

May 2005: New Steps (Part 1 of 2)

by Aaron Greenway

On May 28 of this year, I will be making one of the biggest steps of my life. Years before in 1987, I made the most important decision of my life to accept Jesus Christ as the only answer to my sin problem. In 1998, I decided to move to Dallas to go to seminary, a very stressful but rewarding time. In 2002, I made the decision to be a missionary to Peru full time. Now, I am faced with another decision that will affect me for the rest of my life. I am getting married.

This is a very exciting yet very scary time. This means that we take our decision very seriously. Once the vows are taken and the marriage consummated, we will belong solely to one another as husband and wife. We will be married in Garland, Texas and travel to Houston immediately to be a part of a Caribbean cruise for one week.

So, how did it all begin? About two years ago, I was leading a growth group. Just like always, I would invite any new single in the church to the group. And so when I saw her, I invited her not thinking anything. She told me that she was only visiting, deciding whether or not to go to seminary in Fort Worth. The following week, I saw her again and told her that if she was going to go to seminary and come to my church, then we could all go out with our mutual friends (the ones who invited her to check out the seminary) to a Peruvian restaurant that I like. But our friends said, "Why don't we go now." So we all decided to go before my fiancée's plane left. However, our friends discovered that they had to go to a meeting and so they left us by ourselves. We had a good time and I ended up taking her to the airport. It was on the way to the airport that a little spark began in my heart.

The problem was that there were two other young ladies who were in my life at the same time. Both were on long-distance relationships. Sometimes, because of logistics, God shows you His will. This obviously was not the only reason I made the decision I did. And this whole triangle may seem kind of funny to most of you, but my wife-to-be and I take it as a miracle, because timing was everything. The other two young ladies were committed Christians called to the mission field, something very rare so I had to consider the possibility with each one. It wasn't until May 2004 that my feelings began to shift to one particular person, Gleyser Aguirre, a young lady from Bolivia who moved to the United States nine years ago.

I know singles who stress too much over their singleness. Being single does not mean being less of a person. It just means that God has something so good cooking in the pot, that when it happens, it will have been worth the wait, and you will realize why you had to wait. Try to serve God where you are right now. The more you work on your relationship with the Lord, the less baggage you will bring with you when you do get married.

Upon reviewing the seminary in Fort Worth, Gleyser decided to come to Dallas. She faced much opposition because her unsaved family did not understand her decision. I saw an incredible sense of integrity, a willingness to go against the grain, and an unwaivering spirit. Above all, I saw someone who obeyed God even when it was not convenient. This is what separated her from the others. This gave me confidence that she would go with me to Peru when we were called full-time.

On her end, God had spoken to her in her dreams. Her father, a man who has had difficulty accepting other guys, accepted me from the beginning. And when we met, he embraced me as his future son-in-law. When God shows you His will, it could be circumstantial, feelings, and some of it is what you have in common. My pastor told me once, "Don't fall in love until you know it is the right person." Now, Gleyser and I are building our love one step at a time.

My biggest advice to singles is to NOT do what I did for many years, to stress over who I would marry. I went to a seminary and found almost no one who wanted to do missions work, and certainly not in Latin America. I once broke up with a girl for the same reason when I found out she wanted to go into business instead of into the ministry. Later, another told me that God had not called her to that. Finally, I came to the conclusion that I would obey God even if I never got married. So from the beginning I told Gleyser, "I am going to Peru. If you want to go with me, then great! If not, that is fine. But we can only be friends. But it was through this process that I found Gleyser to be the most consistent. And it was precisely when I gave up my right to be married that I found her.

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"Behold, thou art fair, my love; behold, thou art fair; thou hast doves eyes within thy locks" (Song of Solomon 4:1a).

Gleyser, I love you!

Something to ponder...

Your brother,
Aaron Greenway