

NEWSLETTER

April 2023



Latin America

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PICTURE HIGHLIGHTS



Ernesto Vera (Peru) traveled a great distance to share the gospel with his ailing sister. Praise the Lord, she accepted Christ as Savior!



Gustavo Huamani (Uruguay) was privileged to baptize these three new believers in a nearby river.



The children at **Josué González's** church in **Mexico** made "wordless bracelets" to serve as a visual reminder of the salvation message. Around 12-14 children come to Saturday Bible club.

"Join the journey . . . not just where we've been, but where we're going."

Baptist Evangelistic Ministry Endeavors – Latin America

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c/o Central Missionary Clearinghouse, PO Box 219228, Houston, TX 77218-9228

Cartegena, Colombia

We are pleased to introduce another new church starter in Colombia—Pastor **Andrés Mejía**. His church, translated to English as “Saved by His Grace” Baptist Church, has gained legal status and has 20 faithful members.



Every Saturday, a dedicated group goes out on the streets to share the gospel in strategic areas of the city. This ministry, called “Pulpit in the Streets,” is a collaboration between Andrés Mejía’s church and another Baptist church in the region.



On Thursday evenings, Andrés and his team have Bible studies at the home of a relative of one of the couples of the church. Here, Pastor Andrés loads chairs onto a motorcycle for the meeting. The church recently purchased 27 chairs with donations and money earned through selling goods and other fundraising efforts.



April Project of the Month: Flood relief in Peru

We’re launching our new “Project of the Month” program, which will highlight a different ministry need each month. In the previous newsletter, we shared about severe damaging floods in Peru that devastated homes and church property and caused major setbacks in construction.



As a mission, we would like to come alongside Pastor Joel Gamboa Rojas and “New Jerusalem” Baptist Church in Trujillo, Peru as they raise funds for repairs and to help believers who have been affected by the floods. We invite you to participate with us - *any amount will be a great blessing!*

Please send checks (*payable to CMC*) to:

April Project of the Month
2601 South 14th Street
Burlington, IA 52601

San Juan de Calderón, Ecuador

The past few weeks have been full of new activities within the **Baptist Church in San Juan de Calderón**. The Children's Bible Club program kicked off with a giveaway of Samaritan's purse shoeboxes, and about 100 children and 35 parents total attended the event. This was very encouraging to the church since only about 15 of those children are already coming to church regularly. Since the first big event, between 40-50 children continue to attend each week.



Another particular blessing for **Gabriel Macancela**, as Pastor, and for the church as a whole is to watch the teens of the church step up every Saturday to help out in Bible club. A few of the ladies have also taken it upon themselves to approach the mothers who wait nearby for the duration of the Bible club, to speak with them and take advantage of the opportunity to personally share the gospel.



Five new deacons were recently elected to serve the growing congregation. Pastor Gabriel asked for prayer for Carlos Cungachi, Christian Escaleras, Patricio Narváez, Pedro Guamán, Jandry Barre, and their families.



Gabriel (top center) and the deacons

The church also held a missions conference with 5 guest speakers and celebrated 10 years since this work was initially formed. To [watch a short picture slideshow of church milestones and events of the past year, click here](#) or visit the church's Facebook page at facebook.com/IBBSanJuan.

Gabriel, himself, was invited to lead workshops at a teen camp on topics of faith and communion with God, the Christian life, and purity. Some weather-related challenges threatened to disrupt the teaching, but several of the young men came up afterward to say that God had spoken to their hearts.



We also want to share this sweet picture of Gabriel, his wife Rebeca, and baby Samuel celebrating Gabriel's 26th birthday in March!

Letter from the Director

Dear friends, prayer warriors, and supporters of BEME-LA,

I am composing this report while sitting in my hotel room in the Dominican Republic. The weather is hot, but the view is great. It was such a blessing to be with two of our church starters. Pastor Ariel and Pastor Yancarlos have wonderful churches that are vibrant and growing. Both are outgrowing their present locations, have purchased land, and praying that they can start construction of their own church buildings as funds become available. We praise God in how well they have done this last year with BEME support.



Earlier this month, we traveled to New Jersey and Pennsylvania to report to three of our supporting churches. We also attended a National Conference for Hispanic Outreach in Illinois. From there, we started our trip to the Dominican Republic, but had document issues, resulting in missing our flight. After a few calls, we hopped in the car and quickly drove from Peoria, IL to Chicago. Catching another flight, we made our connection to Miami and on to the Dominican. *WHAT? STRESSSSSSSSSS?! We're thankful for safe travel and answered prayers.* We also received news this month that two more churches are taking BEME-LA on for support.

While meeting with pastors in North and South America, I hear a reoccurring theme, *"The Lord is returning soon."* It reminds me of some of Christ's last instructions to his disciples in Luke 19:10, *"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."* This should be our focus and it is the reason for BEME. We are starting local churches, using national pastors, seeing many saved, baptized, and added to the body of Christ. May the Lord find **all** of us busy awaiting His imminent return.

Join the journey...not just where we've been, but where we're going.

Andrew Counterman

If you are interested in scheduling an in-person presentation of BEME-LA at your church, please call (410) 804-3767 or email counterman.andrew@gmail.com.

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

In the town of Villa Maria, **Belén Baptist Church** held its first evangelistic conference with a guest speaker, Pastor Donatiu, from Puerto Rico. **Pastor Yan Carlos Mercado** said that many from the neighboring community of **Las Cayenas**, where the church has been evangelizing for several months, came to the conference and made professions of faith. Some of the new converts are coming regularly to services, and he is working on contacting the others to try and start discipleship.



Seeing the need for a work in Las Cayenas, Yan Carlos has been laboring to start a new work there. Every Friday, he preaches in a small room to a growing group of believers.



As you can see in the above picture, they have quickly outgrown this space. Pastor Yan Carlos is praying for the opportunity to purchase a plot of land in Las Cayenas for a new church. In the meantime, the church is in need of a van to transport people to Sunday services.

The children's ministries in Villa Maria and Las Cayenas are very well-attended, and the children from both communities recently received their shipment of shoeboxes. Yan Carlos said, "[The children] were so happy. It is a blessing to see those kids learning about God's love and compassion. We believe working with kids and youth is sowing for the future church."



With help from the church members and the community, a successful fundraising event allowed the teens to travel to youth camp. For the teens in Las Cayenas, particularly, this support was a blessing and an encouragement.

Visit our website at bemela.org to find information about our mission, our church starters, involvement opportunities, and more.



You can also [follow us on Facebook!](#)

Prayer Requests

- For a **full presentation schedule, good health and safety** in travel for our director and his wife
- For our **goal of starting 20 new churches** and **expanding into Bolivia, Brazil, and Chile this year**
- For provision of **flood relief for believers in Peru** through our **April Project of the Month**
- For the many **current building projects and future land purchases**
 - * **Third-floor addition** - Rodrigo Valdespino; **Roof/building repair** - Cristian Alvarado Quintana; **Fence or wall enclosure, a covered metal structure, and 2 bathrooms** - Manuel Macancela; **Continued construction** - Douglas Serrudo, Rolando Arias
 - * **Saving for land purchase:** José Churata, Javier Peña, Joel Choque Arce, Gustavo Mis, Ignacio Salazar, Hetler Ramos, Gustavo González, Javier Saavedra
- For provision of various **ministry needs: vehicle repair** - Andrés Ramirez; **vehicle purchases** for Josué González and Gustavo Mis; **computers** - Ernesto Vera, Enrique Cadena; **chairs** - Cristian Quintana and Ernesto Vera
- For **approval of “Marvelous Grace” Baptist Church’s application for legal status** through the Colombian government (Cristian Quintana in Bogotá); Upcoming **church family camp** in May
- For the children’s ministries: **Sunday School, Bible clubs, and teen ministries**
- For the **visitation and discipleship efforts** of each one of our national pastors: this month we would like to highlight **Carlos Gallego, Gabriel Macancela, Andrés Mejia, Cristian Quintana, Gustavo Mis, and Hernan Leva Huari**



A Bible study in Ancahuasi, Peru (Pastor Hernan Leva Huari)

Thank you once again for your investment of time, prayer, and financial support of BEME-LA and the national pastors in Latin America. *We are thrilled to partner with you for the cause of Christ!*

For online giving, please visit www.myclickandgive.com. First-time donors must set up a secure account. Select **Central Missionary Clearinghouse** as the merchant for the account of **Andrew Counterman**.

The following coupon is provided to designate mail-in offerings. **Please make checks payable to Central Missionary Clearinghouse**, the agency which oversees BEME funding and financial transactions.



I would like to have a part in Latin American ministries with a tax-deductible gift of \$ _____ for:

**Project of the Month
(Flood Relief for believers in Peru)**

Other (please specify)

Building Projects

General Mission Fund

“Join the journey . . . not just where we’ve been, but where we’re going.”

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