

Amy Yie

*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”*

*-Philippians 4:6*

*Yuca*: a white, fibrous vegetable that made a number of appearances at mealtimes, proving quite the ordeal to finish. *Moto-cars*: a motorized rickshaw that comfortably fits 3 people, most common form of transportation. *“Rio, rio, rio”*: “River, river, river”, frequently sung upbeat praise song at Iglesia Tabernaculo involving both spinning and jumping. My mission trip to Pucallapa, Peru this summer opened my eyes to a plethora of new cultural experiences like the three aforementioned items, but more than that, I was shown the importance and the power of *prayer*. In my mind, I had always known that prayer was imperative; but in Peru, God revealed to me that prayer was infinitely more than I had ever known before.

*Lesson 1*: Our first week, our team split into groups to go on house visits and were told to pray beforehand for our visits. My group did not pray and left merrily on our way. All three of our assigned houses said that the person we were going there for was not there or not available and asked if we could come back later. After the third house, our leader asked us, half-jokingly, “Did you guys pray before you left?” We hung our heads and said “No.” After spending some time in prayer, we went back to our houses and they were all there and ready to talk to us. God showed me that day how proud I was to think that I could go on these house visits on my own strength; that I didn’t need God to pave the way and prepare the hearts of the people first.

*Lesson 2*: As we left KM 83 and KM 64 (two places that we visited), I felt this

longing within me while I watched the children and the adults wave “chau!”. I felt bad that there was nothing more I could do for the children, for the church members. Maybe if I stayed longer, maybe if I could talk to them more. Then, in my hopelessness, God showed me that there was something I could do for them; I could pray. And the best part is that not only is prayer the *only* thing I can do, it is also the *best* thing I can do for them. All of these lessons I may have been taught sometime in my life. However, now more than just my head, my *eyes* have seen and my *heart* has felt the impact of prayer. And I know that God doesn’t need my prayers to work, but by praying, I declare that I am utterly hopeless and nothing without Him.

***Prayer:*** speaking to God with thanksgiving, praise, petitions; declaring one’s absolute dependence on Him; source of power for all ministry.