

May 20, 2006

At a Glance:
Change
Support Issues

The Word of the Lord...

"I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart; before the "gods" I will sing your praise. I will bow down toward your holy temple and will praise your name for your love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word. When I called, you answered me; you made me bold and stouthearted."

Psalm 138:1-3

... Change...

I hate change. I don't know how to soften that statement up.... I hate change. I'm a total "rut" personality... I like my schedule. (of course, I like to make it MYSELF....) I am a person of so little faith.... I've been through so many changes in the past 2 years and coming back to Peru I did NOT expect to go through culture shock again. But, here I am, experiencing it to the hilt. I love order, here I see chaos. I love when people follow traffic rules, here there are no traffic rules. I love customer service, here I don't see it and certainly don't receive it.

Example of trying to get a working phone, which has taken 2 months:

"Hi, we are calling again about getting a phone."

"Yes, they came yesterday".

"No, they did not come yesterday. We were here all day waiting."

"They will come tomorrow."

....Lather, rinse, repeat.... Repeat every day. The frustration builds over a stupid phone.

I heard once that the things that frustrate you most can be an indication of your idols. Well, yup, that pretty much sums up a few of mine: customer service and modern communication. I admit, those are 2 of my many idols!!

But I digress... back to the point....I was

READY to get back to Peru. I did NOT expect to go through culture shock again. I have been wrestling these past 4 weeks with a very intense dose of culture shock. Fortunately from the training I've had through MTW and others, I can recognize the signs of what it going on.

Still there has been pain in my heart, tears, and days when I close myself off from others so that I won't burden them with my complaints. Is this crazy? It is. At the same time, while not feeling this, I KNOW God is at work. And after so many weeks I am starting to shift in my longings.

For weeks, I have missed my country, my friends, my family, the comfort of what we have in the US. Our culture is comfortable, and I miss that. I miss the deep friendships that I have, some for 20-30 years. I miss getting together with friends, I miss the deep companionship of that circle of support. I miss my family, I will miss seeing my nieces and nephews grow and change over the years. I miss going out to eat at one of my favorite restaurants. I miss Lenox Mall.... Not that I went there all the time, but I had the freedom to go and when I went, I enjoyed it.

Last night I had a couple of Peruvian friends over for dinner and to play guitar and sing. During dinner, we began to talk about what happened during the years of terrorism during the 80's and early 90's here in the mountains of Peru. They saw and experienced things that I would say are unspeakable horrors. And I mean, unspeakable horrors. I know these kinds of things go on in different parts of the world, even now. I can't fathom how or why people can do such things to one another.

Hearing of these things once again does not diminish my personal pain, but it does put it in perspective. I know full well that it is not easy

to choose to uproot and leave one's family and friends, and all that is comfortable to them. But I also know that God has greater purposes for each of us than to just be comfortable and happy.

I see that there are people here with real needs (as there are all over the world, even in our own country). I appreciate my country, my government, and my people, and that I have the choice to live in a relatively peaceful and comfortable world, as the world SHOULD be for all.

But I was also reminded this morning through the words of the music of 4 Him:

"To live a love that never fails,
To love my neighbor as myself
And to give 'till there is nothing left to give
To live a faith that never dies
To be crucified with Christ
Until all that lives through me is The Message"

"So I won't bend and I won't break
I won't water down my faith
I won't compromise in a world of desperation
What has been I cannot change
But for tomorrow and today
I must be a light for future generations"

These are lofty goals I know, but our God is a God of lofty goals. This is my prayer and what I am asking God for.... I am asking that he renew and strengthen my faith in him, that I might be his message and that Christ might shine through me.... Even in my loneliness down here. **Please pray this for me and with me.**

... Support Issues...

Support: A subject that is still a subject for me. I am down here right now to help with summer teams. I have not officially been released to the field as a long term missionary because my support is at 86%. In order to stay here in Peru after August I HAVE TO HAVE my support at 100%.

The office has informed me that 100%

means about **\$700.00 more per month**. I am asking **boldly** right now, that if any of you have considered giving **monthly** that you would go ahead and make that decision **to pledge and give to God's work in Peru through me**. It is very simple to do: you can email **Teresa Wood** at the office and tell her what you want to do:

twood@mtw.org

She can set you up with e-giving.

If you prefer to send a donation and pledge via snail mail, we have a secured PO Box, and the address is below, right under my name and address.

"Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should." Ephesians 6:19-20

* My most amusing moment these past 4 weeks: Riding in a tico taxi in Peruvian traffic listening to "Play That Funky Music White Boy" on the radio.

God bless,

Laura Deadwyler
Casilla 985
Cusco, Peru
South America
011-51-84-23-50-59

Donations:

Mission to the World
P.O. Box 116284
Atlanta, GA 30329

Be sure to write

Laura Deadwyler # 11748
on the memo line.