

# NEWSLETTER

June 2023



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Dr. Andrew Counterman

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- \* **NEW! July Pray & Give Calendar**

## PICTURE HIGHLIGHTS



**Josué González (Saltillo, Mexico)** asked us to pray for **Carmen Lujano (left)**. Despite being the oldest church member, she leads the children's Bible club. A year ago, her daughter died and she fell into a deep depression, her health declined, and she stopped attending church. With the help of her church family, her pastors, and godly discipleship, Josué refers to her life today as "a reflection of the Lord's consolation." She still struggles with occasional bouts of depression, but she is a faithful testimony of service and love for God.

**Manuel Macancela's** son, Daniel (*right*), leads a large Saturday Bible club meeting with children ages 4-14 at the **Baptist Church in Shell, Ecuador**. The group has more than doubled from an average attendance of 25 in March, to over 60 by mid-May into June. These children represent a range of indigenous backgrounds, including *Quechua, Shuar, Achuar, Shiwiar*, and other diverse ethnicities.



## **Baptist Evangelistic Ministry Endeavors – Latin America**

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## Enrique Cadena in Ecuador

In the country whose name translates to *halfway point* (and, yes, it also means *equator*), "Middle of the World" Baptist Church has steadily increased its presence in the city of Mitad del Mundo, located about 16 miles north of Quito's center and named for the monument there that marks the location of the equator.



Pastor **Enrique Cadena's** supporting church sent an offering allowing for the purchase of a larger, backlit church sign, a replacement for the obsolete computer, a speaker, and microphones, which will all be very useful during church services, activities, and for outdoor preaching.



Leftover funds were used to meet other needs, such as snacks for the current kid's Bible club, which will draw to a close at the end of June.



Over the past three months, Enrique, his wife Cila, and church helpers have sown the seeds of the gospel and many children have made decisions for Christ, as a result.

The simultaneous parenting classes generated a lot of interest, as well, and funds from the offering stretched to provide monthly blessing bags of food and necessities offered to faithful parent participants.

Vacation Bible School is coming up on the week of July 17<sup>th</sup>, so keep the prayers coming!

\*\*We just received word that Enrique was recently sick and spent a few days in the hospital. Please pray for his continued recovery and improved health.



*Cila hands a loaded blessing bag to a grateful mother*

## Letter from the Director

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

June's warm days have not slowed the business and blessings of mission work here at BEME. We are thankful that two more churches took on the mission for regular support. On top of that, we recently received a Vacation Bible School offering of over \$2100.00! It is good to see children exposed to and invested in missions work.



We praise the Lord that our schedule continues to be filled with meetings and conferences, and, when possible, helping in our local church with Vacation Bible School, summer camps, and occasional Sunday School and mid-week preaching.

The office continues to receive and translate more applications from men desiring to start churches in Latin America. We pray that BEME can facilitate these church starts. We are also hoping to finish some much-needed administrative work. The Lord's work is not without challenges, but His Word is our security, and His will is to spread the gospel. Please pray for energy, strength, and wisdom as we seek to tackle these tasks.

While we were on the road in Illinois, we saw a sign that said, "Start near. Go far." What a great line, that can be applied to how local spiritual involvement has global effects—this is the summary of global missions. Remember that your encounters with God through prayer, witnessing, encouragement, and financial support can take the gospel into faraway cities, villages, and jungles. It is a blessing that each of us is significant in God's work. (*1 Corinthians 15:58: Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.*)

Please pray for us, as our mission work will be taking us into the Midwest, down South, and then we'll be finishing up the summer with a 17-day trip to South America that will include a national pastors' conference in Ecuador, the commemoration of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our first church plant in Peru and opening up for expansion into Bolivia.

Where will your spiritual journey for Christ take you this summer? It may be hard, hot, and humid, but the gospel provides the thirsting soul with grace, cooling, and comfort. Whatever your journey, we hope it will bring forth fruit for the Lord.

**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](mailto:counterman.andrew@gmail.com).



## Sacarias Ccopa in Peru

The recent activities at *Calvary Baptist Church* in Yaurisque demonstrate that equipping the congregation with solid biblical doctrine is at the forefront of Pastor **Sacarias Ccopa's** ministry.



*Alcides Peña preaches to the men in Yaurisque*

This month, a series of conferences and workshops for men and women were organized and led by Pastor Sacarias and other national pastors working in and around the area, including **Alcides Peña** (above), who was a recipient and faithful steward of BEME support a few years ago. Pastor Alcides still pastors at **Roca Fuerte** ("Solid Rock") Baptist Church in the Alto Qosqo area of Cusco. (Stay tuned for updates on his ministry in the next newsletter!)

For the three days leading up to Calvary's 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary, believers will gather in the evenings for Bible study and worship. The anniversary will be commemorated during services on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Typically, there is also a big cake involved at this sort of event—*after the service, of course!*



*The women participate in a crafting workshop*

Among obvious reasons to engage the church in sound Bible preaching and study, Sacarias reports alcoholism and idolatry as some major barriers to the gospel in this area (*here, we share some common ground with Peru*).



For almost  $\frac{2}{3}$  of her life, Sacarias' youngest daughter Noemí (9 mths), has worn a corrective brace to treat hip dysplasia. So far, it seems to be working, so Noemí will, Lord-willing, avoid the surgery that her sister Sarai (5 yrs) underwent twice as an infant. Please keep this precious little one and her big sister, as well as Sacarias and his wife Alicia, in your prayers.

Visit [bemela.org](http://bemela.org) for information about our mission, the national pastors, involvement opportunities, and more...



...and be sure to follow us on Facebook for frequent updates!



# Pray & Give Calendar

First, **thank you for reading** our newsletter **and faithfully praying** for BEME-LA!

Starting this month, a prayer calendar will be included with the newsletter **to encourage and equip you to pray regularly and specifically** on behalf of BEME, the national pastors, and others who engage with our mission. We would appreciate it if you committed to daily prayer; however, it is a good investment of time to include BEME in your prayer schedule, no matter how you manage to fit it in.

Along with prayer support, we hope you will also **designate a monthly offering to a specific mission need** or to the general mission fund, which serves a variety of purposes (*and often meets unexpected church starter needs*). 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 length of your monthly giving commitment is entirely 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 with anyone who might be interested! Calendars will also be uploaded monthly to the “Newsletter” page on our website: <https://bemela.org/newsletters>.

## Manuel Macancela in Ecuador

In recent months, both **Manuel Macancela** and his wife Marycruz have struggled with various health issues: Manuel, with digestive problems and a recent case of food poisoning; and Marycruz, with fibromyalgia, peripheral vertigo, and recovery from a bacterial stomach infection.

However, for the first time in several months, Marycruz was able to travel with Pastor Manuel on his monthly 10-day trek to visit their established church in the jungle community of Morete Cocha. The pleasure of his wife’s company was not the only blessing of the trip. Manuel wrote, *“With her [presence], we were able to go into several homes to visit the women. Four young ladies received Christ and will soon be taking the first step of obedience in baptism.”*

Pastor Manuel encouraged believers in Morete Cocha to plan to participate in a missions trip he

is mapping out along the Pastaza river. He knows of 8-10 unreached people groups living along the banks. The September mission will be the first in a series that aims to win lost souls and grow the work in Morete Cocha. This trip will also be the first of its kind for Manuel.



He admitted to feeling fear upon boarding this plane home to Shell. The day before, another plane crashed-landed in Shell, killing 3 people. But, he said, *“Our fear vanished when we remembered that God is in control.”*

# Prayer Requests



Faithful Pastor Carlos Gallego canvasses the streets of Bogotá multiple times per week.

- 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 a 2-yr support cycle
  - \* **...and expansion** into Bolivia, Brazil, and Chile this year, Lord-willing
- On behalf of **our donor/friend who is still waiting for a final decision** regarding his company's status.
- For the **expedited approval of submitted applications for legal/civil registration of church plants.**
- **Provision for these material ministry needs** that did not make it onto the Pray & Give calendar:
  - \* **Sound equipment/Projector:** Gabriel Macancela, Cristian Alvarado, José Churata. Hernan Leva
  - \* **Josué Gonzalez Cano:** funds to replace tools stolen from the church property this month
- For **protection for church property and family** of Josué Gonzalez: after the robbery, police informed that a nearby abandoned building has become a refuge for homeless and criminals; **may the Lord use this church to make an impact for Christ**; Pray for sister in Christ, **Carmen Lujano**
- For the **long-term success of the hip abduction brace** in treating **Noemí Ccopa's dysplasia**
- For **Enrique Cadena's recovery** from illness and return to good health
- For the **health of Manuel and Marycruz Macancela**; for the established **work in Morete Cocha**, the **church plant and Bible club in Shell**, and the **evangelism of unreached people groups**

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

**Central Missionary Clearinghouse** supplies our mission with additional financial oversight and administrative services. At this time, all electronic donations are received through CMC's giving portal, which is found at [www.myclickandgive.com](http://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"/> <b>General Mission Fund</b>   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Pray &amp; Give:</b> _____           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Church Starter Support</b> |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Building Projects</b>      | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other:</b> _____<br>(please specify) |

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

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## Partner with us through Pray & Give

Pray regularly—daily, if possible, 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.

# July 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Several pastors are currently teaching on the topic of the Lord's Supper - Titus 1:9</p> <p><b>2</b></p>	<p> Uruguay ↓ <b>3</b></p> <p>Andrés Ramirez: upcoming youth meetings</p>	<p> Peru ↓ <b>4</b></p> <p>Joel Choque Arce: "Soup kitchen" evangelism for community children</p>	<p> Mexico ↓ <b>5</b></p> <p>Ignacio Salazar: 20+ kids attend Bible club &amp; many mothers stay to listen to the Word of God</p>	<p> Dominican Republic ↓ <b>6</b></p> <p>Yan Carlos Mercado: solution for outgrown church building</p>	<p>Financial provision for BEME through stewardship &amp; missions-minded believers <b>7</b></p>	<p>Our individual supporters (including yourself!): health, strength, &amp; wisdom <b>1</b></p>
<p>Our supporting churches: spirit of unity and evangelism, to walk in wisdom &amp; bear fruit - Col 1:9-10</p> <p><b>9</b></p>	<p>Gustavo Huamani: discipleship with several new couples</p> <p><b>10</b></p>	<p>Sacarias Ccopa: wisdom to witness in an area with widespread alcohol abuse</p> <p><b>11</b></p>	<p>Rodrigo Valdespino: married 2 mths ago to Mariana; pray for family &amp; ministry</p> <p><b>12</b></p>	<p>Ariel Alfonso: evangelism at the local police dept</p> <p><b>13</b></p>	<p>Andy &amp; Jo Ellen: good health &amp; safety in travel</p> <p><b>14</b></p>	<p>Provision for chairs for Ernesto Vera, Hernan Leva, &amp; Cristián Quintana <b>8</b></p>
<p>Provision for church vehicles, repairs: A.Ramirez, G.Mis, I.Salazar, J.González Cano, etc.</p> <p><b>16</b></p>	<p>Gustavo González: salvation of parents of teens who were baptized this Spring</p> <p><b>17</b></p>	<p>New church starter: Robert Merino in Trujillo, Peru</p> <p><b>18</b></p>	<p>Central Missionary Clearinghouse: Dr. Maddox, Shelli, Linda, etc. working with BEME</p> <p><b>19</b></p>	<p>Colombian Independence Day: pray for government, people, churches, &amp; pastors </p> <p><b>20</b></p>	<p>Cristián Alvarado: discipleship, baptisms, new members; spiritual growth of church →</p> <p><b>21</b></p>	<p>For the Lord to send workers to His harvest - Matthew 9:37-38 <b>15</b></p>
<p>Open doors to preach the gospel - Col 4:2-3; 2 Thes 3:1</p> <p><b>23</b></p>	<p>Spiritual wisdom for BEME &amp; the church starters - James 1:5</p> <p><b>24</b></p>	<p>Building projects: R.Valdespino, C.Alvarado, A.Peña, S.Vega, J.Vasquez, M.Macancela</p> <p><b>25</b></p>	<p>A full schedule of opportunities to present BEME</p> <p><b>26</b></p>	<p>Seeking church property: I.Salazar, H.Ramos, J.Churata, J.Choqqaque, H.Leva, G.Mis, W.Suarez</p> <p><b>27</b></p>	<p>BEME Director, Board members, &amp; support staff</p> <p><b>28</b></p>	<p>Andrés Mejía: "Pulpit in the Streets" Saturday evangelism <b>22</b></p>
<p>Gabriel Macancela: new married couples ministry; seeking to purchase land</p> <p><b>30</b></p>	<p>Godly wisdom &amp; protection for BEME advisors &amp; North American missionary partners</p> <p><b>31</b></p>					<p>For lost souls to have open eyes &amp; minds - 2 Cor 4:4; Acts 26:18 <b>29</b></p>
						<p>Thank you for devoting your time with the Lord and your resources to extend the gospel's reach in Latin America!</p> 

Online or mail to:

**BEME Latin America**  
**South 14th Street**  
**Burlington, IA 52601**

**Please make checks payable to BEME Latin America**

and designate your offering in the memo or on a note. A memo box appears during the online giving process from <https://www.myclickandgive.com/login.php>. Visit <https://bemela.org/get-involved/#give> for more information. Unspecified offerings will be directed to the general fund. Please contact [missions@bemela.org](mailto:missions@bemela.org) for assistance.

# Pray & Give