

**Dear friends and family,**

**Thank you for your prayers and support for our trip to Chincha Peru with e3 Partners earlier this month!**

**God answered your prayers!**

We prayed for a fruitful mission. While in Chincha, we learned that the people there had also been praying for missionary support (sometimes for many years)! We had prayed that God would provide for our trip. God answered all of these prayers with a YES!

This is what I saw: God called 32 North Americans to go and provided a way for them to go. He watched over them in their plans and travels and brought all 32 back home safely. During the campaign, 550 people made a decision to repent and believe. They prayed to ask Jesus into their hearts as their savior, make Him Lord of their lives, begin a relationship with God through Jesus, and have the promise of an eternal destination with Him. Praise God! Many of them also took the time for discipleship training and Bible study instruction follow up. People in Chincha were overjoyed that we came. Our interpreters were also used by God to help bring the Good News with enthusiasm to the people in Chincha. God blessed our trip in many ways. We supplied hundreds of Bibles and trained national church leaders giving them the skills they need to continue to share and disciple others. The churches there will continue this work all year and e3 Partners will be returning to the same communities and churches next summer to follow up.

**God's faithfulness was visible on this trip!**

It is amazing to see how well people work together when the focus is not on themselves but on serving a loving God and helping others to know more about Him. It may be partly because so much of the time these trips are steeped in prayer; and, it is wonderful to see how God provides and those who go work together. This is the visible church here on earth. It isn't a church building, a denomination, a particular canonical structure, but it is Jesus's followers working together to share the good news and build up faith here on earth. That includes not only those who go, but those who send, those who support, those who pray, and those who are there at the mission destinations.

This trip showed me that God plants desire in the hearts of people to pray for spiritual awakening and renewal. He has people in many places who are persons of peace that seek Him and are waiting and praying for His will to succeed. God loves these people who are often poor in the eyes of the world, but are rich in faith and are seeking Him. It is through these persons of peace that faith can take root in a community. It seems that when people are not overly distracted by the cares and trappings of this world, God's presence is made known to them. James 2: 5 asks "...has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him?" (ESV)

This trip challenged me to put aside my own distractions to focus on the mission. This was particularly true during the preparation time for the trip, where it was difficult for me to know how best to use my time. I felt like work was keeping me too busy already and other distractions were creeping in. I would have loved to have spent more time working on my Spanish and think it would have been extremely helpful. During the campaign, I was blessed with an interpreter who really loved to engage people about their faith when given the chance. He usually let me lead the conversations, but he would get excited and want to enter in. My Spanish was just good enough to be able to pick out key words when he wanted to share with someone directly and help him find appropriate verses without him having to stop to let me know where he was in the conversation. I would have loved to have been able to understand more of those conversations and been able to interject directly at times like that. We worked together very nicely as a team, but I need to challenge myself to learn more Spanish for the next time!

This was my second overseas short-term missions trip in two years. The Great Commission is for us to use our skills to help expand God's kingdom to all nations. This can be done by going, by sending, and by building His kingdom not only abroad, but also where we live by sharing with others here and helping to grow strong communities of faith right where we are. We need to be ready, willing and able to always share the Good News and hope that is within us when given the opportunity no matter where we are (2 Timothy 4:2). Short-term missions trips can help the people on the receiving end of a campaign by building and strengthening their communities of faith. But in addition, the people who go are enabled by the many opportunities to share their faith while on these trips (Proverbs 11:25). Witnessing firsthand the faithfulness and love of God to all people and putting our faith into words over and over when sharing our testimonies helps bring to mind the power of God in our lives. This is life changing. Changed followers of Christ back home strengthen faith right here on the home front as well as abroad.

God used you by helping to send us on this trip and make it possible.

Thank you for taking an active role and being a faithful servant of the King of Kings!

Hank Davis



The North American team at the Catholic Retreat Center in Lima, Peru



My interpreter Benjamin from Lima



At the mission site in Chincha

