

Trips to Colombia and Peru

3 May 2014

Do you need to be encouraged?

From time to time the road we travel in life feels long and tiresome. Sometimes we encounter difficult patches and discouraging setbacks. Paul prayed repeatedly for his fellow believers that “our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word” (1Thes. 2:16-17). The Lord Himself is our great encourager. Like David, we may also find strength in the Lord our God (1Sam. 30:6). Usually, however, the Lord encourages us



through others. When reinstating Peter, the Lord Jesus told him: “when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers” (Luke 22:32). He did. Peter travelled with his wife encouraging the saints (1Cor. 9:5). So did Paul and Barnabas who visited new congregations “strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith” (Acts 14:22). As they visited gentile congregations, Judas and Silas also “said much to encourage and strengthen the brothers” (Acts 15:32). Paul and Silas “went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches” (Acts 15:41). Later they sent Timothy to Thessalonica “to strengthen and encourage” the saints in their faith (1Thes. 3:2). Do you allow God to encourage you through others?

You - an encouragement?

Strengthening and encouraging fellow believers is a work of the Holy Spirit. “Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria... was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit” (Acts 9:31). Would you like to be used by God’s Spirit to strengthen others? Sometimes we may encourage others by what we say, by singing or by sharing some relevant insight from

God’s word or by praying for them. Sometimes it may be an act of kindness. Your presence, the fact that you take the trouble to phone, to write or to visit can also be a great encouragement to fellow believers. You and I, in fact every willing believer, can be used by God’s Spirit to strengthen fellow Christians. Is there someone you could encourage today?



Two weeks in Colombia

Last January, together with Jaap Vergouwe, a Bible teacher from Belgium, we visited a number Christian assemblies in Colombia.

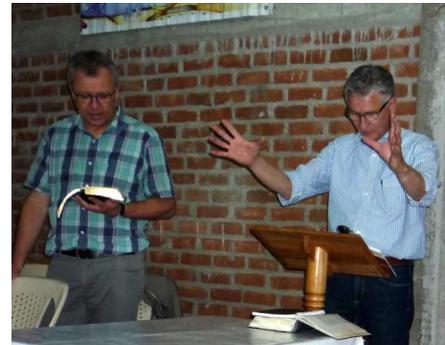
We begun by helping with some Bible teaching at the Intensive Bible Study Week in Pereira. Then we make use of a jeep to travel over the Andes and visit some assemblies in Ibaguè, Puerto Boyacá, Medellín, Quinchia and Santa Cecilia (a new congregation who are also busy building their chapel). Then down the valley to Armenia, Cartago and Cali.





Two weeks in Peru

In April, together with Gerard Hoddenbath, an evangelist based in the assembly in Brunssum, Holland, we travelled to Peru. Our trip had three stages: First we travelled north, helping in a one day conference in Trujillo and then a two day conference in Chiclayo. The small congregation in Chiclayo used this conference to inaugurate their new meeting hall. We were encouraged to meet 4 indigenous brothers from the Amazon region. Their living conditions are very primitive. Then we took the 8 hour bus ride south to Lima, to serve with two Bible readings at the Pueblo Libre assembly. These address were filmed and soon will be placed on YouTube for the instruction and encouragement of fellow believers. Our final trip was south east. A one hour flight to Cusco, and then 2,5 hour drive to Curahuasi, to visit the



modern Christian hospital 'Diospi Suyana' ('In God we trust' in Quechua) which was set up in 2007 to serve the poorest in Peru, the Quechua Indians. Our goal here was to visit missionaries John and Viola Lentink (from Brunssum assembly) and to help with some Bible teaching during a weekend conference for hospital staff.

This hospital needs and welcomes volunteers: doctors, nurses, administrators, IT experts, teachers, handy-persons. If you love the Lord and Quechua people, are aged 18 or above and can make 3 months or more free, check out their website.

Everywhere we went we were warmly welcomed, and as usually happens when you set out to encourage others, we returned home encouraged ourselves! Thank you for your interest and support for these trips. Christian work is definitely team work!

- Philip Nunn

