

Gutierrez Update

Miracle in the 21st century

October 30, 2007



Faithful intercessors will see and enjoy the miracle, but the reluctant intercessor will only see the miracle.

As the earthquake hit Peru, the fear of the Lord flashed in the skies like a lightning bolt. For a moment Peru was the most Christianized country in the world – with more believers per square mile than Korea.

Several teams of missionaries representing MTW and the PCA came to help the disaster area. A group of three young adult men and three young adult women came with me from the Andes. The men came by pickup truck and the women by plane. On the way to the airport my mind was visited by the usual thoughts of a leader who thinks about the safety of his small flock who are going to an unfamiliar territory.


People were angry because of the lack of food and water, medicines and blankets. The looters and thieves were taking advantage of the situation and chaos. Walls continued to fall, and there were hundreds of aftershocks.

The Lord quieted my heart by giving me Psalm 121:7 – “The Lord will keep you from all harm; he will watch over your life, the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.”

We left Huanta at 4:30am, and we arrived in Ayacucho at 5:30am while it was still dark. As we were crossing an intersection, we were hit broadside in our taxi by a big pickup truck. Our taxi spun 180 degrees, and the truck did as well.

Our taxi was totaled and the pickup truck fled the scene of the accident. Three or four more feet and there would have been at least two instant deaths out of the five of us in the taxi. Thankfully we only suffered whiplash and black and blue bruises.

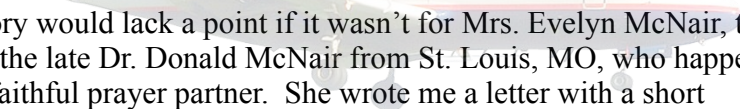
Our Lord seems to be telling me “I’m not going to protect you from



accidents, I'm not going to protect you from earthquakes, I'm not going to protect you from crisis, but I will protect you in the midst of accident, in the midst of the earthquake and in the midst of the crisis."

As sad as this was for the taxi driver who up until then was resisting Christ, for us it was a confirmation of our Lord watching over our going, so we had a perfect peace and a blessed journey.

On our return trip, in a 16 passenger small plane, just as we were about to touch down the pilot aborted the landing and shouted something we couldn't understand, and then he flew over the city and landed safely. When I asked the pilot what happened, he said there was a large dog in the runway, and at the speed we were going, we would have had a serious accident – again the Lord was watching our going and coming back.



This story would lack a point if it wasn't for Mrs. Evelyn McNair, the wife of the late Dr. Donald McNair from St. Louis, MO, who happens to be my faithful prayer partner. She wrote me a letter with a short question, "Gerry, is everything ok because the other night the Lord prompted me to pray for you?"

I have heard the kinds of stories where missionaries in Africa who were attacked by savages, were spared when the savages stopped in their attempt to kill them. Years later, when a missionary asked the converted chief of that tribe about that night, and why they did not carry on their attempt to harm them, the converted chief answered, "How could we? You were surrounded by men dressed in white with spears in their hands!"

Again in that case, folks back home in the US were praying in that precise moment for the missionaries in danger.

It should not be a surprise to us, because God loves to answer intercessory prayer. Not so much for the sake of the missionary alone, but for the sake of the intercessor. Because intercessory prayer is self-less prayer and God wants to encourage self-lessness.

In intercessory prayer there is nothing directly for the intercessor, but the good of another man and the people with whom he works and the glory of God. God loves to answer this kind of prayer.

As an example we have a poor man who made a hole in the roof and was lowered by his friends to Jesus. Then we also have the intercession of the centurion, then the intercession of Peter's friends on behalf of Peter's mother-in-law.

There are other kinds of intercessors who keep people from Jesus. For instance, the case of Bartimaeus, who was forced to intercede for himself at the top of his voice, refusing to be quiet. The more that they kept him from interceding for himself, the more he shouted until Jesus intervened, and ordered the reluctant intercessors to intercede at the word of Jesus.

They will see the miracle but they will not enjoy it.

We are never more like our Lord Jesus as when we get involved in intercessory prayer as he does right now at the right hand of God.

Pray for us brothers and sisters. We need your prayers more than we can know this side of heaven. If you don't pray I will pray at the top of my voice and probably even end up with a sore throat – and I need my voice to preach Jesus and him crucified.

Pray especially if the Lord prompts you, and he will do miracles in us for your sake and his glory.

Great doors of opportunity are open for us – please pray that I may speak boldly and clearly as I ought to.

Faithful or reluctant, but we are partners – pray for us!

Love,

Gerry and Ruthie

