



Dear Co-laborers,

We first want to apologize for missing last month's letter, but we hope to explain why we did. This month's letter will be longer than usual, but we have a lot to share. We ask that you pray for us as you read.

Over the last 15 years of being missionaries, we walk through doors the Lord opens, bathed in prayer, checking every box and peeking around every corner to make sure that our decisions are not only God's will and God honoring, but secure, safe choices. We take very seriously the responsibility we are given in managing God's money, so we take extra care to not use it foolishly. With that in consideration, six months ago, we were growing. We had a church, school, and were taking steps to purchase land. As of today, all of those things are gone. We've gone back and forth on the best way to share how all of it happened. Why, though we took great care to avoid this situation, it all still failed and how heartbroken we are.

Last year, we started our school with a request from a pastor, who we had known for years, and his deacons to start a Christian school to draw in more families to Christ. Due to his vision aligning with ours, we had worked hard to get it started and poured a lot of money into making sure it was established enough to be self-sufficient in a few years. Sadly, at the end of the year the pastor suddenly decided he needed to leave the church and let us know with a very late notice. The new pastor, a good young man, then decided he didn't want the school. We never quite found out why since he never contacted us to discuss it, but chose instead to let us know through a third party.

Our home became a storage unit of memories. We have storage cabinets, tables, lockers, curriculum, even pencil cases, and anything else that you need for a school. We also had the hard task of getting legal paperwork to families transferring their children to another school. We also had to watch the two abandoned children that we clothed, fed, and cared for, move away so they can have a chance at a better life.

In that we still had hope. We had begun the process of purchasing land. It is so hard for a foreigner to purchase land here with any reasonable loans. When a businessman offered land to purchase and build on for a fraction of the normal price because he said it was for the Lord, the offer was hard to turn down. But we were careful, laying out contracts, agreements, and

constant communication to assure us that what was offered truly existed. Sadly, in the end, all that we were offered turned into a lie and an attempt to take our money and the buildings.

We hired two well-known lawyers to carefully look over everything. We had a tentative contract before we left for the States to raise funds, and everyone was in agreement. It only lacked the final notarization, so if there were disputes, we would be covered legally, even as a foreigner. While we were in the States, Patrick called to reaffirm that all was well, as he was very nervous about asking for funds for something that wasn't real, and he was given assurity that everything was fine. This was a man we had known and cared for, for three years, coming to our home, three nights a week, learning and growing.

Upon our return from the States in the middle of February, the businessman wanted money to start with construction. We wanted confirmation of a contract before spending any money. In the end, he wanted to revisit the contract and in doing so, he undid all our agreements. He tried to change the contract so that, subtly, the agreement was no longer to buy, but to lease. He changed it so that the payments would increase to the point where we would no longer be able to sustain such payments and would have to give the land back to him. Worst of all, he changed it so that once we lost the land, he would take the buildings from us as well.

We are thankful that God allowed us to see the betrayal before we spent His money, but that doesn't stop the hurt. It doesn't stop the embarrassment. We put our reputation on the line to ask for funds to purchase the land, assuming all was well to only find that, yet again, the intent was to take from us and use us, not bless us for the Lord's sake.

We know God has a plan, but this experience broke us. His plan can be hard to see sometimes. Even still, we thought we could pivot and purchase another piece of land or building and make it all work. Sadly, there was more to come that stopped us from moving forward.

Once the plot was found out, the church member who lied about the land, obviously, left the church and with him, other families followed. We had several still with us, but the damage was done. After a few weeks, they filtered out as well, leaving us with an empty home church and empty hearts. We had nurtured, cared for, and grown this little church for over a year, making small strides to grow and now it had fallen apart.

We talked of giving up, of going home. We asked why. We cried and prayed. It seemed all hope, for us, was lost, but there was something there. Something that wouldn't go away. It was a still small voice. A voice that said, "You aren't done yet." Then the words of Horatio Spafford's famous song came to our lips, *It Is Well with My Soul*, "Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul."

We are hurt, we are wounded, we are struggling; but God isn't done with us yet. While there is still breathe in our lungs, we won't let Satan win. We are trying to pick ourselves back up and continue ministering again. We are continuing with our Bible studies from all areas of Lima. We had children's outreaches, Biblical counseling, and Biblical trauma healing classes to continue bringing people to the Lord and share His beautiful plan of salvation.

Teresa will be traveling to the jungle to do more children's outreaches and teaching them how to handle trauma in children's lives. Patrick is beginning the process of taking his seminary curriculum to smaller areas around Peru to teach pastors and students how to plant churches, how to be pastors, and, appropriately, how to handle the struggles of the ministry.

We want to be clear, the church plant isn't done, our ministry here isn't done, and we are not giving up. This has been painful and a huge setback, but we aren't done. Our ministry will continue until the Lord says so.

While we still hope to buy our own building, we understand that the money we have raised was for a specific purpose. We have contacted all those that gave to send the money back. We have done our best to remember and identify those that gave, but sometimes gifts are not marked correctly, so if we have missed someone who has specifically given to the building project, please let us know so that we can make sure we return the money.

We end with a story about a boy in the children's outreach that ended just a week ago. Jhon, a preteen in our outreach, reminded us why we can't give up. He showed up to the outreach full of distractions, almost openly mocking the lesson that was being taught. But he kept coming back. After multiple lessons, we taught about "Bringing It to the Cross". There was a clear presentation of the gospel, then we taught them that healing means first coming to Christ, to take our filthy sin, all that abuse that Satan uses to accuse us, and bring it to the Lord, laying it at the cross. We had made a large wooden cross and asked who among them would come. Jhon stood and came to the front and left it all at the cross.

Thank you for your prayers and for standing with us during this difficult time. We trust the Lord will open up our paths and increase His ministry here through us. We are not the reason for joy, He is. As long as we focus on Him, we can never fail.

Please feel free to reach out to us via email at Trulyisplenteous@gmail.com or through our Facebook page at "Pruetts in Perú" or on Instagram at [Pruetts_in_Peru](#). From the bottom of our hearts, we are thankful for your endless prayer support. Your prayers are so precious to us, and we are so blessed to have prayer partners like you. We cannot do what God has asked us to do without you. Thank you!

06/09/2025

