

NEWSLETTER

October 2023



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PRAYER CALENDAR UPDATE: MEXICAN INDEPENDENCE DAY



Our monthly prayer calendars usually include a few Latin American holidays—not just to inform, but also because they are often an opportunity for evangelistic outreach. To celebrate Mexico's independence in September, Pastor **Josué González Cano** and his church invited friends and neighbors to dinner and shared the gospel. He said, "We ask

your prayers for the seeds sown, and that we would be able to keep in touch with these new guests."

Pastor **Ignacio Salazar's** church hosted two special holiday dinners. Many visitors came, and some even heard the gospel for the first time.

For this culture that values hospitality, these intimate and friendly gatherings are a vital part of sharing the gospel and show us that the cultural knowledge of the national pastors is an essential component of missions.



Baptist Evangelistic Ministry Endeavors – Latin America

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Hetler Ramos in Peru

Over the course of many months, Peruvian pastors José Churata and Ernesto Vera have successfully built relationships with school leaders and gained access to teach Bible lessons to students near their church plants.

Recently, Pastor **Hetler Ramos** has also been campaigning to share the gospel in nearby schools. These open doors have allowed him to extend invitations to Bible club, youth group, and other church activities.



Many children are consistently attending the weekly Bible club meetings. They listen to the Bible lesson, complete worksheets, and memorize Scripture together. Of course, they also play a lot of games.



Please pray that the school evangelism efforts will bring more children to Bible club and to the youth group. Currently, a small core group of teens has also started meeting weekly.

"It's exciting when young people understand the gospel," he wrote, asking for prayers that would "cause the earth to tremble!"



Letter from the Director

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

This month, we have traveled to MI, MN, WI, and through multiple New England states to present and report the activities of the mission. We have been able to see decisions made, meet new friends, and be encouraged by faithful supporters of BEME. Just today, we received word from two churches who are taking on the mission for support. For this, we are most thankful. Please pray as we will be traveling until the holidays in December and preparing for another busy year of meetings.

While we have been traveling up north, our South American church starters are busy preparing and starting their summer seasonal activities (retreats, camps, and evangelistic campaigns with increased soul-winning). All of us are facing seasonal changes, profound global events, and the usual cycle of life changes. For some, it may be a turbulent time, while for others it may be a gentle movement through the current of daily routine.

Change is inevitable, and reminds us that we are pilgrims and sojourners, servants for the Master's use, and not captains of our own destiny. Hopefully, we will adjust, refocus, and redirect to become more Christlike through the changes. May we not become bitterly bogged down in the "why," but ask, "what?" What must be changed to move forward? What must be retained to stay focused and productive? What areas are needful? What areas should be set aside so that we can run the race more effectively? (*Hebrews 12:1-2*).

Please pray for us as we go through change. Pray for the churches and pastors, as change is inevitable. Keep yourself close to the Lord as you go through change, knowing that one day we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye (*1 Cor. 15:52*). Change...it is happening around us, within us, and to us, but our goal should remain the same...***All to His glory!***



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

Andy and Jo Counterman, 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.

Ariel Alfonso in the Dominican Republic

In the months following the explosion of a propane tank near Pastor **Ariel Alfonso's** home, his church remains committed to spreading the hope of the gospel. The community in **San Cristobal** is still reeling from the tragedy, which killed over 30 people and injured many others. Pastor Ariel gratefully reported that no church members were physically injured. Soon after the incident, the church members met in a neighborhood park to hand out supplies and share the good news. Pastor Ariel asked for prayer that God will use these painful times to draw people to Him.



In late summer, the church had a great turnout for the first two days of Vacation Bible School. Pastor Ariel shared, *“There was a good group of kids who heard the gospel once again, and we really enjoyed teaching, serving and spending time with them. Sadly, we had to interrupt the activities because our brother Justo went home to be with the Lord. We arranged the funeral services and helped his wife, sister Adriana. Please pray for her. Our brother [Justo] was a great and faithful worker who always trusted the Lord, but God had other plans to take him home.”*

For the members of this church plant, the recent trials and losses have emphasized the value of the church’s ministries and propelled them to continue working. Lord-willing, next year we hope to report the start of a planned building project to expand the meeting place.



One man started attending church regularly and, just recently, accepted the Lord as His Savior as a result of the church’s regular canvassing efforts. Pastor Ariel is currently working with many others in discipleship and counseling and is expecting to hold a baptismal service in the near future.



The “Soldiers of the King” Bible Club celebrated 7 years of ministry this month!

Ministry Highlights - Mexico, Ecuador, & Colombia

In the **Mexican community of Las Lomas**, the group of children attending Bible club has grown to 18! Since their homes are spread out and walking to church is not an option, Pastor **Ignacio Salazar** and this faithful helper started a route to bring the children to Bible club. Most of the children are from families struggling with issues stemming from drug addiction, alcoholism, and divorce. Some of their family members have made professions of faith, but most have not committed to attending Thursday services in Las Lomas.



In **Bogotá, Colombia**, Pastor **Frank Niño's** church held an evangelistic outreach event for children in a nearby park, which included fun games, painting, and balloon animals. Lord-willing, some of these children and their families will come for services.



Praise the Lord, the children's Sunday School has been consistently growing this year as a result of outreach activities such as this one.



In **Ecuador**, Pastor **Gabriel Macancela** (*top middle*) stands with the five elected deacons of **San Juan de Calderón Baptist Church**. Please keep Christian, Patricio, Carlos, Pedro, and Jandry in your prayers as they serve Christ and His Body.



Pastor Gabriel snapped this picture at a recent youth group meeting. This group is steadily growing!



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*.
- For our *good friend and BEME supporter, still awaiting a resolution for his company*. This situation continues to *negatively impact his business and ability to maintain mission support*.
- We desire *that the Lord would allow BEME to grow and expand* into Bolivia, Brazil, and Chile.
- For *Pastor Andy and Jo Ellen's continued travel*: safety, good health, and productive meetings. *Praise the Lord for the churches supporting BEME* and *pray for more support to meet the current needs*.
- For the *approval of legal status for church plants - Cristian Alvarado and Gabriel Mancancela* are experiencing delays.
- *Provision of sound equipment/projectors*: Gabriel Macancela, Cristian Alvarado, José Churata, Hernan Leva
- For *Pastor Frank Niño's wife, Andrea*, who *lost her job of 23 years (emotional and financial impact)*



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.”

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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.

November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Upcoming seasonal retreats, camps, & conferences across Latin America	Constitution Day (Dominican) - for the country and pastors Mercado & Alfonso	Gustavo Mis (Mex.): 7 his mother went home to be with the Lord; continue praying for father's salvation	Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead/All Saints & All Souls Days) - pray for the lost to come to Christ & for our Mexican national pastors (Salazar, Mis, Valdespino, Vazquez, & González)	Ariel Alfonso 9 (Dominican) - for new place to live; extensive mold problems in current family home	Continued provision for monthly church starter support	Pastor Andy and Jo Ellen as they travel on behalf of the mission
BEME's supporting churches & individuals - to maintain unity, wisdom, & missions focus	Independence Day 13 for the country & pastors Gallego, Alvarado, & Niño	For the LA church 14 plant members to understand the Word of God, faithfully attend, and be involved	<i>Praise!</i> Josué 8 González & José Vazquez are recovering well from recent injuries	Frank Niño 16 (Colombia): discipleship with 9 newly baptized believers	Andrés Ramirez (Uruguay): Missions conference today and tomorrow	Provision for many urgent needs for ministry vehicle purchases/repairs
Health & safety of the national pastors & their families	Continued 20 open doors to preach in schools in Peru; for fruit from those efforts	CMC - 21 Dr. Maddox, Shelli, Linda, & others who regularly provide assistance to BEME	<i>Praise!</i> José 15 Churata's church celebrated its 1st anniversary one month ago	Provision for 23 church land purchases; specifically Joel Choqqe's church in Peru	Carlos Gallego & Andrés Mejía (Colombia): Saturday evangelism	Children's 18 outreach; Cristian Alvarado & Frank Niño in Bogotá, Colombia
Provision for church 26 building projects; specifically Manuel Macancela's church in Ecuador	BEME Director, Board members, & support staff	Enrique Cadena (Ecuador): 28 Colombian refugee ministry	Approved 29 candidates in line for BEME support (Enoc Quinteros in Bolivia)	Bible Institutes & 30 Seminaries in LA - specifically SEBIC (Peru) that needs a Director & professors	Rubén Quispe (Peru): direction / provision for expansion; <i>Praise!</i> this church is growing!	Robert Merino (Peru): discipleship and in-home Bible studies

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.