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Saune Ministry Update

4 messages

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A Season of Change

After two wonderful months enjoying the cooler weather in Ayacucho, we returned home to extreme heat! Needless to say, adjusting to the Arizona heat has been a bit of a challenge after becoming accustomed to the much cooler temperatures of Peru!

Since returning home, life has been busy in the best possible way. We have been enjoying time with our family and helping our son, Ruben, and grandson, Joshua Inka get ready for the new school year.

Ruben is excited about being a second grader, and he has something especially fun to look forward to - he will be participating in a Dr. Seuss play next month! It is always exciting to watch our son grow, discover new interests, and experience these special moments in their lives.

Our grandson, Joshua Inka is now a sophomore in high school and has begun a dual-enrollment program, which allows him to earn college credits while he is still in high school. We are very proud of him and excited to see how God continues to guide him as he prepares for his future.

Our family is also experiencing a very special transition with our youngest daughter, Athalia. She and Miguel were married in July and their new life together is taking shape. Miguel returned to Moscow, where he is stationed, while Athalia stayed behind in Arizona to finish the documentation needed for their Husky, Neptune, to travel with her. Missy & I drove Athalia & Neptune to Los Angeles, where they departed for Moscow on Sept. 30.

Our family seems to be entering a season filled with changes, new adventures, and new beginnings. Through it all, we are grateful for the Lord's blessings and for the precious time we have together as a family. We look forward to seeing what the coming months will bring and are thankful to have so many things to celebrate, even when some of those celebrations come with a few tears.



A Change in our Seminary Plans

Although we had spent considerable time planning and preparing for our Summer Seminary training session, we ultimately had to make the difficult decision to cancel it. While we cannot know for certain, the weather phenomenon known as El Niño may have affected the rainy season in the Ayacucho mountains, which in turn impacted the crops and the families who depend on them.

The timing of the harvest and the need to care for the crops meant that nearly 90% of our students were needed at home to work on their farms. For many of these families, this work is essential to their livelihood, and they simply could not leave their fields during this important season.

After talking with many of the students and spending several days in prayer, we felt the right thing to do was to do was cancel the Summer session rather than to ask our students to choose between their families and their studies.

Although this was disappointing after all the preparation that had gone into the session, we are trusting that God's timing is better than ours. We have decided to reschedule the Seminary training for January. Missy and I are looking forward to returning to Ayacucho at that time and continuing the training with our students.

Sometimes ministry does not go according to our plans, but these moments remind us to remain flexible, listen carefully, and trust God to lead us. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve these students and are already looking forward to being back with them in January.

A Blessing Beyond Words

As mentioned in our last update, Missy and I were finally able to work through the red tape and have the Quechua Bibles released from the port in Lima. Working from Arizona, Ayacucho, and Lima proved to be quite an experience! After countless emails, long-distance phone calls, unexpected expenses, and a great deal of patience, the Bibles were finally released and shipped to Ayacucho!

Despite all the difficulties, the arrival of those Bibles was a blessing that I cannot put into words. One of our hopes and goals while we were in Arizona was to work toward having the 1987 Quechua Bible reprinted. It took a little over ten years to see that dream become a reality. God's timing is awesome, even though there were many times when we wondered if it would ever happen.

During the short time we were allotted, Missy and I were able to distribute several hundred of these Bibles. It was an experience I will never forget. I cannot adequately

express how thankful the Quechua pastors were - to see the reverence with which they received them. Watching these pastors gently hold their Bibles, caress the covers and carefully turn the pages was a blessing to behold. Some began reading through the pages with tears in their eyes. Seeing their emotion touched my heart deeply.

There were moments when all I could do was whisper, "Thank You, Lord," over and over. After waiting and praying for so many years, to finally place these Bibles into the hands of Quechua pastors, was deeply humbling. It reminded me that what may sometimes seem like a long delay to us, is never outside of God's timing.

I know that many of you helped make this dream a reality. Through your prayers, encouragement, and heartfelt donations, you became part of this ministry and helped put God's Word into the hands of people who treasure it so deeply.

"Thank you" seems like such a small thing to say for such a tremendous gift. Yet it is all I can offer.

Because of your generosity, we now have Quechua Bibles available to distribute, and we have also learned the process of placing another order when that time comes. This means the work can continue, and more Quechua pastors and believers can receive the Word of God in their own language.

From the bottom of our hearts, Missy and I thank you! We are deeply grateful that you have joined us in this journey and helped make something we prayed about for so many years finally become a reality.

To God be the glory!

