



Latin America

**Director**

**Dr. Andrew Counterman**

**Board of Overseers**

**John Bott**  
Director of Marketing  
for The Wilds of NC

**Pastor Wayne Burggraff**  
Faith Baptist Church  
Lebanon, PA

**Dr. Corey Pfaffe**  
Principal of Ministry CPA  
Watertown, WI

**Pastor Randy King**  
Wyldeewood Baptist Church  
Oshkosh, WI

**Pastor Simeon Counterman**  
Grace Baptist Church, Sioux Falls, SD

**Pastor Bill Schneider**  
Vision School of Missions  
Dawsonville, GA

**Dr. Bob Vallier**  
Church Business Ministries  
Greer, SC

**Pastor Kevin Zander**  
Tabernacle Baptist Church  
Wilson, NC

**FUN FACT**

The English words tomato and chocolate come from the Aztec language (Nahuatl) which is still spoken by millions of people in Latin America.



**June 2026**

**Huaraz, Ancash, Peru**

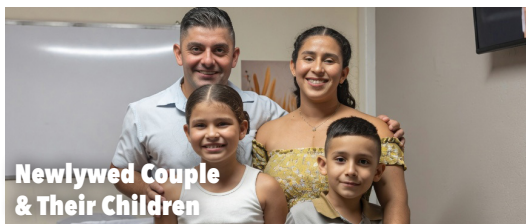
**Pastor Glenn Ramírez, Mairana, Bolivia**



Pastor Glenn and his wife Celma, together with Mairana Baptist Church, continue to lead children's ministries and Bible studies in the neighborhood of Los Angeles, Bolivia. Pray for lasting fruit from these endeavors!

**Pastor José Carvajal Fernández, Olla Cero, Costa Rica**

The motto for the month of May was, "Called to Be Light in the Darkness." They were able to do 10 followup visits and see 4 saved during the month! They also saw a couple from their church get married. Pray for fruit from these events and for church members to faithfully share their light.



**Newlywed Couple & Their Children**

**Pastor Geiner Morales, Tumbes, Perú**

Pastor Geiner expresses his appreciation for the special offering he and six other churches received from a donor church for



ministry purchases! The motorcycle and the Bibles for distribution will help so much to spread the Word of God in Latin America!

**Pastor Gustavo Mis, Xul-Ha, México**



This former BEME church planter is grateful to God for several brothers and sisters who confessed their faith in the waters of baptism! Pray for continued growth in the Lord.

**Pastor Manuel Macancela, Shell, Ecuador**



Pastor Macancela was privileged to preach at the dedication of the church in the Shuar community of Macuma in the jungle. The Lord had blessed him with the opportunity to oversee its construction and assist in directing the work. It is now ready for the church of Macuma to faithfully gather there!

# NEW! Pastor Roberto Chaucón

*Los Andes, Chile*

Pastor Roberto Chaucón and his wife Ximena are devoted servants of Christ currently planting a new church in Los Andes, Chile. Their lives reflect a shared journey of early faith, consecration, and wholehearted commitment to ministry.

Born into a Christian home, Roberto accepted Christ at age nine. Through a youth camp, he consecrated his life to God's service and became deeply involved in music and youth ministries. At 24, he studied for three years at the Bible Institute in Argentina. He later served as a deacon, was examined and commissioned for pastoral ministry in 2009, and now leads church planting with his family.

Ximena, raised in a Catholic home, came to faith at age nine after her family began attending a Baptist church. She consecrated her life to Christ at 15 during a summer camp and served faithfully in music ministry. At 20, she completed a one-year theological program at the same Bible Institute in Argentina and joined their Chile missionary team.

Married since 2001, Roberto and Ximena have served the Lord together for over two decades. Today, they joyfully labor side by side to establish a vibrant new church in Los Andes, Chile.



# Pastor Samuel Apata

*Cochabamba, Bolivia*

In May 2026, the Apata family rejoices as they mark another year of faithful Gospel ministry at Emanuel Baptist Church in Bañaloma-Arbieto. Founded by an American missionary who later left due to health issues, the church continues thriving under Pastor Samuel Apata's leadership. A special Bible campaign is planned for the anniversary weekend, with prayers for many souls to be saved as they celebrate God's goodness and the completion of their building project.



The work is expanding rapidly. Ten dedicated students at the Bible

Institute are studying hard and preparing to serve in upcoming youth and children's camps during the July school break. "It is a joy to see them studying and serving," shares Pastor Apata.

A brand-new outreach, Filadelfia Baptist Church in the town of Abra, held its first Tuesday night service with two families and many enthusiastic children. Students from the Bible Institute are actively helping in this new plant.

At Cometa Juvenile Detention Center, the team continues weekly Gospel preaching and is now teaching young men to play instruments so they can worship the Lord. Recent changes in leadership created temporary access challenges, but they trust God for continued open doors.

Despite national difficulties—conflicts, violence, and road blockades affecting Bolivia’s economy—the Apata family remains encouraged. They give thanks for God’s faithfulness and the support of churches and partners like BEME.

Please pray for salvations during the anniversary campaign, provision and guidance for the camps, favor at the detention center, and God’s protection over the nation.

The Apata family continues pressing forward, raising disciples and planting churches for the glory of Christ in Bolivia!



## Pastor Juan Durán

*Conocoto, Ecuador*

The Durán family in Conocoto, Ecuador, continues to experience God’s faithfulness in their lives and ministry. March brought significant blessings to the family. In the middle of the month, they joyfully welcomed their daughter Eden. Despite the risks and challenges of childbirth, the Lord showed mercy, granting a safe delivery. Both mother and baby are healthy and have resumed normal activities as the family adjusts to this new season. Later in the month, Pastor Juan underwent scheduled surgery. Although recovery included some complications, God’s sustaining hand was evident. The family is deeply thankful for the prayers and support they received during this time.

The church in Conocoto continues to grow under God’s blessing. In recent months, four new people have heard the Gospel and begun attending regularly, including Mrs. Clarita and the family of brother Salomón. The Duráns give all glory to God, who adds to His church according to His perfect will. Every Wednesday, the church conducts open-air outreach in Conocoto’s plaza, distributing tracts and sharing the Good News.



Although conversions from this specific ministry have not yet been recorded, they trust that the Word of God will bear fruit in His timing. Pray for increased boldness and growth in personal evangelism among the believers.



The past two months also included several meaningful activities. The church held a powerful all-night prayer vigil from 7:00 p.m. to 1:30 a.m., fostering unity and dependence on the Lord. The women enjoyed special meetings that strengthened them through the Word. Discipleship studies continue steadily, and the church recently launched its membership class. These efforts are deepening commitment to Christ and the local body of believers.

The Duráns ask for prayer regarding several upcoming events: the church’s first anniversary conference at the end of June, a collaborative summer youth camp, Vacation Bible Schools planned for July, and their participation in the 2026 Pastors and Missions Conference through the music ministry.

The Durán family is thankful for your faithful prayers, love, and partnership in the ministry!

# Pastor Lukas González

*Unquillo, Argentina*



The church continues steady Bible studies and personal discipleship meetings, with small but encouraging steps of growth in the lives of attendees. The team also regularly distributes tracts and shares the Gospel in daily encounters.

Health needs remain heavy: Pastor Lukas has endured intense tooth pain radiating to his ear, head, and eyes, requiring multiple emergency visits. Julieta continues battling pain in her feet and legs, with a specialist recommending possible surgery.

God provided the funds to buy paint for the floor of the hall where they are meeting. With the help of the brothers and sisters, after fixing some cracks it had, they were able to finish it! (pictured below)

Thank you for standing with this faithful family through prayer. God is at work in Unquillo!



Pastor Lukas González, Julieta, and little Kael continue serving faithfully at Unquillo Biblical Baptist Church despite ongoing family health trials. They hosted a joyful full-day evangelistic event on Argentina's May 25th holiday, featuring breakfast, games, solid Bible teaching, lunch, and more fun. A great group of believers from other churches joined, along with first-time visitors. The family especially rejoiced as Susana, her teenage daughter Uma, and six-year-old son Noam attended and heard the Gospel clearly. Pray that the Lord would draw this family to salvation.

Heyes, the man who came seeking sound doctrine, continues attending regularly. Pastor Lukas has been meeting him weekly for coffee and discipleship. Heyes has expressed a desire to stay and serve in the church—please pray for his spiritual growth and wisdom as he is guided.



Cut and mail. Checks should be made out to BEME Latin America.

Enclosed is my tax deductible gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to support BEME-LA. Please designate my donation for:

- General Mission Fund
- Church Starter Support
- Building Projects
- Pray & Give: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Baptist Evangelistic Missionary Endeavors - Latin America**

6052 Iris Lane, Rockford, MN 55373  
 Dr. Andrew Counterman, Director  
 410-804-3767 | counterman.andrew@gmail.com  
 General or Support Inquiries: missions@bemela.org

Scan to  
give online.



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

The month of June provided BEME with exciting service opportunities through church presentations, a board meeting, a seniors' brunch seminar, and the request to help in a VBS in another state. We are hoping for a little down-time yet this season . . . we will see.

Whether it is the sultry days of summer in the northern hemisphere, or the rainy winter times of the southern hemisphere, both remind us of the occasional need to slow down and rest. We are thankful for Psalm 127:2, "It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep." When the exhaustion of our regular labor commitments, unexpected events, illness, or people problems press us to a breaking point, we may well be past the time for a reprieve or rest.

One co-laborer said, "We've been programmed to think that fatigue is next to godliness. That the more exhausted we are (and look), the more spiritual we are and the more we earn God's smile of approval. We bury our thoughts of enjoying life . . . for we all know that committed, truly committed, Christians are those who work, work, work.

Preferably, with great intensity. As a result, we have become a generation of people who worship our work, who work at our play, and who play at our worship."



It's time to come apart from all the obligations and seek a calm retreat as Christ and His disciples did in Mark 6:31. May we encourage you to take a reprieve, strengthen yourself in the Lord (1 Sam 30:6), and allow the gentle presence of God to restore peace and joy, so you can continue in the labors set before you. Psalm 23:2-3 reads, "He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul:" God set a wonderful example for us in his creation account in Genesis 2:2, "And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made."

Rest and relaxation. Not to hinder us from the work set before us, but to rejuvenate us for future soul-saving labor and opportunities for God's eternal kingdom.

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

Jo and Andy Counterman, BEME-LA

**Upcoming prayer requests:**

- Director's travel to TN, NC, WI in July.
- Upcoming trips to Mexico and Brazil.
- Four open dates to fill this fall for presentations.
- Multiple expansion and evangelism projects of BEME church starters.
- Upcoming meetings with new advisors and schools in Latin America.
- Transportation needs and safety of BEME personnel.

**Director's  
Corner**

**BEME-LA, 6052 Iris Lane, Rockford, MN 55373**



# JULY 2026 PRAYER CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Continued fruit from Men's Conference held in June with Pastor Felipe Peña, in Chile	2 New discipleship classes started at Missions Baptist Church with Pastor De Santis in Perú	3 Strength/health for our BEME church starters during this busy season	4 US Independence Day: Pray for our nation and its churches
5 Youth Camp at Bethel Baptist in Monclova, Mexico, Pastor Eliab Hernández	6 Vacation Bible Schools in Conocoto, Ecuador with Pastor Juan Durán	7 2 young men from Uruguay under Pastor Pérez (BEME advisor), serving in Neighbor Bible Time, in Puerto Rico & Dom. Republic	8 Pastor Yonathan García in Uruguay, as they evangelize an area called Insausti	9 Argentina's Independence Day: Pray for our church starts, and souls to be saved in Argentina	10 Pray for wisdom and boldness in counseling situations that BEME pastors must handle	11 Bible Grammar classes in Tumbes, Perú at Rock Baptist Church with Pastor Geiner Morales
12 Pastor Counterman in NC at Teen Camp	13 Wisdom for Pastor González in Argentina, as he starts an extension Bible study in Salsipuedes (a neighboring town)	14 BEME church starts needing land/building supplies for their growing churches, to build church buildings and move from rentals	15 Travel safety for Pastor De Santis from Perú to Venezuela	16 Completion of house for Pastor Churata (BEME advisor) in San Sebastián, Perú	17 Lasting fruit from Missions Conferences, and church anniversary celebrations at BEME church starts	18 Students and professors at source Bible colleges and seminaries in Latin America
19 Pastor Counterman presenting BEME in southern Minnesota	20 Colombia's Independence Day: Pray for many to be saved through BEME churches in Colombia	21 Safety in travel for Pastor Adán García & wife for maternity check up on Mexican border	22 Food & clothing distribution and evangelism campaign by Missions Baptist Church in Perú (Pastor De Santis)	23 Evangelistic outreach in Isla de Maipo in Chile; and remote areas in Trujillo and Arequipa, Perú	24 Zoom Bible studies by Pastor Espinoza in México, for pastors in Guatemala	25 Completion of Sunday School classrooms in several of our church starts in Latin America
26 A full schedule for Pastor Counterman in 2027	27 Prayers for finalization of upcoming trips to Latin America for Pastor Counterman	28 Perú Independence Day (2-day celebration), Pray for souls to be saved in Perú	29 For the "Beyond My Border" outreach project in Yonathan García's church in Rivera, Uruguay	30 For Bolivia as there are conflicts, violence and road blockades all around the country	31 Missions help group working at church in Costa Rica with Pastor José Carvajal	