



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

On Lake Titicaca, the Uros people still live on floating islands made entirely of totora reeds that they continually replenish.



August 2026

Floating Islands Lake Titicaca

Pastor Hetler Ramos,
Puerto Maldonado, Perú



Praise God for the recent **ordination** of Pastor Hetler, one of our previously supported church starters! The ordination committee included Buddy Fitzgerald, Caleb Stein, Rubén Quispe Vásquez, and Dan Wokaty, all of whom are advisors to BEME on the fields of Perú and México. What a joyous occasion!

Pastor José Carvajal Fernández,
Olla Cero, Costa Rica



Pastor José rejoices over his church, Divine Savior Baptist Church, as they had a vibrant July filled with two joyful **baptisms**, five new visitors, and the exciting launch of missions with a promise to aid a southern pastor. They also gladly helped to celebrate the first anniversary of the Baptist Church in Finca Jalaca! Pray for these churches to grow and thrive!

Pastor Andrés Melgar,
Puerto Maldonado, Perú

Pastor Andrés reports growing visibility for Faith Evangelical Baptist Church near the

local market. They are studying the Gospel of John, seeing eagerness in couples like Sandra and José, and running a growing Wednesday Bible club using the Wordless Book. With Pastor Daniel Nuñez of New Life Baptist Church, a **medical outreach** was held to share the Gospel.



Pastor Erik Alvarado,
Cajamarca, Perú

They celebrated their **anniversary** during the second week of July, inviting Pastor Maynor Estrada—Spanish pastor for Fellowship Baptist Church in Upper Marlboro, MD—to preach the Word of God to them. There were services on Friday and Saturday evenings, followed by the main service on Sunday morning. Hearts were challenged through the preaching; and a good group of visitors also heard the Word of God. Pastor Erik's church prays fervently that the Lord will work in their hearts for their salvation.



VEHICLE REPORT! Pastor Benjamín Alegría

Santiago, Chile



The Alegría family shares a powerful testimony of God's provision and perfect timing. While praying about their growing family and an aging 1994 Toyota Corolla (above), Pastor Benjamín asked the Lord for a safer vehicle for ministry. That same week, BEME-LA informed him a donor had given toward a new car. One week lat-

er, they learned they were expecting a baby. By God's grace they purchased a well-maintained 2018 Toyota RAV4 (below). Pastor Benjamín writes that he does not see himself as the owner—the vehicle is a gift from God to be stewarded for His glory and the advancement of the Gospel. To God be all the glory!



Pastor Christian Sua

Bogotá, Colombia

Christian and Cinthya Sua, along with their children Camila and Mateo, continue pressing forward in the work of the Gospel in Colombia. God's hand is clearly at work through every tract distributed, every conversation, and every meeting where His Word is preached.



This new church is largely composed of families who had never previously attended a church service. Many are now learning foundational biblical truths, strengthening their

convictions, clearing up doubts, and—for some—preparing for baptism. The Suas ask for prayer that these new believers will develop consistent spiritual habits and grow in faithfulness and active participation in the local church.

Discipleship is expanding into homes. Several families have opened their doors for weekly meetings, where they are being taught and encouraged. Some are already praying about inviting their neighbors. The goal is clear: every brother and sister should become a discipler, bearing fruit by witnessing to others and then helping them grow in the ways of the Lord, in fulfillment of Matthew 28.

Weekly street evangelism continues in Mosquera. The team is fasting and praying that God will use them

powerfully as they emphasize the Gospel and trust the Holy Spirit to work through His Word. Pastor Christian is also encouraging other believers to join these outreach efforts and learn how to share their faith.

The Sua family asks for prayer for wisdom in leadership and counseling, the salvation and discipleship of visitors, strength for new believers, and provision to cover church expenses. They remain grateful for every partner standing with them as the Gospel continues to advance in Colombia.



Pastor Vicente Astudillo

Las Camelias, Chile

Pastor Vicente Astudillo and his family continue to see God's faithful hand at work at Iglesia Bautista Misionera Las Camelias. Through a cold and rainy Chilean winter, the Lord has kept the family in good health while the church grows both in spiritual maturity and in numbers.

As workers poured the foundation for the new church building, Pastor Astudillo was reminded of a powerful spiritual truth. In a nation accustomed to powerful earthquakes, a strong foundation is essential for lasting stability. Likewise, Christ is the unshakable Rock and Cornerstone of His church. This season has reinforced the importance of establishing every new believer firmly on the solid foundation of faith in Jesus so that they may stand firm when trials come.

Weekly ministry remains rich and intentional. On Wednesday evenings the congregation studies biblical principles for resolving interpersonal conflicts. Sundays feature two teaching sessions: the attributes of God and an expositional journey through 1 Corinthians.



Faithful teaching of the Word continues to nourish and strengthen the body. Women, men, and teenagers also meet regularly for discipleship, fellowship, and outreach,



inviting neighbors and friends to hear the Gospel.

Construction progress is encouraging. After nearly four weeks of delays due to heavy rains, the foundation is nearly complete. A container of tools has arrived, building materials are being delivered, and construction is scheduled to begin on September 20. God has also provided resources for bathrooms—an essential addition not included in the original plans.

The Astudillo family gives thanks for every partner who stands with them in prayer and support. They ask continued prayer for the building project, the spiritual growth of the church, and greater opportunities to reach more people with the Gospel. Above all, they desire to remain faithful to Christ and His Word, trusting Him to build His church according to His perfect will.

Pastor Eliab Hernández

Monclova, Coahuila, México



Pastor Eliab Hernández and Bethel Baptist Church in Monclova, Coahuila, experienced rich blessings during May and June 2026. In May, a Mother's Day gathering celebrated God's ongoing work among the women of the church. Several new members have been added in recent months, including a family that arrived through a simple recommendation. Blanca, a neighbor the church did not previously know, came seeking support for her family. From her first visit she, her mother (also named Blanca), and her two children, Julián and Eva, have been consistent attendees and are already helping in various areas of service—clear evidence of God's grace at work.

In June the church joyfully marked its anniversary with a special two-day conference focused on the reliability of the Bible. Biblical archaeologist Daniel Puente led the sessions, strengthening the congregation's confidence in Scripture and encouraging them to continue preaching God's Word with conviction. Father's Day provided another opportunity to honor the men of the church while lifting prayer for several unsaved fathers who

attend only occasionally. The church continues reaching out to them personally, trusting God to work in His time.

Meanwhile, the church in Cuatrociénegas is also advancing. Two bathrooms are under construction, and though the congregation is small, the brothers and sisters show remarkable love and dedication. Pastor Hernández is preparing to train Brother Gerardo for full-time pastoral leadership there. After a year of intentional discipleship in key areas of ministry, Gerardo and his family plan to return and continue the work.

The Hernández family asks prayer for Gerardo's training and family support, courage and strength to keep fulfilling the work, the upcoming youth camp, and encouragement for both churches. They remain deeply grateful for every partner standing with them as God builds His church in Coahuila.



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 close of the summer had a lot of travel for BEME. From Canada to Utah, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and an expansion trip to Brazil. It has been full of mission updates, new acquaintances, and the exciting exposure to new church starts in our 12th country! God is blessing the growth of BEME, and we are most thankful. We are especially grateful for two new churches in the U.S. taking on BEME for regular monthly support.

With all this travel we know the importance that an initial greeting and thoughtful conversation can make for the gospel. Recently, a pastor friend of mine posted the following:

"To Welcome a Stranger"

Over the past six months or so I visited twenty-three churches in my area and it was an eye-opening experience. They were mostly small churches where visitors are fairly obvious, and at first, I expected to be thronged with well-wishers. For the most part, to my amazement, that didn't happen. Now I realize that in every church long time members tend to develop a circle of friends and family, and when they gather on Sunday part of the joy is getting to see each other and catch up on the news before the service starts (and sometimes during).



So I get that.

But in most of those churches I was invisible. I came in the front door and was usually greeted by a "greeter," but once inside I was on my own. People were busy with each other and if they even glanced my way that was it. Only a glance. I sat alone during the service and slowly made my way out to my car in futile hopes someone would approach me.

What concerned me was not how I was treated, but how a stranger to Christ would be treated. What if the person timidly entering the building was in hopes of finding help, hope, healing, anything. To even enter takes a great deal of courage, so if they do, they must be in extreme need. And if not welcomed and ministered to, that searching soul may well be lost forever. My friends, such things ought not so to be.

Back in 1759 Joseph Hart penned what should be the theme song of every gospel-preaching [church] everywhere...

*Come, ye sinners, poor and needy,
Weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus ready stands to save you,
Full of pity, love and pow'r.*

*Come, ye thirsty, come, and welcome,
God's free bounty glorify;
True belief and true repentance,
Every grace that brings you nigh.*

Let us encourage you to say hello at church, cross the street and visit your neighbor, extend your hand to a stranger. Your kindness could open a heart, induce a curiosity for Christ, or help one to believe that Jesus is real. Remember that some of us will plant, some water, and this is what God uses to give the increase. (1 Cor. 3:6)

Let's strive to make even our brief encounters a steppingstone for others to come to Christ.

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

Jo and Andy Counterman, BEME-LA

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



SEPTEMBER 2026 PRAYER CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Recent earthquake areas in Colombia. For souls to get saved through the destruction.	2 Pray for Pastor Astudillo's church in Chile, to have good weather for construction.	3 Pray for continued growth in Pastor Edwin Tobar Mendoza's church in Cusco, Perú.	4 The Bible colleges and Seminaries to have a fruitful semester for the Lord.	5 Pastor Counterman traveling back from Brazil.
6 Fundamental Baptist Church in Artigas, Uruguay to see increase in growth and giving. (Pastor Gustavo González)	7 Labor Day: Pray for more laborers to go into God's harvest field of souls.	8 For potential church starter applications from recent Brazil expansion trip.	9 Continued fruit from Family Conferences held in churches in Latin America.	10 BEME Zoom meeting with New York potential churches.	11 A home close to the church for Pastor Carvajal in Costa Rica.	12 Lasting fruit from the many decisions made at Latin American children and teen camps and conferences.
13 BEME church presentation in Illinois.	14 For the needs of BEME-LA, as we continue to grow by God's grace.	15 Pray for wisdom and safety for Pastor Lukas González's church in Argentina.	16 México's Independence Day from Spain: pray for the Mexican people to be saved.	17 Pray for the salvation of those reached during the medical ministry of Pastor Erik Alvarado's church in Perú.	18 Chile's Fiesta Patrias Day, pray for Chile BEME churches to see many souls saved.	19 Pray for the upcoming first missions conference in Yonathan García's church in Uruguay.
20 Pray for Pastor José Carvajal's church in Costa Rica to be faithful in supporting their new missionary.	21 Director Counterman at Pastors' Conference in Wisconsin. Pray for more meetings to present BEME.	22 Pray for Pastor Diego González's provision of a larger vehicle for the family.	23 Multiple workdays at BEME home office, to upgrade administrative organization.	24 For 27 new students for 2027 at SBP in Trujillo, Perú (a seminary from which BEME finds new church starters.)	25 Pray for Pastor Espinoza's teachers who are serving, and more teachers and helpers for Pastor Josué Rodríguez.	26 Pray for Pastor Felipe Peña's guidance in new Sunday meetings in Chile and for the men's ministry.
27 27-30: Director Andy Counterman at Pastors' Conference in California.	28 Pray for Pastor Eliab Hernández's training of Brother Gerardo and his family.	29 National Coffee Day! Pray for those who prayerfully give up a cup of coffee to pray & give to BEME (Coffee for a Cause).	30 The many BEME church starts that need funds to purchase land/materials for their growing churches.			