Peter 1:24-25.

What is the good news? It's that the Word of the Lord will never fail!! Everything else is bound for destruction; our governments, our cars, our houses, our bodies, and even our normal daily routines. James 1:17 states, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with

whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.” This time that we have, even in quarantine, is still a good gift that has come from the Lord. Job went through some of the most horrific experiences possible for a human, and this is what he said about God. “I know that You can do all things, and that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted.” (Job 42:2). What was the purpose of God for Job? What is God’s purpose for this world and for His children?

Philippians 3:17-21, “Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in Heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like His glorious body, by the power that enables Him even to subject all things to Himself.”

This isn’t the end for Christians! For those who have recognized the awfulness of their sin, and their need for Jesus Christ to pay for their sins on the cross, and that His sacrifice was accepted and He arose victorious over death, will also themselves conquer death. They will receive new bodies and they will continue on into Jesus’s Millennial Reign and the New Heavens and Earth. For the world, and those who put their trust in anything but Christ, they will receive destruction of their physical lives and then spend eternity in Hell, suffering for their sins. Literally, the things that they can receive from this world ARE their highest blessings. That is so sad because those things are so temporary and will one day be destroyed.

Revelation 20:11-15, “Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for

them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. ... And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire."

We still need to answer what is God's purpose for us today. The passage from I Peter started out like this, *"Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us."* What does this mean? God still has one mission for the church, and that is to make more disciples of Christ, who make more disciples of Christ. That mission was the Apostle Peter's greatest calling, along with all the other Apostles, and this is our highest call. Who has God stuck me and you with for to encourage to follow Christ as His disciple?

What am I doing in Tarapoto during quarantine? I have pictures from Jennifer's Birthday. We were still able to have fun for her and decorate (a good reason to save old decorations...). She had fun and got to choose her meals that day; scrambled eggs for breakfast, fried beef and onions with rice for lunch, and birthday cake for supper!! The other thing we've done is start having youth group meetings through Zoom! Hopefully, I'll be able to host a Women's Bible study this coming Sunday with Zoom for the ladies in our church.



Jenny turned 14! It was a happy birthday!!



As always, please let me know how I can pray for you and be in prayer for me to make the most of this time in quarantine!

Your sister,
Amber Finney