

NEWSLETTER

July 2023



Director

Dr. Andrew Counterman

Board of Overseers

John Bott
Wilds of NC

Pastor Wayne Burggraff
Faith Baptist Church
Lebanon, PA

Pastor Simeon
Counterman
Calvary Baptist Church
Burlington, IA

Pastor Randy King
Wyldeewood
Baptist Church
Oshkosh, WI

Pastor Bill Schneider
Fellowship
Baptist Church
Upper Marlboro, MD

Dr. Bob Vallier
Church Business
Ministries
Greer, SC

Pastor Kevin Zander
Tabernacle Baptist
Church

IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 Ignacio Salazar - *Mexico*
- 3 Letter from the Director
- 4 Alcides Peña - *Peru*
- 5 Prayer Calendar Reminder, Evangelism through Sports - *Dom. Rep., Peru, Mexico*
- 6 Prayer Requests and Giving
- * August Pray & Give Calendar

PICTURE HIGHLIGHTS



José Churata Quispe (Cachona, Peru) shared the wonderful praise that the church had not only found a new, bigger location to meet, but also that it came with an upstairs apartment for the pastoral family, answering two prayer requests at once! The next step is to find and fund an economical way to divide space for classrooms.



(*Top*) Ignacio Salazar's church in Mexico and (*bottom*) José Churata's church in Peru shared efforts made to honor the fathers of the congregations for Father's Day last month.

Baptist Evangelistic Ministry Endeavors – Latin America

2601 South 14th Street, Burlington IA 52601

Dr. Andrew Counterman, Director.

Phone: 410-804-3767; E-mail: counterman.andrew@gmail.com,

General support/Inquiries: missions@bemela.org

Ignacio Salazar in Zacapoaxtla, Puebla, Mexico

In the Sierra Norte region of Mexico, the children's Bible club in the community of Las Lomas has 11 children coming faithfully each week to hear the Word of God. Pastor **Ignacio Salazar** shared with us that many of them come from troubled homes and suffer the effects of alcoholism, drug addiction, and broken relationships, among other problems.



Pastor Ignacio shared their names and would appreciate specific prayer for Jennifer, Ethan, Andrés, Dayana, Carlitos, Cristian, Jennifer, Brenda, Aishlin, Cristal, and Guadalupe.

Ignacio began a marriage ministry within his church and has extended it to the Las Lomas families, as well. This has been a great way to get close to new and unsaved families and show them biblical ways to improve their marriages, and lead many to a saving knowledge of Christ. Your prayers are appreciated for the 7 couples in counseling: Nayeli and Everardo, Rogelio and Lucia, José and Guadalupe, Manuel and Lety, Fernando and Luz, Valentín and Nancy, and Pablo and Karina.



The youth ministry kicked off at the end of June. The core group (pictured below) is made up of Monse, Gabriel, Ángel, Alejandra, Lupita, Anayeli, and Miriam.



Praise the Lord, three new believers—Nieves, Luz, and Fernando—were recently baptized!



Along with the praises of the past weeks, there are trials. We are adding the church van to the LONG list of vehicles in need of replacement in Latin America. Also, the Salazars were recently asked to leave their home by the landlord when they refused a visit from a leader of the Light of the World church and tried to share the gospel with her, in turn. She became very angry to hear them say that only Jesus Christ can give eternal life, not the "apostle." Ignacio said that they often try to explain the gospel to Light of the World followers, but many are already blinded by and devoted to its teachings, which have had a deep hold on the area for over 30 years. Please pray that God would open the landlord's eyes for salvation and provide the Salazars with a smooth transition to a new place to live.

Letter from the Director

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

The end of July finds us on the brink of an exciting three-part advancement for the cause of Christ.

First: The 25th anniversary celebration of BEME's initial church plant in Latin America. The New Jerusalem Baptist Church with Pastor Joel Gamboa will be hosting a great event in Trujillo, Peru. This vibrant church has started two other churches from its ministry. What a wonderful example these believers have been to the scores of church starters that are following them. They have been the trail-blazers for the mission and we are so very thankful. We praise God for His mighty work through this body of believers.

Second: A national pastor's conference in Ecuador. These pastors will be setting in motion next steps in producing global missionaries themselves, through their own local churches. Please pray for me as I will be one of their keynote speakers.

Third: The opening up of Bolivia for the next expansion of BEME. I will be meeting with a seasoned missionary to interview and prayerfully start our first supported church in this country.

This exciting preparation has not been without some challenges. This month, our office administrator's husband, Pablo, suffered a severe heart attack. We praise God for successful surgery and continued healing. Thank you to the many who prayed for Pablo, Christie, and their family. Also, my wife's youngest sister, Jamie, went home to be with the Lord. We are sorrowful for her homegoing, but thankful for the promise of salvation. Thanks to the many who sent words of condolences and encouragement.

We don't want to forget the many blessings of meetings in WI and helping our own local church with the junior and teen camps. We praise God that many of the young people made spiritual decisions.

In closing, we are reminded of the three challenging statements in missionary William Borden's journal: *"No reserves. No retreats. No regrets."*



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 e-mail to counterman.andrew@gmail.com.

Report from Alcides Peña in Cusco, Peru



Pastor **Alcides Peña** was one of the national pastors we supported during the pandemic, whose innovative and persistent evangelistic efforts resulted in growth despite the unique difficulties of the times. BEME has prayed and facilitated support for the church's land purchase and construction projects, both of which have faced frustrating challenges over the years. However, Alcides and the team have not wavered in the goal of constructing a church building that will stand the test of time and reach those who desperately need Christ in **Cusco, Peru**. The following is an update on the construction. Please join us in praying for the needs of this faithful church and its pastor.

June 10, 2023

May God's GRACE and mercy abound in your lives, as it is our desire that He bless you in abundance. We thank the Almighty God for His great and undeserved favor toward us and for His provision thus far.

The "Solid Rock" Baptist Church in Cusco, Peru sends a warm greeting in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The reason for this letter is to ask for your prayers for financial provision to conclude the construction of our church building. We are currently in the process of construction. The Lord provided us with an offering through a family and we are very grateful in a special way to God for this family. With this offering, we purchased construction materials and the current progress is shown in the picture below.



So far, God has provided, through that family and our very own believers of the church, many of whom have given offerings beyond their

strength; others donated cinderblocks, and some their time and strength to work. We give thanks to the Lord for that. The believers of the church are very excited to have a large space to congregate, but as our church anniversary approaches, there is still work to be done and the offerings and funds we have raised have run out.

Therefore, brothers, we first turned to the Lord to ask Him to provide what is necessary to finish our building, and we also turn to you to help support us in prayer for this need. We still have to complete the flooring, which is still dirt, and the remainder of the metal structuring, along with the windows and the doors. The following picture shows the dirt floors, which must be poured or filled with cement.



Below is the side where the pulpit will be, although we still need to lay down more wood and cover the wall.



Dear brothers and sisters in the faith, we once again ask for your prayers for this need. We are infinitely grateful for your collaboration in prayer for the Lord's provision. May God's grace overflow in your lives and families.

Sincerely, your fellow servant in the Lord,
Alcides Peña



Prayer Calendar

Just a quick reminder to look for the August prayer calendar at the end of this newsletter. We launched the Pray & Give Calendar program **to encourage and equip you to pray regularly and specifically** on behalf of BEME and the national pastors. Along with prayer support, we hope you will **designate a monthly offering to a specific mission need** or to the general fund, which goes toward prioritized needs of the mission. A gift of any amount is appreciated, but **the suggested monthly offerings for the Pray & Give program are \$10 (Level 1), \$25 (Level 2), or \$50 (Level 3)**. The duration of your giving commitment is up to you.

Our desire is that this program would **enable anyone who is part of the Body of Christ**—whether an individual, family, Bible study group, Sunday School class, VBS, or other—**to find at least one way to follow the Lord’s command to support missions**, because *“how then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?” (Romans 10:14)*

Please join us and share the link with anyone who might be interested! The calendar can be found on our website at <https://bemela.org/newsletters>.

Evangelism through Sports

In the Dominican Republic, **Ariel Alfonso** reports many decisions have been made for Christ through the [Playball! baseball ministry](#). Please pray for the follow-up and discipleship efforts to come after the season is over.



In Peru, **Hernan Leva** uses sports and games to draw in children and families to share the gospel.



Josué González in Mexico uses soccer to generate new contacts. David and Osvaldo, two college students who have been playing soccer on Mondays with people from the church, have also started coming to Bible study.



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**... our goal is to add 20 more church plants to the 27 we currently underwrite, with church starters at various stages within the 2-yr support cycle
 - * **...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 the **preparations for Pastor Andy’s trip to South America** and the exciting events taking place—all glory to God!
- 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:
 - * **Sound equipment/Projector:** Gabriel Macancela, Cristian Alvarado, José Churata, Hernan Leva
 - * **Josué Gonzalez Cano:** funds to replace stolen tools
 - * **Chairs:** Ernesto Vera, Hernan Leva, Cristián Alvarado



Miguel Saboyá Romero (left) and men of the church in Colombia show off their Father’s Day mugs



Preaching and witnessing in the Rosaspata Market (Cusco, Peru): Pastor Rubén Quispe Vásquez, his wife, and his sons Roberto and Eliezer, and Pastor Jaime Silva

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:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Mission Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Pray & Give: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Church Starter Support | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building Projects | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<i>(please specify)</i> |






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

Baptist Evangelistic Ministry Endeavors – Latin America
 2601 South 14th Street, Burlington IA 52601
 Dr. Andrew Counterman, Director.
 Phone: 410-804-3767; E-mail: counterman.andrew@gmail.com,
 General support/Inquiries: missions@bemela.org

Pray & Give

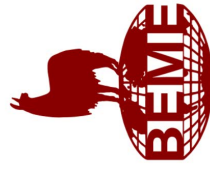
Pray regularly—daily, if possible!—for the following mission-related requests and designate a monthly offering of \$10 (Level 1), \$25 (Level 2), or \$50 (Level 3) to BEME.

August 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>Bolivia's Independence Day! Pray for Bolivia</p>	<p>Provision for church vehicles & repairs for various ministries</p>	 <p>Peru: July 28th was its Independence Day; threat of civil unrest has recently resurfaced</p>	<p>God's blessing & encouragement for individuals & churches supporting BEME with prayers & offerings</p>	<p>Church plants seeking to purchase land: I. Salazar, H. Ramos, J. Churata, J. Choqqe, H. Leva, G. Mis, W. Suarez</p>	<p>Pastor Andy & his son Pastor Caleb - traveling to South America this month</p>	<p>BEME staff: Jo Ellen Counterman and Christie Esparza</p>
<p>6</p>  <p>Bolivia's Independence Day! Pray for Bolivia</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Provision for church vehicles & repairs for various ministries</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Ignacio Salazar (Mexico): ministry and family</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Frank Niño (Colombia): 6 candidates in discipleship to be baptized this month</p>	<p>10</p>  <p>Ecuador's Independence Day! Pray for Ecuador</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Ladies of Enrique Cadena's church, who are meeting for biweekly Bible study on Fridays</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Saturday</p> <p>evangelism efforts of national pastors</p>
<p>13</p> <p>Cristián Quintana (Colombia): fruit from evangelism event in June (239 visitors, 25+ continue to attend</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Building projects: R. Valdespino, C. Alvarado, A. Peña, S. Vega, J. Vasquez, M. Macancela, J. Churata</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Ariel Alfonso's wife (Dom. Rep.): recovering from serious virus, issues with left ear</p>	<p>16</p> <p>National Pastor's Conference in Quito, Ecuador: Pastor Andy speaking</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Provision for communion supplies for Gabriel Macancela's church</p>	<p>18</p> <p>YanCarlos Mercado: Evangelistic campaigns in the Dom. Rep. today & tomorrow</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Provision for Bible clubs for various churches: helpers, materials, snacks, etc.</p>
<p>20</p> <p>Noemí Ccopa (10 mths): successful treatment of dysplasia to avoid surgery</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Meeting to open Bolivia for BEME expansion and gospel advance</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Rubén Quispe for evangelistic efforts in the Rosaspata sector in the city of Cusco, Peru</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Gustavo Mis (Mexico): salvation of his father</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Health and safety of national pastors & their families</p>	<p>25</p>  <p>Uruguay's Independence Day! Pray for Uruguay</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Manuel Macancela's wife: persistent, severe peripheral vertigo & fibromyalgia</p>
<p>27</p> <p>25th Anniversary of New Jerusalem Baptist Church in Trujillo, Peru: Pastor Andy preaching</p>	<p>28</p> <p>José Vazquez (Mexico): pray for cohabiting couples interested in marriage after the wedding of another at the church</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Samuel Quispe (Peru): asked for prayer for visitation efforts; pray also for radio evangelism</p>	<p>30</p> <p>North American & national missionary partners & advisors who help enable BEME's effectiveness</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Hetler Ramos: for evangelistic efforts in Villa Toledo, Peru</p>		

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 toward 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.