

May 2012 PTL - Praise The Lord Report

Focus International May Teams

Ukraine ♦ Peru Resource ♦ Ecuador ♦ Kenya-Illula ♦ India-Bangalore ♦ Ghana-Accra ♦ Himalayas
Cambodia ♦ Tanzania-A ♦ India-Kolkata ♦ Japan Relief ♦ France

Ukraine | May 9 – May 27

PTL for the opportunity to work with Mercy Projects in serving the orphans of Ukraine!

Peru Resource | May 7 – June 29

PTL for national Peruvians serving in their own villages! My favorite part of the trip was that our mission team was present at every ministry with our Peruvian hosts (Cesar, Evy, and Lilian) and two youth members (Julio and Noemy), just enjoying every moment with them. That to me was my favorite thing about the trip because these Peruvians were able to step up and serve in their own village. Our team was not there to do things for the people, but our vision was to work alongside WITH the people, and I know that God definitely enabled that to happen. Hearing Julio and Noemy sharing their testimonies to the youth in their own village was so encouraging. I'm glad that our team was able to provide an opportunity for the Peruvians to step out of their comfort zone as well.

Ecuador | May 11 – June 13

PTL for intentional time with the children! Tonight is our last night in the sleepy little jungle town of Misahualli. A full week of teaching English in Pusuno and running vacation bible school programs in Mayuno has come and gone, and we couldn't have asked for more intentional time with the children we have had the pleasure of serving here. There has been incredible progress with our English students and many other things which will surely be written about later, but I think I speak for the team when I say we will miss the community here and are sad to be leaving so soon (except perhaps the mosquitos, they can stay here).



Kenya – Illula | May 12 – June 2

PTL for Empowering Lives International working in Kenya and many countries!

India – Bangalore | May 14 – July 6

PTL for afternoon playtime with kids! God has not let us down! He is at work, and we are being blessed by having the opportunity of being part of it! We have just recently completed our first week of school, and needless to say, we LOVE the kids and cannot wait to see how God will use those relationships for His glory. AJ has been working with the 3rd graders and also with the help with Paul, she will be directing the Choir class. Paul has been in charge of 6th and 7th grade math. Sarah has been assisting and teaching in 1st grade. Lauren has been assigned to 2nd. Alex has been teaching computers and assisting with games. We also have been using our free time in the afternoon to play frisbee and cricket with the local children. We are praying and asking for your prayer support that God may use these few hours in the afternoon to speak God's love to them and further His kingdom.



Ghana – Accra | May 15 – June 15

PTL for the joy of the Ghanaian Church! The place where most of our time is spent is Faith Community Baptist Complex of Schools. This is where we work, play with kids, go to church, etc. It all goes down at FCBC. Most of our time here so far has been spent giving the nursery department on campus a face-lift. No easy task, mind you. Before we can even start painting we have to scrape and sand all the

walls! But after five full days of work we can proudly say that the outside perimeter of the nursery is now a beautiful beige and looking so clean! We've been able to experience and learn so much from attending Church with our hosts and the passion that they have for the Lord! We might not understand some of the local language but we can see their joy and at moments that is all that matters. It is safe to say that we all have grown accustomed to typical Ghanaian life with the heat, humidity, power outages, traffic, food, and we're loving every second of it! We've had so much more to do and we can't wait! This is only the tip of the iceberg! Stay tuned!

Himalayas | May 16 – July 1

PTL for...

- Our supporters who got us here and God's provision in providing the necessary funds right when we needed them.
- Our brothers and sisters we've encountered at village churches and house fellowships. We have encouraged them, but also have been very encouraged *by* them.
- God's faithfulness to us as we minister to His people.
- The assurance of God's sovereignty and faithfulness through trials and struggles.
- The amazing physical, emotional, and spiritual healings God has done as a tangible manifestation of His love.



Cambodia | May 17 – June 21

PTL for children and national workers to dream bigger than their circumstances!

Our time in Cambodia has been filled with what—to the human eye—seems mundane, but as the weeks unfold the Lord has been providing us with a bigger vision. Monday through Friday we teach at a school for missionary kids. Teacher Fea is a woman of strength, character, and strong desire to see these kids grow and teach others about English and the Lord. Hosting this ministry in her home, Fea desires to go to Thailand, become accredited as an administrator, register the school, then pass this ministry on to other accredited Cambodians so she can plant another Christian school. Our arrival could not have come at a more perfect time. Freeing her up to work out all these administrative details has been our biggest ministry amidst the tiny mundane activities of playing with kids. Praise the Lord for His perfect timing!



We also live in a city where brothels are rising every day. Our mission here is to pray and prevent. The Lord has astoundingly provided opportunities for us to chat with women and children that work in the market place, drug rehab center, and outside villages. As we develop relationships the Lord affirms more and more every day that encouraging them, praying for them, and reminding them to dream big saves one life at a time. They may not be on the streets now, so our prayer is we can provide skills, love and hope to keep them out of those clubs we pass by every single day. Praise the Lord, the Author of this trip and Guide through our journey here. May He continually remind us that never is our work in vain, but rather every work done is unified for a greater purpose. Thanks be to God

Tanzania A | May 17 – June 15

PTL for relationships built with those affected by leprosy! Jambo from Tanzania! We have been in Arusha for the past week, in transition from team one to team two. Team one was an amazing trip! God did so much and was definitely at work. We built great relationships with the Charedleco people, one of the world's largest leper colonies. The team was able to teach at the school there for about two weeks and our impact was definitely felt. Great progress was also made in the water filter project where many kinks were worked out in order for the impact of this project to be felt all over the village of Nkungi. The team's impact was definitely felt on the village as we said our last goodbyes and headed off for Safari and debrief. We received word that they all made it home safely and had no trouble getting through customs! June 20th has arrived and we are ready to embark with Team 2 for the next six weeks! They made it in safe and sound at 3:30 in the morning and did not have any trouble making it past the 27 hours of flying time that it

took. We are just about to head out to Nkungi to continue the work that Team 1 started and we are all excited to see what God is going to do. The San Diego FFCC team has joined us as well and they will be with us for the next two weeks, working alongside each other. We are thankful for our second year of collaboration and partnership with the Tanzania national workers!

India – Kolkata | May 18 – June 26

PTL for learning new and old revelations...

1. I have learned I can do nothing, but God can do everything.
2. I have learned there is beauty in brokenness.
3. I have learned Jesus is alive in the Sisters of Charity.
4. I have learned there is no better place to be than at the feet of Jesus.
5. I have learned the peace Christ gave to his disciples transcends all understanding.
6. I have learned that with all the honking cars, the continuous pulling of orphaned children, the 107 degree weather with no air conditioning, the line of women and children in need of medical attention, and the responsibilities of leading the team - I am exactly where I am meant to be, sharing God's love and message with the people of India. All glory and honor be to our God.

Japan Relief | May 23 – 28 June

PTL for willing hands and humbled hearts! しめ: "Shime" translates to "your calling" in Japanese. This was taught to us during one of our morning devotions. Our team has been in Japan for about a week and God has exposed us to various types of ministries and services; vacation bible school, sports day, mobile cafe, farm clean up, and more. Our calling for the team is not to seek a specific purpose, but to be willing hands for God. It is not about being capable, but available for God. And as we continue to serve in various ways, and though we are not able to understand how God may use us, we are learning that to serve is not an obligation to understand but an opportunity to have faith in the God who does. Praise the Lord that we are able to be willing hands and humble hearts for God's kingdom work.



France | May 24 – June 30

PTL for the work of the Holy Spirit! We are almost done with our trip here in Paris yet it has been wonderful to see the Lord working amongst our team. While it is a hard ministry talking with students in a city marked by its post Christian characteristics, we have been able to spark up great conversations about God and see genuine interests in students wanting to know more. We have given up so much to the Holy Spirit and it has reminded our team daily that it is by His doing that people will come to know Him and it is merely a blessing to be a part of sharing the Good News.



Focus International June Teams

Peru Resource ♦ Ecuador ♦ Kenya-Illula ♦ India-Bangalore ♦ Ghana-Accra ♦ Himalayas ♦ Cambodia ♦ India-Kolkata ♦ Japan Relief
France ♦ Nepal ♦ South Africa ♦ Burkina Faso ♦ Ireland ♦ Peru ♦ Tanzania B Firelands ♦ Malawi ♦ Ghana Tamale ♦ China

Check out our team's prayer cards here: <http://www.apu.edu/owm/trips/2012>
If you would like to donate, you can do so here: www.apualumni.com/owmgive