

The Chapmans



December 19, 2009

The last several months for us have been a great illustration of the Biblical truth that we plan our ways, but God directs our paths. **John Newton** reminds us that, “Our own limited views, and short-sighted purposes and desires, may be, and will be, often over-ruled; but then our main and leading desire, that the will of the Lord may be done, must be accomplished.”

Cheryl’s Health and Our Decisions

In September, **Cheryl** went to the U.S. for two weeks to be able to see her doctor concerning the ongoing pain and discomfort in her abdomen. After a small surgery, we had hopes that Cheryl might be better, but the pain has continued. We wrestled with the decision, but in the end we decided to bring the whole family back to the U.S. We flew to Michigan the week of Thanksgiving. We had originally planned our first furlough to begin in July of 2010, but we’ve decided that the best thing to do is to just bump our furlough ahead a few months and start visiting supporting churches in March or April. We would like to leave open the next couple of months so that we can do whatever is necessary on our part to get an answer to Cheryl’s medical situation.

God, as always, is very good to us, and we are very thankful for every trial he allows in our lives because we understand that spiritual maturity and Christ-likeness are developed when we, in trials, are led by the Holy Spirit through the influence of The Word to deeper dependence on God.

Ministry

The Lord has given us some great ministry opportunities over the last couple of months. In early November, I was the main speaker for a **leadership retreat** in which we had around 40 adults.

A week later, a mission team from **Wichita Falls, Texas** arrived and God gave us a great week of ministry with a church here in **Lima**. The pastor is **Lukus Counterman**, one of my best friends, and he led a group of 11 folks. The



Micah and Abby



At the Park



With my good friend Segundo Rodriguez

group connected wonderfully with the folks in the church here, and I believe there will be some tremendous spiritual fruit as a result of the group's ministry.

On November 29th, after having spent a week with Cheryl's parents in Michigan, I left Cheryl and the children there and flew back to Lima to meet the **Steve Pettit Team**. We began special meetings on Wednesday that continued through Sunday. There were folks saved each night, and the blessing of the music and the preaching was tremendous. On Wednesday, December 9th, I flew with the Pettit Team to **Santiago, Chile**. We began a youth conference on Friday with special meetings each night through Sunday.

Spiritual friendships are one of the most wonderful gifts that God gives us. I thank God for Cheryl and for the deep spiritual friendship we enjoy. These past two weeks, God gave me a chance to spend many hours with my good friend and mentor Steve Pettit. Our bond in Christ was strengthened as we enjoyed the blessing of true friendship and brotherly love.

Prayer

1. Pray that God would give us an answer soon to **Cheryl's health** situation. We would love to see her completely better and back to strength.
2. Pray for God's wisdom for us as we make plans for this **unexpected furlough**.
3. In February, I'll be flying back to Lima to run a youth camp. I'll be working through a lot of the planning from a distance in the next two months. There are some decisions to be made in the next few weeks concerning how quickly we move toward our long-term camp ministry plan. Please pray for wisdom and grace, and pray that God will give us great fruit from our week of camp in February.

In Christ,

Tim Chapman



The group from Messiah Baptist Church
Wichita Falls, Texas



With our friends the Villar family



Steve Pettit and myself with Jorge Valdez who coordinated
our Chile trip