
Come and Hear July 2025

1 message

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*Come and hear, all you who fear God
And I will declare what He has done for my soul.
~Psalm 66:16*

**"The LORD is my strength and my shield; in
him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my
heart exults, and with my song I give thanks
to him."
~Psalm 28:7**

Dear Friends,

"Do not be anxious for anything." "Let not your heart be troubled." "Do not be

anxious about your life."

What comes to your mind when you read those verses? Do you feel comforted? Reassured? For Maria*, who struggles with debilitating anxiety, every time she read those verses, she felt guilt. "Great," she thought. "Yet another way I'm failing God. Yet another command I'm not keeping."

A year ago, I might have felt the same thing. When anxiety comes knocking, it can be easy to read those verses and think: "the Bible tells me not to worry. I feel worry. Therefore I am in sin." But not this time.

This time, I was meeting with Maria as part of one of my homework projects for my counseling classes at Westminster Theological Seminary, and just the week before, I had listened to my professor, Dr. Ed Welch, unpack those verses. He explained that usually when we see imperatives in the Bible, we think of them as commands. But, as he explained, the imperative in Greek can serve not only as a command, but also as a request, an entreaty, or an invitation. As an example, he mentioned the Lord's Prayer, which is chock-full of imperatives (give us this day our daily bread, lead us not into temptation) although none of us would dare to say that we are commanding God what He must do!

Rather than commands to be kept, he taught us to view these verses as invitations to accept; not a stern God standing far off, commanding us and demanding obedience, but a close Father opening His arms and inviting us to run to them, to bury our head in His shoulder and cry out to Him all of our fears and anxieties and worries.

Maria knew all these verses. She'd been in church since she was a child. She even briefly taught Sunday School before her health problems made it impossible. But she had never seen these verses in this way. She thanked me with tears in her eyes. The verses didn't cure her anxiety...but they broke down a wall that she had slowly built up over the years, a wall of guilt and shame that drove her farther away from God instead of drawing her closer to Him.

This is just one of the reasons why I love my classes at Westminster! Every week I learn something new and beautiful and practical that I can apply directly to ministry here.



Our Healing the Soul Workbook

We also took advantage of everything I've been learning to put together an 8-week series of workshops on Healing the Soul. We looked at topics such as resentment, guilt, anxiety, self-esteem, and grief, diving deep into what the

Bible says about each one and including practical activities and one-another ministry opportunities.



We had around 40 participants each week

It was incredible to see how God used the workshops in the lives of our church body and even in the surrounding community. Almost every week we had participants bringing friends or family members, many of them unbelievers, with deep soul-wounds. At least one of them, Christian, received Christ and has been congregating with us each week. With all of them we had the chance to share the love and compassion that God offers through the Gospel.





One-another ministry during the workshops





I also shared some of what I've learned in my classes each week.

During each workshop, I had a chance to share a little bit about what I'm learning in my counseling classes. I also helped Jorge by preparing the materials and workbooks that we used each week, and I was available for individual counseling before and after each workshop.





Testimonies at the last workshop: Willy, Julio, Sandra, and Lizette

At our last workshop, we had a time of testimonies where participants shared how God had been working in their lives through the studies. It was beautiful to hear how God's Word had spoken to their struggles with guilt, anxiety, resentment, and grief.

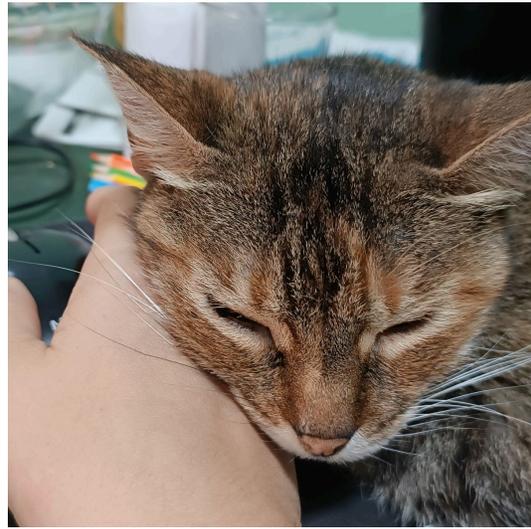
And you? How could we close without saying thank you to you? We literally could not do this without you. This is (part of!) what your financial support is making possible here; my classes at Westminster cost \$650 per credit hour, almost \$2000 per class...but when we see how God is using them to share the Gospel and to grow His body, they are absolutely worth every penny!

And it's not only your financial support God is using here; your prayer support brings hurting people to church in search of the healing only God can provide. It brings the right words to our lips when we find ourselves in conversations that got deeper than we expected and we don't have prepared lesson plans to fall back on. It reaches out and hugs the sister whose body is wracked with sobs because her grown son is dealing drugs and she has decided to make him move out in order to protect her two younger sons. It gets us out of bed in the mornings when it's cold and damp and we're tired, and it puts a warmth in our hearts and a smile on our faces and a sparkle in our eyes.

Thank you so much for your ministry to us and with us!

Rejoicing in Christ,

Jorge and Keesa



Prayer Requests:

PRAISE:

For the Healing the Soul workshops at Filadelfia

For Keesa's counseling classes and the richness and depth they are bringing to the ministry here in Peru.

For the people who heard the Gospel through the workshops, and for those who received Christ

For those who have grown spiritually or received comfort and encouragement through the workshops.

PRAY:

For our travels to Colombia for the World Reach conference at the end of the month.

For upcoming ministry opportunities, especially the English-language Bible study we are putting together on the book of Ephesians.

For good health and wise time management

For rest and refreshment

Would you like to partner financially with World Reach's ministry in Peru?

You can do so through this link:

<https://world-reach.org/en/missionary/keesa-and-jorge-gutierrez-dupre/>

*Maria's name was changed to protect her privacy. The other names in the newsletter are shared with permission.



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