



Towards
the center

ACTS 16:25

Recently, I have been more and more interested in how “mission” is portrayed in the book of Acts. Many only see an outward movement in it (“go”). Yet, I am convinced that there is a movement in the opposite direction as well: a centripetal dimension. A movement towards a center in which those who do not yet follow Jesus gravitate towards the church, attracted by the faith of the community (as in the Old Testament).

Paul and Silas were sentenced to be in prison. What were they supposed to do? That which followers of Jesus usually do: praying and singing (there is more to Christian life however...). And what do the other guys do? They listen to them.

When community of those who follow Jesus is lived energetically and attractively, then we function as a magnet. There is a movement to the center – to Jesus himself.

PhD Research

One of the reasons why I am so excited and interested about the above mentioned topic is that since January 2020 I am involved in the postgraduate research program at the University of Aberdeen (Scotland) via Trinity College Bristol (England) researching exactly this topic.

My supervisor (Prof. Dr. Steve Walton) is a Luke-Acts specialist and I am glad that he agreed to guide me in this process. I have already learned a lot through his feedback and our conversations.

Since the program brings also some financial challenges (roughly \$ 8,000 per year), we are very grateful for those who have already contributed to the cause. It seems that the costs of the first year are already covered (which partly depends on further developments concerning Brexit...). If you want to be part of this project as well, you can let us know so that we can ask for your donation to be redirected accordingly.

New courses

This semester I will be teaching two new courses (“Pneumatology” – doctrine concerning the Holy Spirit; and “Local Church and Mission”). Following that I will be teaching two additional courses during the next semester as well.



It is a joy to prepare those classes. Please pray that the students will be challenged and transformed by His Spirit.

You can see my student outreach group in the above picture, where we served in a local community.

“About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.”



New help at Dorcas

Daniela is particularly thankful that she has an additional helper in the Dorcas project since the beginning of this year. Her swiss co-worker will be retiring in a year, so that additional help is needed.



Sonia has been a very faithful helper in the past (and whoever knows the Peruvian culture knows that reliability is not a typical virtue in this country).

Having been a mom in the Dorcas project herself, Sonia brings great insight to the ministry. She knows the Quechua culture well, a background from which a lot of our moms come from. She has a fabulous way of counseling them which Daniela as a foreigner will never have in this capacity. She truly is an answer to prayer.

Summer break

Looking back on our summer break, we have had a great time of refreshment. Like every year, we participated in our annual staff conference in Lima, and were able to connect with missionaries that we usually do not see during the rest of the year. After that we were able to enjoy a couple days at the beach with friends from our church.



The boys have been at a Christian camp for the first time this year and truly enjoyed it. They made new friends and want to go back every summer from now on.



School started again last week (even though they just closed 10 days later due to the coronavirus), but the boys were happy to see their friends again. Jason is in 3rd, Tim in 5th and Joel in 7th grade.

Adoption

We started our adoption process last year in July. If you would like to know more about the reason why, you can visit our blog 😊.

We will have to complete five more meetings with the psychologist this week and then we will hopefully have completed this whole first process and be approved to adopt a child. Thank you for keeping us in your prayers regarding this process.



You can find more detailed info on our blog (translate button on the bottom):

www.marxinperu.com

Wishing you a blessed Spring,

Ben & Daniela
Joel, Timothy and Jason

Prayer Requests:

Praise:

- Great start into Ben's PhD
- Blessed summer break
- New school year
- Sonia, that started to help in the Dorcas project

Prayer:

- Sunday school workshop (April 18th)
- New classes of Ben teaching in April
- Continued process of adoption

Contact



Family Marx
Apartado 1810
Arequipa / Peru

E-Mail:
Benni.Marx@gmail.com
Daniela.U.Marx@gmail.com

Homepage:
www.marxinperu.com

**SIM**
By Prayer



DMG
Damit Menschen Gott begegnen

Bank transfers:

SIM-DMG
Account No. 650551381
Bank of America, Charlotte NC 28255
Purpose: **Benjamin Marx 046677**

Website:
www.simusa.org

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