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# Newsletter

## March 2025



*Sunset - Cusco, Peru*

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  - 5 Pastoral Training in Peru
- Call to Action: Special Prayer Requests and the April 2025 Pray & Give Calendar (attached)*

### **Continued Growth with More New Church Starts!**

In Guaynabo, a village in Carolina, Puerto Rico, a new church is beginning with Brother Dwayne Daniels. He is studying at the Calvary Baptist Bible College in Carolina, PR. He is to be married in June. Puerto Rico is a new mission area for BEME. Pray for this ministry to grow strong in the Lord.



A second new church start will be in the coastal region of Huanchaco, **Peru** - under the pastoral leadership of Josue Rodriguez. Brother Rodriguez trained at the Baptist Seminary of Peru in Trujillo. He is also a talented musician, which will help this new church start. Pray for Josue, Louisa, and their daughter Ada.

In the town of Mairana, in central **Bolivia** - Pastor Glenn Sandoval, an experienced servant of the Lord, will be starting a new church. Pastor Sandoval started two other churches in Bolivia. Both churches have now flourished for over ten years. He and his wife have several grown children that have assisted them in their missionary outreach.

The fourth church start is in **Argentina**. It will be BEME's first church in this country. Pastor Lukas Gonzalez comes to us as a new church starter with experience. He was trained at the Baptist Bible Seminary in Rosario, Argentina, and was ordained as a Baptist pastor in 2023. Join us in welcoming Pastor Lukas, Julieta, and son Kalel.



A fifth new church starter is Yonathan Garcia in Rivera, **Uruguay** who sends us this word: “We are planting a new church in Rivera on the border with Santana do Livramento, Brazil. We thank God that we did not arrive here alone. A group of brothers from the Nuevo Helvecia church, accompanied by Pastor Andres Ramirez, joined us to begin cleaning up and making some improvements in the place where we will be living and starting the **First Fundamental Baptist Church of Rivera.**



I thank God for a brother who donated a speaker for the church and also a sister who donated 16 chairs to start the meetings. Without a doubt, God is faithful. Before leaving Nueva Helvecia, we had an activity with the young people, a special day for them where we shared songs, games, and an exposition of the word of God. Please continue praying for them. It is wonderful to see how, since we arrived in Uruguay, He has supported us, opening doors and providing for every need.

I thank God for the churches that faithfully support us with their prayers and supporting contributions. Without a doubt, God uses his people greatly, and this allows us to do the work freely. Our desire is that God continues to use us, each of us doing our part in the place where we find ourselves because God is worthy.

Receive greetings from this part of the world with the joy of knowing that there is fruit that abounds on your account.”

## **Andres Ramirez - Nueva Helvecia & Juan Lacaze, Uruguay**

Pastor Ramirez shares with us: “We are doing well by the grace of God, continuing to bring the gospel to the lost in Nueva Helvecia and Juan Lacaze. We also thank the Lord for the brothers in the church who are getting involved and who go out to share the gospel. In Nueva Helvecia, there were three professions of faith: Franklin, Beatriz, and María Inés. On March 9th, we celebrated the anniversary of the Nueva Helvecia church. We were joined by a group of brothers who came from Mexico two days before to evangelize and invite people to this event. We ask for your prayers that God works and that souls may be saved as a result of this meeting. We also ask for your prayers because we are getting permits to begin building the foundation of what will be our church building, and this takes time. We pray to have the foundation finished by the end of April.”



Recently, Pastor Ramirez and members of his church traveled with a new church starter, Pastor Yonathan Garcia, to Rivera, Uruguay. It was a time of work to help prepare the place where they will live and also where they will have their meetings. Pray for this new church plant as they begin winning souls for the Lord as they officially start their meetings.

***And your eyes shall see, and ye shall say, The LORD will be magnified from the border of Israel. Malachi 1:5***

# Letter from the Director

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

March came in like a lion and has roared along nonstop! We're not talking about the weather but about the activity of BEME-LA. We praise the Lord for being in five churches and four conferences this past month, with the next two months being just as full. Please pray for us. ☺ We also praise the Lord for the kickoff of seven new churches this month and plans to open the country of Costa Rica in April. The workload across the mission for us, as well as our staff, has increased, and plans and growth must be addressed to keep everything advancing decently and in order.



A busy schedule and opportunities can cause one to have apprehension. One author describes apprehension as “a notch or two above worries. It isn't strong enough to be fear, but neither is it mild enough to be funny. In some ways, apprehension can leave you crippled or immobile. Its uneasiness - a feeling of uncertainty and unrest.” Even Paul experienced it in Acts 20:22, where he says, “And now, behold, I go bound in the Spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there.” But Paul moved forward and didn't let apprehension take the place of determination and God's goals. “But none of these things moved me ...so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.” Acts 20:24.

Are you feeling a bit of apprehension today? Maybe it's life changes at school/home/work, ministry decisions, moves, or upcoming opportunities. Bring your concerns to God and seek godly counsel, stay in the Word of God, fast, and pray. Then, move forward with God's guidance and strength. “Commit your works unto the Lord and your thoughts will be established.” Proverbs 16:3. Don't let today's apprehension stop the progress of tomorrow. God already knows your future and has not left you.

Andy & Jo Counterman, BEME-LA

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

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## **Cristian Alvarado - Marvelous Grace Baptist Church, Bogota, Colombia**

Pastor Alvarado shared these pictures with us of the wonderful third anniversary of their church. We praise God for his continued blessings and the growth of this body.



## Manuel Macancela - Shell & Morete Cocha, Ecuador

In February, the church in Shell celebrated their 2nd anniversary. Glory to God!

**THE WORK IN SHELL:** Pastor Macancela shares with us, “At our anniversary service on February 23, we had a visit from Pastor Gabriel and several brothers from the church in Quito. We are thankful for their faithfulness. After this service, we went out to evangelize young people in the area. With this outreach, we established our YOUTH MEETING, and we will now begin to hold it every Saturday at 5 pm.”



### OUR ANNIVERSARY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

**THE WORK IN MORETE COCHA (a protected jungle area):** “For the end-of-year holiday and the beginning of a new year, I did not have to enter the Morete community as usual because many brothers traveled up to Shell. So, for January, we were able to share the Word of God with them at Shell. Therefore my first entry to Morete for 2025 was in February. It was a beautiful time that the Lord allowed us. On this occasion, I was accompanied by my daughter Camila. With her, we were able to reach women with the gospel, and one woman accepted Christ. We visited several homes. A couple in crisis came to see me to ask for advice about their marriage, and it was wonderful to see what God did. The husband was convinced of his sins, and he saw the need for a Savior and accepted Christ into his heart. Surely we have already witnessed the Lord restoring this family and strengthening the marriage!”

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## Samuel Quispe Chuco - Sicuani Mission - Cusco, Peru

“We continue with the preaching of the gospel and on this occasion we went out to evangelize the people on the streets. It was a blessing for all who heard the word. Please pray that the new believers will come to church with us and that God continues to work in the hearts and lives of those who heard the word.

We also thank God for the help from the First Baptist Church of Cusco. They have helped us evangelize and teach our children and young adolescents.”



### Prayer Requests:

- Help in the organization of ministries
- To reach many families in our region with the gospel
- Continued growth of the church

# Pastoral Training in Peru

Pray for the schools now starting classes to train new pastors.

We share these pictures from the seminaries.



## Special Prayer Requests

- For continued health and well-being of 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 the new graduates of the Latin American Bible Colleges and Seminaries.
- For the spiritual growth of new believers to take the next step of Baptism and Church Membership
- Continued results from Youth Camps and Outreaches

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