

March 2006: The Testimony of Gleyser Greenway

by Aaron Greenway

Several weeks ago, I told all of you that we would be posting my wife's testimony on our website. We could think of no better way to do this than to include it in one of our devotionals. We hope that it blesses you and that God will speak through it. Here is her testimony:

I was born in 1976 in the town of Oruro, Bolivia, but grew up in Cochabamba, a city planted in a valley filled with mountains all around, with picture-perfect sights, and with lots of warm faces. My parents were teachers of Chemistry and Biology; and they worked very hard, but only to cover their basic needs economically speaking. This constant struggle led my father to come here to the United States when I was only thirteen years of age. My mother, my brother, and I decided to stay behind in Bolivia for the next few years so that we could finish school. Also, at this time, my mother suffered from Rheumatoid Arthritis of which she had from the year my brother was born. Since I can remember I was able to see her suffer from this sickness.

Like every young person, even though my father was in the United States and even though one day we would have to go to where he was, I did not stop planning and dreaming about a future in my own country. At that time, I did not want to go to the United States because all of my friends were in Bolivia. But at about the time I was 19 years old my mother really began to get worse. That is when my father decided to bring us all here to the United States. In a moment, I felt like my whole world was falling. Even though I would leave physically, my plans, my projects, my friends, and my life would stay in Bolivia. At the same time I knew that my mother needed two surgeries that in Bolivia it would have cost her a lot of money because we did not have medical insurance the way we would have in the U.S. We finally all arrived here in May of 1996.

After arriving, everything seemed very different and empty to me, since I had left everything I had known and loved behind. I began to work taking care of children with which I had no experience and very little interest. But it was also a shock for me because I had never worked before. For one year I was employed in several places planning to return to Bolivia.

After arriving, everything seemed very different and empty to me, since I had left everything I had known and loved behind. I began to work taking care of children with which I had no experience and very little interest. But it was also a shock for me because I had never worked before. For one year I was employed in several places planning to return to Bolivia. However, during that year my life would dramatically change due to the increased suffering my beloved mother would be dealing with as well as the surgery she would have to undergo, and then later come to realize that the medication that she was taking would damage her kidneys. I suffered just watching her suffer. A year later, she decided to return to the homeland thinking that she would be better off. I also went back but realized that I needed to return to the U.S. and so I did. However, my mother remained behind so my aunt could look after her.

Three months passed and my mother, feeling alone, went from bad to worse. She longed to see her children, but couldn't because we were so far away. In October, my mother passed away thinking that we had abandoned her. The situation was so bad for us because once we had come back to the States, we didn't have any more money to go back to Bolivia. I felt exasperated knowing that my mother was so far away and I couldn't go to her. I thought about saving money up until the end of the year and then send it to her so she could come back to us, but that never happened because that is when she was suddenly taken.

My heart felt even more empty because I didn't have her anymore, but even more because I didn't have that supernatural peace. I didn't have God. The days passed and I prayed to God, asking Him that I would find Him. I told Him how lonely I was in a country so far from mine, and even though I had everything I needed, I had no hope. Some days later, a friend from school invited me to a youth group meeting at his church. That night a pastor from Argentina preached. I remember it so well. I felt that everything the pastor had said, he was saying it to me. I remember the prayer I prayed, and that night I made Jesus part of my life, letting Him come into my heart.

From that night on, God began to work in my life healing my heart and comforting me. How true when His Word says "Though my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will receive me" (Psalm 27:10). His Word came true in me. In addition, God sent some friends, a married couple named Carlos and

Alma, to disciple and to help me grow spiritually. What a blessing they were to my life. Years later, after they had moved to Dallas/Fort Worth, they invited me to visit the Baptist seminary. This is where I began to feel that the Lord was calling me to go. After telling my family that I was moving and receiving the blessing from my church, I left for seminary.

Once I was in Fort Worth, I met Aaron, my husband at the church I now attend. We became friends and after a time of prayer, we began our courtship. Six months later and after having asked God for a confirmation, we were engaged. At that time, I was very unsure about whether or not he was the right man for me. All I wanted was for God's will to be done and was willing to end the relationship if it was not His will. But God in His mercy and love confirmed it to me even down to the slightest, little detail that Aaron was His will for my life. What a blessing it is knowing that you have God's peace and permission when you move by faith, always including Him in everything you do, big or small. Like His Word says "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths" (Proverbs 3:4,5).

Aaron and I were married on May 28, 2005 and we continue to serve and prepare ourselves for the mission field. Even to this point, I can see the greatness of God and how he moves in each and every life in different ways for His glory.

In His Love,
Gleyser Greenway