

Missional Living

For the last two years at National Conference I have listened to folks like Reggie McNeal and Hugh Halter talk about what it is like for a church to live missionally. I saw it lived out a few weeks ago at the Lima Brethren Church.

I was privileged to spend New Year's Eve with Pastor Luis, Zorida, and other family and friends that worship at LBC. Yes, New Year's Eve-Peruvian style! It was loud, crazy and wonderful! There were more fireworks going off over the city of Lima that I have seen in all my July 4th holidays combined. What a view from the third floor of the church!

But we were not the guests of honor at the party. The party was held for the local youth so they would have an alternative to the usual parties that are filled with things that are not safe and healthy for them, or honoring to God. What made them choose to forego the usual party for the one in Luis and Zorida's home? They have found something there that they cannot find in the world.

At the LBC they find video games, music, and free wifi (a must for youth even in Lima!). That is what attracts them. Once they are there, they find acceptance, hope, and love. That is why they stay.

Pastor Luis shared with us how he has gone through a personal and spiritual transformation in 2011. It was the most difficult and most rewarding year in the life of his church. God has asked him to open his heart to the youth in the community and he said yes. Out of Luis' obedience, God is bearing fruit.

The most powerful and telling thing that Luis shared with me was that after the youth start to come several times a week to share life and hang out, they are always surprised to find out along the way that they are coming to a church and more surprised to learn that Luis is a pastor.

In this life they are sharing Luis has introduced them to Jesus Christ. They have found the reason for hope they see in the lives of the caring adults at LBC. They are taking their new Christian music CD's to their homes, where the rest of the family is hearing the message. Missional living in action.

I learned a lot from watching pastor Luis and other members of the church live out the call to "be the church".

Respectfully submitted,

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