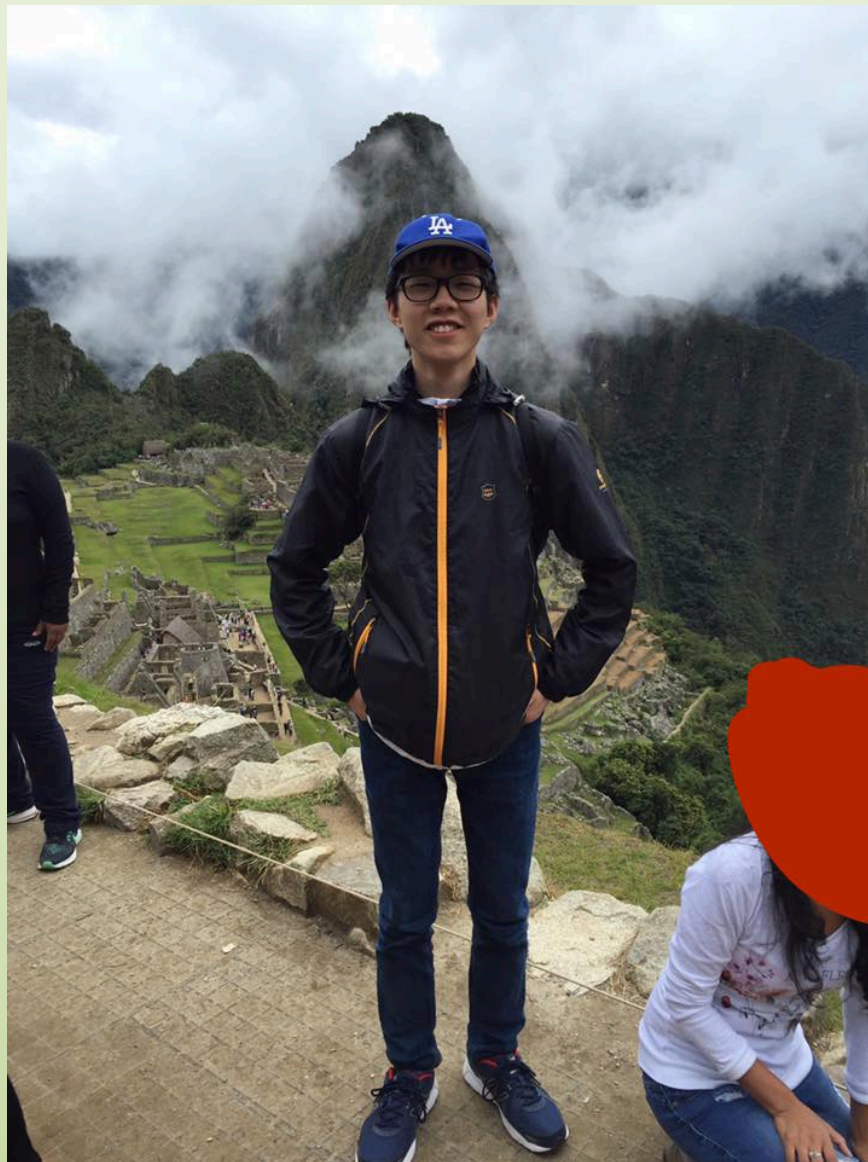


Note: All Bible verses are in Holman's New American Standard.

# Peru Journal

*RELG360*

Joshua Kim



## May 9, 2016 (Monday)



Explorama Lodge, Amazon Jungle

I urge you therefore, brethren by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:1-2

This memory verse reminds me to get out of my comfort zone, which is either the United States or South Korea and explore other places in the world as a missionary. When I was in Iquitos and the Amazon Jungle, it was hot, humid, and unbearable as expected. We were all prone to getting disease and parasites, since tropical rain forests are a home to a lot of bizarre insects. It was a test to see if I am a qualified missionary since missionaries are meant to make sacrifices of their healthy lives to help poor people abroad. This tour is all about following the footsteps of the Stahls who were long time missionaries facing many hardships in order to evangelize Peru.

**May 10, 2016 (Tuesday)**



Village and School in the Amazon Jungle

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; For his lovingkindness is everlasting

Psalm 107:1

When we were visiting a one-room school in the Amazon Jungle, the school children sang the Peruvian national anthem and then we sang the American national anthem. This reminded me that God is so good that he loves us as if we are his sons and daughters. Regardless of our race and nationality, we are brother and sisters of God. Showing our national differences made me feel united with those Peruvian school children. That was not the end of our visit though. After we sang, we played soccer with them. Having fun and playing with each other is another example of treating one another like brothers and sisters.

May 11, 2016 (Wednesday)



Cusco

I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him.

Daniel 7:13

This Bible verse is significant especially at Cusco during daytime. Cusco skies were beautifully clear with white clouds. It reminded me that our departure for Heaven is coming soon.

The Qorikancha Temple impressed me today because the purpose of that temple was to worship the sun. It was incredible that temple was built with metal, stone bricks, and volcanic rock.

However, the strangest thing that I found was how the worshippers of the Qorikancha Temple located the sun and measured its angles. It was very precise especially when you realize that the sun is straight above you without any shadows to your side on Valentine's Day at noon at one exact spot in the Qorikancha Temple.

May 12, 2016 (Thursday)



Inca Caves and Ruins

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for Thou art with me Thy rod; Thy staff, and me they comfort me.

Psalm 23:4

When we were horseback riding to the top of the hill, the top of the hill where the Inca caves and ruins were somewhat reminded me of a battlefield because the land was so desolate and quiet. It was like the valley of the shadow of death. It was a reminder that God always has my back whenever I feel afraid of such places as the dark caves and the mysteriously abandoned ruins. On that day I also bought a lot of clothes for my family. I bought a beanie for my sister, and alpacas for my mother, my father, my grandmother, and my grandfather.

## May 13, 2016 (Friday)



Machu Picchu

No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

Matthew 6:24

Whenever I come across a junction especially when I am on a river, God gives me a choice whether to go right or left. It relates to a choice on whether we choose to go with him or something worldly.

Above is a picture of a gorge that I took while I was hiking from Machu Picchu to the Inca Bridge. I thought the river in the gorge communicated to me of many decisions on whether I should go towards a God-given paradise or turn away from it for my worldly desires. I would absolutely choose the path that is God's will for me.

## MAY 14, 2016 (SATURDAY)



Floating Islands of Lake Titicaca

For if you forgive men for their sins against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your sins

Matthew 6:14-15

When we rode on a bus from Cusco to Puno, it was not a normal day for me as a Seventh-day Adventist because it was on a Saturday and we could not go to church. Although Dr. Charles Teel was hosting the bus worship by telling us a story about the Stahl missionaries, it still did not feel like we were learning about any of the Bible. After the bus worship, I decided have a moment of silence by praying to God to help me not get into any trouble through the remainder of the tour. I also prayed for forgiveness since I was struggling with forgiveness at the time. This is why the Bible verses about forgiveness are significant to me.

## May 15, 2016 (Sunday)



A sloth that we found hanging at a home in the Amazon

Conclusion: Nearly everything in this trip went as I expected. I was expecting a lot of elevation differences that would force us to ride on planes instead of buses to get around Peru. Peru has the extremely high Andes and the very low wetlands of the humid Amazon. These terrains make bus rides nearly impossible to go through. Lastly, I learned that this study tour was mainly about following the footsteps of the Stahl missionaries. This trip helped me spiritually by letting me know that I must do something right if I ever find an opportunity to do the right thing since the Stahls did right towards the impoverished natives of Peru that they encountered.





## Most Spiritual Place

White Jesus of Cusco was the most spiritual place because it reminds me that Jesus is coming soon and we will be prepared to take off for Heaven.



Most Beautiful

## Place

The outskirts of Machu Picchu has a view of this beautiful gorge.



## Most Shocking Day

On Friday at Machu Picchu, we spotted the Inca Bridge and it was surreal especially when it was built next the rocky bluff.