

NEWSLETTER

September 2023



Director

Dr. Andrew Counterman

Board of Overseers

John Bott
Wilds of NC

Pastor Wayne Burggraft
Faith Baptist Church
Lebanon, PA

Pastor Simeon
Counterman
Calvary Baptist Church
Burlington, IA

Pastor Randy King
Wyldewood
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
Wilson, NC

IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 Letter from the Director and South America Trip Report
 - 3 SA Trip Report (*continued*), Your Support in Action: Equipping Evangelism
Samuel Quispe - Peru
 - 4 From the Ground Up: *José Vazquez & Josué González - Mexico; Ernesto Vera - Peru*
 - 5 Fellowship in the Faith: *Carlos Gallego & Cristian Alvarado Quintana - Colombia*
 - 6 *Call to Action: Prayer Requests & Giving*
- * October Pray & Give Calendar

PICTURE HIGHLIGHTS

To Our Faithful Supporters:

We would like to express our sincere gratitude for your generous financial support. Please know that your offerings are making an immediate and invaluable difference in BEME's ability to sustain the national pastors' ministry efforts. *All praise and glory to God!*



Left: Over the summer, **Yan Carlos** and **Katherine Mercado** welcomed baby **Nathan** to the family. Both mom and baby are healthy and well. **Right:** A group of kids attending VBS at the Mercado's church in the **Dominican Republic**.



Pastor Carlos Gallego in **Bogotá, Colombia** in full character for children's Bible Club.

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

Letter from the Director / South America Trip Report

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

We anticipated that the past month would be a busy and productive one for BEME. It did not disappoint!

Traveling to Ecuador brought exciting advancement for the spread of the gospel. The three-day pastors' conference and roundtables in the city of Santo Domingo, energized and produced direction for the Ecuadoran churches to send, promote, and organize mission programs, and to develop Ecuadorian mission boards. My trip continued to check on our church starters and included a plane ride into the jungle to meet new believers.



From there, BEME opened up Bolivia with its first applicant for church starting. This country is ripe for the gospel. The believers and pastors face second and third-world conditions and real pressure from the adversary. Pastor Enoc Quinteros has gone through multiple physical attacks just witnessing. His injuries have not stopped the start of his fledgling church. Though his facility is basic, the believers are bold and empowered by God.



Church service in Villamontes, Bolivia



Open-air evangelistic meetings at New Jerusalem

Then, on to Peru for the 25th anniversary of the New Jerusalem Baptist Church of Trujillo. It was glorious! Part of the four-day celebration included youth and couples' sessions, and evangelistic meetings. A whole city block was closed off, lights were hung, speakers were set up, and countless invitations were handed out by church members. The labor brought forth many who heard the gospel. Even the local bar stopped serving alcohol during the services! This church has started two other local churches, and it is a great testimony of God's blessing.

(Continued) Director's Letter / SA Trip Report

This South American trip allowed encouragement and accountability for our faithful church starters. It also added three more schools to our BEME network to draw new pastoral candidates. One school will have 15 men graduating for ministry this year alone!

I came back to the home office for two days of work, and then Jo and I were off to Kansas and Florida to present BEME in four more churches. We are prayerfully asking God for more durative financial support for church starting.

The devil is not happy with this progress. There have been many trials this past month, but God is ever so faithful. Please pray specifically for BEME's finances. We have men, their families, new believers, and fledgling churches that are in need of our resources and support. These are "valuable gems in dark places" that need our help. *"Wherefore we labor, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of Him."* (2 Cor. 5:9)

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

Andy and Jo Counterman, BEME-LA



Your Support in Action: Equipping Evangelism

One of the ways that the church planters put their monthly BEME support to good use is by purchasing evangelistic materials. It is a blessing that, in general, people in Latin America are very open to accepting and reading Bible literature.

Right: In **Sicvani, Peru**, Pastor **Samuel Quispe** unpacks a shipment of New Testaments to hand out while canvassing and street preaching. His church has a modest stockpile of tracts and short Bible studies thanks to your support.



Peru is home to people of many historical and cultural backgrounds, and Samuel and his fellow national pastors are able to use their inherent cultural understanding to tailor evangelistic strategies to best connect with the people in their area. Their ministries also benefit greatly from the prayers and financial assistance of BEME supporters.



From the Ground Up

The believers of Pastor **José Vazquez's** church plant in **Tijuana, Mexico** are also hard at work, sharing the good news door-to-door. This month, a few new people were added to the pickup route for Sunday services.



Pastor José is thankful for the prayers for the recovery of his arm following surgery to repair the damage he sustained in a fall in July. After starting physical therapy, he has a better range of motion, more usage, and less pain, overall.

The church is currently working on building a classroom that will serve as a Sunday school and discipleship classroom for married couples.



Tropical storm Hilary tore through Tijuana last month, and thankfully, the Lord brought the church family and its property safely through the storm. The extreme heat in the following weeks highlighted some improvements to be made to the building: mainly, replacing the metal sheets covering most of the existing structure, which trap the heat inside. The church is also prioritizing preparations for the rainy season that will begin in a month or so. Every year, this area is hit hard by heavy rains, making travel difficult, dangerous, and sometimes impossible.

Over 1300 miles south of Tijuana, members of **Josué González's** church in **Saltillo** worked together to complete some much-needed restorations to the property.



In **Curahuasi, Peru**, the members of **Ernesto Vera's** church are quite literally working the fields to earn money toward their collective goal of purchasing the building they currently rent.



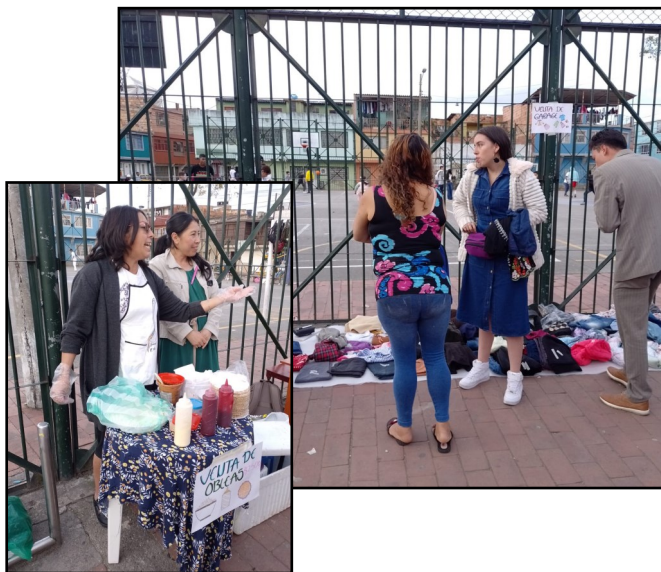
As church planters, it is natural for all our pastors to have at least one location-related matter to contend with in ministry. While these problems often stem from positive changes—such as outgrowing a meeting space—they result in real needs, like purchasing land and construction or renovations, and would benefit greatly from your continued support in prayer.

Fellowship in the Faith

A few of the pastors' wives and ladies from the **Colombian** congregations enjoyed fellowship at conferences and camps this month.

"Mount Horeb" Baptist Church, where Pastor **Carlos Gallego** ministers in **Bogotá**, invited the women of the surrounding churches to its 1-day Bible conference.

The ladies of "Marvelous Grace" Baptist, led by Pastor **Cristian Alvarado**, sold secondhand items and prepared food in a nearby park to raise funds to attend a 3-day ladies' retreat.



This month marked a milestone for Cristian's church, as the congregation officially observed the Lord's Supper together for the first time. Thank God for His work in this church!

The camp was a great blessing to this group of faithful women, which plays an integral part in many of the church's ministries; particularly, the children's Sunday school and evangelistic out-reach programs.



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 pray for *wisdom and strength for BEME's administration*, and for *those who support BEME*.
- For *faithful financial provision for BEME* and the *monthly support of the national pastors*.
- We desire *that our mission would grow*, Lord-willing, into Bolivia, Brazil, and Chile.
- On behalf of *our donor/friend who is still waiting on a final decision* regarding his company's status.
- For *Pastor Andy and Jo Ellen's upcoming travel*: safety, good health, and productive meetings.
- For *Josué González Cano - injured his knee* while doing maintenance on the church building - *pray for healing*; also, *for protection and encouragement* - ministering in a difficult area, *challenging times*.
- For the *approval of legal status for church plants: Cristian Alvarado's is currently delayed*.
- *Provision for material ministry needs* not mentioned within the articles or the prayer calendar:
 - * *Provision for materials to build an enclosure* surrounding the property of *the church in Shell, Ecuador - Manuel Macancela*
 - * *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:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <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: _____
(please specify) |

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

October 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 BEME's supporting churches - to maintain a missions focus, & for unity & wisdom	2 Pastor Andy - attending a Pastor's conference in Michigan-possibility of new mission contacts	3 Continued provision for monthly church starter support	4 Approved candidates in line for BEME support (Enoc Quinteros in Bolivia)	5 The Lord's blessing on Hetler Ramos Concha's wedding	6 Full recovery of Carmen in Peru - see BEME's Facebook page for details	7 Major Catholic holiday celebrated all month in Peru (Lima) - Pray that the lost will find truth & come to know Christ
8 Pastor Andy - preaching in Minneapolis, MN today	9 Battle of Angamos Day (Peru) - Pray for Peruvian government & for safety of citizens/believers	10 Bible Institutes & Seminaries in LA - specifically SEBIC (Peru) which needs a Director & professors	11 José Vazquez - recovery from arm injuries	12 Día de la Raza (celebrated in LA) Pray for the people of Latin America & gospel advance	13 Ministry need - Chairs (Herman Leva, Cristian Alvarado, & Ernesto Vera)	14 Pastor Andy - attending a fellowship for pastors in NH-new mission contacts
15 Pastor Andy - reporting to a supporting church in CT	16 Building projects: R.Valdespino, C.Alvarado, A.Peña, S. Vega, J.Vazquez, M. Macancela, J.Churata	17 BEME Director, Board members, & support staff	18 Gabriel Macancela (Ecuador): wife, Rebeca, in physical therapy for ongoing back pain	19 The national pastors - wisdom for godly counseling of new converts, married couples, & families	20 Pastor Andy - presenting BEME to new pastoral contacts at a missions conference in NY	21 Saturday discipleship - Rubén Quispe Vásquez - group has grown to 4 new converts
22 BEME's supporting individuals - for health & strength to be faithful members of the Body	23 Church plants to purchase land: I.Salazar, H.Ramos, J.Chooque, H.Leve, G.Mis, E.Vera, W.Suarez, J.Saavedra	24 Health and safety of the national pastors & their families	25 Gustavo Mis (Mexico): the salvation of his father	26 Ministry need - Vehicles & vehicle repairs (G.Mis, I.Salazar, A.Ramirez, J.González, etc.)	27 Ladies of Enrique Cadena's church, meeting for biweekly Friday Bible study	28 Saturday evangelism efforts of the national pastors & their church plants
29 For Pastor Andy: presenting BEME to a new church for support	30 Continued open doors for José Churata & Ernesto Vera in Peru to preach in schools	31 CMC - Dr. Maddox, Shelli, Linda, & others who regularly provide assistance to BEME				

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.