

NEWSLETTER

August 2023



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PICTURE HIGHLIGHTS



Left: Along the Madre de Dios River in the **Peruvian jungle**, **Hetler Ramos** shares the gospel during a recent medical gospel missions trip organized by North American missionary partners [Buddy and Loren Fitzgerald](#).



Last month, Pastor **José Vazquez** (Mexico) fell and suffered a serious break in his right arm. He had to have surgery, but praise the Lord, José is now on the mend. He was pleased to report that other men of the church stepped in to ensure the services continued in his absence. Please pray for the slow road to recovery he has ahead of him.

Baptist Evangelistic Ministry Endeavors – Latin America

2601 South 14th Street, Burlington IA 52601

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Another Round of Children’s Day Celebrations

The churches in Colombia, Mexico, and Peru just celebrated Children’s Day in April. In June and August, those in Ecuador and Uruguay had their turns to intensify their evangelistic efforts around the holiday, which is a pretty big deal in most of Latin America.

In June, Pastor **Gabriel Macancela**’s church in **San Juan de Calderón, Ecuador** planned an outreach activity during the weekly Bible club.



After coming to the Children’s Day activity, one of the visiting mothers returned with her three daughters for Sunday services. Pastor Gabriel asked for prayer for this family, and for his wife, Rebeca, who has resumed leadership of the children’s ministry.



A helper hands out special Children’s Day treats (left); Pastor Gabriel’s wife, Rebeca, (right) shares the gospel with the children

In the **Ecuadorian Amazon**, children gathered at Pastor **Manuel Macancela**’s church in **Morete Cocha** to hear the gospel and receive a small gift, which they are holding up for the picture.



The second Sunday in August is Children’s Day in **Uruguay**. Pastor **Gustavo González**’s church in **Artigas** celebrated a day before, expressing *“infinite thanks to God for each of these beautiful treasures that God set in our path to teach, guide and serve.”*



In **Juan Lacaze**, Pastor **Andrés Ramirez** and believers from his established church in Nueva Helvecia shared a Bible message, games, prizes, and snacks at an open event in the park.



Winter is at its peak in Uruguay, but the 61°F temps did not deter this crowd!

Letter from the Director

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

We returned this past week from the wedding of our granddaughter and are now in the midst of final preparations for my departure to South America. When I return in two weeks, we walk into a full schedule as many churches use the Fall to focus on missions.

There is an anxious excitement in the air, and the BEME's home office is busy beyond belief. The same is true in the surrounding farm landscapes outside our windows. Summer is coming to a close. The seasons are on the verge of change. Fields are ripe, heavy, *"and white unto harvest."* [John 4:35]. They must be brought in soon, before the weather changes, but *"the laborers are few."* [Matt. 9:38]. Add to that, the "Bride" awaits her coming Bridegroom to take her away. Pause for a moment, friend. Do you not see, feel, and sense it, too? Our days are full and busy, but something greater is approaching. *It is the return of our Lord!*

I hope this newsletter finds you in active, anticipating service for our Lord. Great things are being done for the cause of Christ globally. Great things are being done for the cause of Christ locally. It's important that we all decide to be active in intentional service during this harvest time. We still hear the cry, *"The harvest is past, the Summer is ended, and we are not saved."* [Jer. 8:20].

Thank you to all who are faithfully active in prayer, support, and service. *"Be not weary in well doing, for in due season you will reap if you faint not."*

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

Andy Counterman, Director, BEME LA



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

News from Colombia

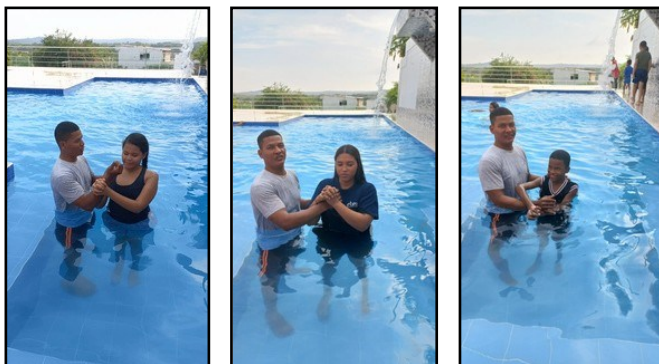
Pastor **Andrés Mejía Fontalvo**, his family, and the church in Cartagena have had a lot to be thankful for over the past several weeks.

The motivated members of the evangelism team continue to go out every Saturday without fail.



Pastor Andrés' daughter, Gabriela, handing out tracts

Recently, the church celebrated its anniversary, and three people were baptized and added to the membership.



August marks the 24th and final month of Pastor **Miguel Saboyá's** BEME support. It has been a blessing to see Pastor Miguel's ministry and family grow over the past two years.



Please keep Miguel, his wife Geidi, and their son Ángel in your prayers.

Visit bemela.org for information about our mission, the national pastors, involvement opportunities, and more...



...and be sure to [follow us on Facebook](#) for other updates!

Prayer Requests

- Please continue to pray for the following longstanding requests:
 - * **ongoing financial provision** for BEME and the monthly support of the national pastors
 - * **mission growth**... goal of increasing church plants to add 20 to the 27 currently in progress
 - * **...and expansion** into Bolivia, Brazil, and Chile, Lord-willing
- On behalf of **our donor/friend who is still waiting on a final decision** regarding his company's status.
- For **Pastor Andy's trip to South America**.
- For the **expedited approval of submitted applications for legal/civil registration of church plants**.
- **Provision for these material ministry needs** not mentioned within the articles or the prayer calendar:
 - * **Replacement tarp for metal structure** where Manuel Macancela's church in Shell is meeting (damaged during storm); pray for provision so that the building project on the land can advance
 - * **Sound equipment/Projector:** Gabriel Macancela, Cristian Alvarado, José Churata, Hernan Leva



Prayer Calendar Reminder

Be sure to put the attached prayer calendar in a place where it will remind you to **pray regularly for BEME**. Please also consider **designating a monthly offering of \$10 (Level 1), \$25 (Level 2), or \$50 (Level 3)** to our mission.

For a PDF of the prayer calendar, please click here or visit <https://bemela.org/newsletters>.

Thank you for your investment of time, prayer, and financial support for BEME LA.

Central Missionary Clearinghouse supplies our mission with financial administrative services and accountability. At this time, all electronic donations are received through CMC's giving portal, which is accessed from www.myclickandgive.com. First-time donors must set up a secure account. After login, please select **Central Missionary Clearinghouse** as the merchant; **Andrew Counterman** is the account name.

The coupon below is provided to designate mailed-in offerings. Going forward, **please make checks payable to BEME Latin America**, rather than Central Missionary Clearinghouse. This does not affect our partnership with CMC and you will continue to receive receipts for your tax-deductible donations.



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

- General Mission Fund
- Church Starter Support
- Building Projects

- Pray & Give: _____
- Other: _____
(please specify)

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

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Pray & Give

Pray for the following requests and designate a monthly offering of \$10 (Level 1), \$25 (Level 2), or \$50 (Level 3) to BEME.

September

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Pray for fruit from the 25 th church anniversary conference last month in Peru	Manuel Macancela 4 (Ecuador): upcoming 13-day river trip to bring the gospel to unreached people	Building projects: 5 R.Valdespino, C. Alvarado, A.Peña, S. Vega, J.Vazquez, M. Macancela, J.Churata	José Vazquez 6 (Mexico): pain relief, full and proper healing of broken bone; unable to move wrist	BEME Director, Board members, & support staff	Pastor Andy & Jo Ellen - safety in travel to present BEME	Andrés Ramirez 2 (Uruguay): Saturday evangelism classes for believers and canvassing efforts
Provision for abundant & urgent needs for church vehicle purchase/repair	Manuel Macancela: 11 spiritual growth of new converts Romel, Gabriel, Alcides, Yesenia, & Reacher	For fruit from 12 open doors of José Churata & Ernesto Vera in Peru to preach in schools	Josué González 13 (Mexico): for his ministry, protection, wisdom & encouragement	North American & national missionary partners & advisors	Praise: José Churata's church has a new meeting place; pray for provision of room dividers, etc. (Peru)	Ernesto Vera (Peru): 9 Saturday evangelism and training of church members for children's ministries
Gabriel Macancela: 17 the new couples ministry & provision for communion supplies	18  Important Catholic Holiday in the Dom. Rep. - pray for openness to the gospel	Cristian Alvarado 19 (Colombia): efforts to cultivate youth ministry with solid doctrinal foundation	Gustavo Mis 20 (Mexico): salvation of his father	Health and safety for the national pastors & their families	Ladies of Enrique Cadena's church, meet for biweekly Friday Bible study	 Mexican Independence Day! Pray for Mexico
Gabriel Macancela 24 (Ecuador): wife, Rebeca, in rehabilitation for ongoing back pain	Follow-up and 25 discipleship efforts from VBS & Bible clubs over the past few months	CMC: Dr. Maddox, 26 Shelli, Linda, & others who regularly provide assistance to BEME	Ignacio Salazar 27 family (Mexico): needs to find a new place to live	Approved candidates in line for BEME support	Provision of chairs 29 for the ministries of Hernan Leva, Cristian Alvarado, & Ernesto Vera	Robert Merino in Trujillo, Peru: 30 in-home visits and ongoing discipleship

Send by mail to:

BEME Latin America
South 14th Street
Burlington, IA 52601



Latin America

Please make checks payable to BEME Latin America.

You may designate your offering to a specific mission need by writing on the memo line or a note. Undesignated offerings are added to the general fund and used for prioritized mission and church starter needs.

Online offerings are accepted exclusively through the giving portal provided by Central Missionary Clearinghouse at myclickandgive.com. For more information, please visit bemela.org/get-involved/#give or contact missions@bemela.org for assistance.