



Latin America

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Dr. Andrew Counterman

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Newsletter

December 2024

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A Tribute to Caleb and BEME's Beginning

On Sunday morning, December 8, 2024, Rev. Caleb Counterman, 48, was in a single car accident on his way to church and was ushered into the presence of the Lord. Let me tell you why I'm starting the letter this way. About 27 years ago, Caleb took a group of teens from Anchor Baptist Church of Millersville, MD on a trip to Peru to see first hand what missions are about. While there, they met and became very impressed with a national pastor named Joel Gamboa. Joel later became the first



Latin to receive support from what is now, *BEME-LA*. From that church start came two other churches and from one of those two came another church. Many of you have seen pictures of this in our presentation. Joel is on the left, Caleb is in the middle, and I am on the right.

The teens from that mission trip reported to their church. Testimonies, anecdotes, and songs filled the evening.

One of our girls, Christie, sang "Here Am I Lord, Send Me" in Spanish. There wasn't a dry eye in the place as hearts were touched with the desire for gospel missions. From this beginning came other trips to the field, offerings for buildings, and a determination to start several churches in Peru and Colombia. This church allowed me to go to the field to develop the mission into what it is today.

Caleb accompanied me on many of the trips, and as he became pastor of Faith Baptist Church in Morris, IL, that church yoked with many other ministries to start over 80 churches in eight countries in Latin America. His vision, drive, and investment into people and the larger cause of Christ's gospel through missions, marked his passion for the Lord. I have truly lost a yokefellow in the gospel, an investor in people for eternity, and my first-born son. Our lives have been shaken to the core, but the Foundation and Rock, Jesus Christ, is sure. The mission has been wounded, but the Healer is present. We are thankful for the vision and giving spirit of Caleb and his foundational role in the start of Baptist Evangelistic Ministry Endeavors – Latin America. If you would like to read more or view the service, go to this link in your browser:

www.reevesfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/pastor-caleb-counterman

Psalm 116:15

Andres Mejia - Cartagena, Colombia

Pastor Mejia reports about the activities of his church in Colombia, and sends his warm greetings. He and his family have joy delivering the Lord's message, as He works in the midst of and through His people, and and in each heart.

EVANGELISM IN THE STREETS

"Every week after our Sunday service, together with our brothers we go out to the streets to share the gospel around our church, handing out tracts and literature in the city of Bogotá. The congregation is encouraged to go out to share this beautiful message on the streets of our neighborhood."



PERSONAL DISCIPLESHIP

"A group of brothers are being discipled each week in a personal way in their homes. They are learning how to live lives that please the Lord and how to serve Him. Many have become members of the church. Others are in the process of becoming members and following in baptism."



PRE-TEEN WORSHIP

"Saturday after Saturday, pre-teens are attending our church to be taught in the word of God. They are taught that no one should despise their youth, but that they should be an example." (1 Tim. 4:12)

PARTICIPATING IN A COMMON FAITH.

"We are joyful to continue with the work that God has placed in our hands. We are more than grateful to you for your continued prayers and support."

Enoc Caton - Villamontes, Bolivia

Pastor Enoc sends us greetings from church members in southern Bolivia. He says: "It is a pleasure for me to present the great things God is doing in his church through evangelism. Although we have small groups going out, this has been very important to establish the church's good reputation in the city. We thank God that because of this outreach, we have two new families that are now beginning to congregate with us. One person has received Christ as his Lord and Savior."

DISCIPLESHIP

"Discipleship has been of great importance. There are many new converts who are also being discipled. God has been good, constantly adding new disciples. In our discipleship program we focus on memorizing verses. This allows each teacher not only to give the lesson, but also to spend time with his disciples."

Letter from the Director

Dear Friends, Prayer-warriors, and Supporters of BEME-LA,

This letter comes at the close of our travels for BEME in 2024. We finished our last meeting on November 24th in La Crosse, WI, then, spent a few days of Thanksgiving with family. This year the mission was presented in 39 churches, 14 conferences, and a trip to South America for encouragement, evaluation, and prospecting. Jo and I are thankful for new supporting churches, recent applications for church starts, and the possibility of expansion and access to the Latino church community here in the US.



Christmas and year-end festivities are fast approaching.

This means planning and busy schedules for all of our church-starters, as well as their final preparations for Vacation Bible Schools and summer camps. Please pray for an abundance of fruit from these outreaches.

We know your schedules are busy also. Please know our staff is praying for you and would like to encourage you to think on some simple phrases as we go into this holiday season:

- **Slow down:** Pause during the busy holiday bustle to notice others, greet them, pray for them, and think on Christ. “Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28
- **Show joy:** Remember the words of the angels to the shepherds in Luke 2:10? “I bring you good tidings of great joy...” Put a smile on your face and share the good news of God’s salvation.
- **Love generously:** Now is the perfect time to show the extravagant love of God to others. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son...” John 3:16. We praise God for the thousands of souls that our national church starters have shared the gospel with this past year. Let’s show the love of Christ in our part of the world.
- **Give yourself:** Listen carefully, show genuine appreciation, verbally praise those around you. Give yourself sacrificially as an encouragement and testimony of the many who work in foreign fields tirelessly for God’s glory.
- **Offer hope:** There is an anticipated hope in the coming year, as we think of the great potential of expansion in Latin America. There is a great anticipated hope as we think of the opportunities that each of us will have to share Christ as he tarries. New opportunities, new church starts, expanded building programs, increased giving to the mission, answered prayers... all to the glory of God! “To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: Whereunto I also labor, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.” Col. 1:27-29

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Feliz Navidad y próspero año nuevo!

Andy and Jo Counterman, BEME-LA

Frank Niño - Bogota, Colombia

Pastor Frank shares with us experiences from the Bible Baptist Church of Bogota.

CHILDRENS EVANGELISM - “The Lord is my Shepherd”



“That's what the kids in the children's ministry are learning. It is beautiful to tell them that they have God on their side and that He never leaves them. They can trust in Him and talk to Him through prayer when they feel alone. One of our girls, after leaving her class, when she saw that her dad was very worried about his work, said to him: ‘Daddy, today we learned that we must leave all our worries in God's hands’, and she ended by saying: ‘leave all your worries in God's

hands and trust that He will help’.”

GIVING - “Faithful is He who calls them” (1 Thes 5:24)

Pastor Niño shares: “The Lord tells us as a family and church we will go through difficult times. God has allowed us to see His faithfulness and to understand His purposes. They teach us that godliness accompanied by contentment is of great gain for the church who worships Him with their resources.”



Ruben Quispe - Cusco, Peru

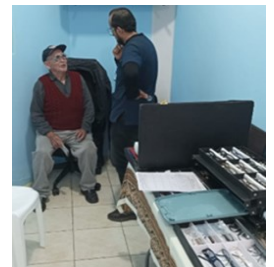
Pastor Ruben recently took advantage of an Outreach opportunity. He opened his church building to a state-sponsored Peruvian Medical Campaign for Ophthalmology and General Medicine. He had the opportunity to share the gospel with more than 40 people at that event.

Evangelism



“Brother Elmer and his young son Joseph have been added to the church. As a new member of the church, Elmer, is one of nine new members being disciplined”.

The church in Cusco is growing in other ways as well. Pastor Ruben and Rosa also welcomed their new grandson Elijesed to their family. Congratulation!



Reasons for Prayer

- Salvation of more souls for Christ
- For the unbaptized brothers to commit to be baptized
- Continued progress to obtain legal recognition as a church
- For our Evangelistic Christmas Program

Gustavo Gonzalez - Artigas, Uruguay

Pastor Gustavo sends: "We hope that you are well and enjoying the blessings of our Lord. Thank you for your faithfulness in supporting the missionary work both here in Artigas and in other places. Thank you for the vision of continuing to support other missionaries in prayer and in different ways. May God answer your prayers and reward you for your love. We had the opportunity to have a Bible School for children and a Youth Conference during the winter break."



Special Prayer Requests

- For continued health and well-being for Pastor Andy and Jo Ellen.
- For successful meetings for Pastor Andy and Jo Ellen as they present BEME-LA.
- For the protection of our church starters and their families in unsafe areas.
- Please pray for those affected by weather during the current season.
- For the spiritual growth of new believers to take the next step of baptism.

Keep up to date on all news and happenings at BEMELA on our website -



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; and **Andrew Counterman** as the account name. The coupon below is provided to designate mail-in offerings. Please make checks payable to **BEME Latin America**. You will receive receipts for your tax-deductible

I would like to have a part in Latin American ministries with a tax-deductible gift of \$ _____ to support the work of BEME-LA. Please designate my donation 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

January 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Wisdom and guidance in '25. Happy New Year	2 Pray for comfort for our BEME Director, Andy Counterterman and his family in the loss of his son, Caleb	3 Pray for the BEME accountant, Jessica Counterterman, in the loss of her husband	4 Pray for the wives of the national pastors as they support their church starting husbands.
5 Spiritual growth for new members in Cartagena, Colombia	6 Pray for continual fruit from Christmas programs in the new churches	7 Pray for our office assistant Gene McAvoy for health needs	8 Pray for the recent grads from the Bible colleges and Seminars in Latin America	9 Pray for travel safety for the Director as he presents BEME	10 Pray for a full schedule of meetings to present BEME	11 Pray for the three applicants waiting for funding
12 Pray for provisions for vehicles and repairs for our church starters	13 Pray for pastor Jorge Sua in Bogota, Colombia	14 Pray for spiritual growth for new members in Villamontes, Bolivia	15 Pray for pastor Enoc Caton in Villamontes, Bolivia	16 Pray for Yancarlos Mercado, Bethel Baptist Church in Dominican Republic	17 Pray for pastor Robert Merino, Trujillo, Peru	18 Pray for pastor Ruben Quispe, Cusco, Peru
19 Continued encouragement for church members of Bible Baptist Church of Bogota, Colombia	20 The missions summit in Bradenton, FL hosted by Arch Ministries	21 Pray for pastor Frank Ninó, Bogota, Colombia	22 Pray for Andres Ramirez, in Nuevo Helvecia & Juan Lacase, Uruguay	23 Pray for Hernan Huari in Cusco, Peru	24 Pray for the board members of BEME	25 Pray for Andres Mejia in Cartagena, Colombia
26 Pray for new believers to get baptized and join their new church.	27 Pray for the summer programs and Vaccation Bible Schools	28 Pray for CO meetings for BEME presentations	29 Pray for pastor Manuel Maccancela in Quito, Ecuador	30 Pray for the countries BEME is in: Peru, Ecuador, Uruguay, Bolivia & Colombia	31 Pray for the countries BEME is in: Mexico, Puerto Rico, & the Dominican Republic	

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 an attached note. Undesignated offerings are added to the general fund and used for prioritized missions 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.