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This is the listing of David's top men.

Josheb-Basshebeth, the Tahkemonite. He was chief of the Three. He once put his spear to work against eight hundred—killed them all in a day.

Eleazar son of Dodai the Ahohite was the next of the elite Three. He was with David when the Philistines poked fun at them at Pas Dammim. When the Philistines drew up for battle, Israel retreated. But Eleazar stood his ground and killed Philistines right and left until he was exhausted—but he never let go of his sword! A big win for God that day. The army then rejoined Eleazar, but all there was left to do was the cleanup.

Shammah son of Agee the Hararite was the third of the Three. The Philistines had mustered for battle at Lehi, where there was a field full of lentils. Israel fled before the Philistines, but Shammah took his stand at the center of the field, successfully defended it, and routed the Philistines. Another great victory for God!

One day during harvest, the Three parted from the Thirty and joined David at the Cave of Adullam. A squad of Philistines had set up camp in the Valley of Rephaim. While David was holed up in the Cave, the Philistines had their base camp in Bethlehem. David had a sudden craving and said, "Would I ever like a drink of water from the well at the gate of Bethlehem!" So the Three penetrated the Philistine lines, drew water from the well at the gate of Bethlehem, and brought it back to David. But David wouldn't drink it; he poured it out as an offering to God, saying, "There is no way, God, that I'll drink this! This isn't mere water, it's their life-blood—they risked their very lives to bring it!" So David refused to drink it.

This is the sort of thing that the Three did.

2 Samuel 23:8-17 (Message)

You are probably wondering what this bible verse could possibly have to do with Peru or Missions. I have always been drawn to the story of David's Mighty Men, the three and the thirty. As much for the heroics and battles as for the deception (Uriah, Bathsheba's husband, was one of the thirty) and the fact that as a Methodist I naturally like things in threes.

But there is much more to this story than the battles and heroics. It is something I used to see as a soldier. It is something I think we need more of in our Christianity and especially in our missions. The idea of fearless devotion.

All David did was verbally state a craving he had. To have a drink of water from a very specific well that was being held by his enemies. On that simple statement, the three mighty men fought their way to this well and drew water from it. For those of you not familiar with battle strategy—this was extremely risky. Not only did they have to fight their way in—hopefully catching the enemy off guard with such a bold move, but they had to take the time to draw water which took one of their fighters away. It also meant they were in one location while the enemy had time to regroup and form a counter attack. Then they would have to fight their way back to their lines after the enemy had that time to regroup. A daring feat.

After they bring this water to David, he then pours it out as an offering to God. David knew what they had risked to bring this to him. There is no reaction recorded from the three. Most likely men of this caliber would have recognized David's words as a tribute to their bravery and courage and not as a slap in the face.

The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.' Matthew 25:40 NIV

Check us out on Facebook. The group's name is I Dig Peru. Discuss the trips, share photos, look at old videos and connect with interns from past trips.

Please feel free to copy this newsletter to anyone or any group you may think is interested. Go to our website to view past issues or to request the newsletter.

Calendar of Events

| Item | Team | Date |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| Jeff Campbell at MUMC Traditional Services | Outreach | May 2 |
| Wednesday Night Supper and Presentation | Peru | May 5 |
| National Day of Prayer at Mauldin City Hall Flag Pole | Mauldin Community | May 6 |
| Downtown Coffee and Creamery First Friday | Dunlap's | May 7 |
| Team Meeting | Peru | May 11 |
| Yard Sale | Peru | May 15 |
| Mission Sunday at MUMC | Outreach | May 16 |
| Electronic Youth Dance | Peru | May 22 |
| Chick-Fil-A Spirit Night and Car Wash-Woodruff Road | Peru | May 25 5-8 PM |
| Downtown Coffee and Creamery First Friday | Dunlap's | June 4 |
| Team Meeting | Peru | June 15 |
| Chick-Fil-A Spirit Night and Car Wash-Woodruff Road | Peru | June 24 5-8 PM |

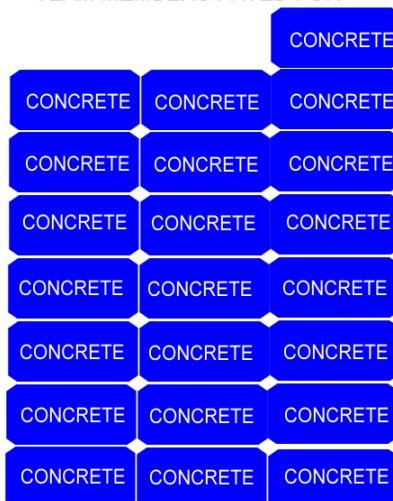
Peru Updates

This year's team is entering the final drive towards the mission trip. We still need to raise about \$16,000 to be fully funded with the Yard Sale, Electronic Youth Dance and two Chick-Fil-A Nights/Car Wash as our only remaining fundraisers. The coffee sales went very well as have the yard work projects.

Please continue to pray for the team as we start working on Vacation Bible School Skits and getting ready for the packing party. Especially pray that these final fundraisers do well.

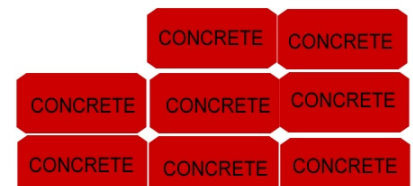
On May 16th we will be doing Mission Sunday at Mauldin United Methodists featuring speakers Kelsey Brookie and Brad Gainey talking about how their mission work in high school and college through the church has encouraged them to bigger and bolder commitments in their mission life.

TEAM MEMBERS PAID FOR



EACH CONCRETE BAG REPRESENTS ONE TEAM MEMBER FOR PERU 2010.

TEAM MEMBERS NOT PAID FOR



Fearless Devotion (cont.)

Imagine if we as Christians approached every call we got from God with such tenacity, with such fearless devotion. Imagine what our mission teams would accomplish if we simply attacked the minute God gave us a clue to what he wanted us to do specifically to carry out his will.

Personally, I don't think of myself as fearful or lacking in the guts department, but I don't see myself acting on God's call as strongly as the Three Mighty Men did. I could reference times in my military service but even then we came up with plans and found the least risky strategy to everything we did.

Do we risk enough in our mission work or our Christianity today? I don't think so. We may not have to fight the Philistine armies or do battle with swords and spears. But we do need to sacrifice our time, our talents and our money for the cause. These men gave up everything and risked their lives to stand firm for their Godly King.

So when you think about what God has planned for you, think about the Three Mighty Men and ask can you risk as much as they did. Can you stand firm when the doubt and naysayer come to your table? Will you have fearless devotion for your God and your mission? Are you willing to give up everything, including your own life to do what God wants you to do?