

# mission:world

MAGAZINE



**CHANGEMAKERS**

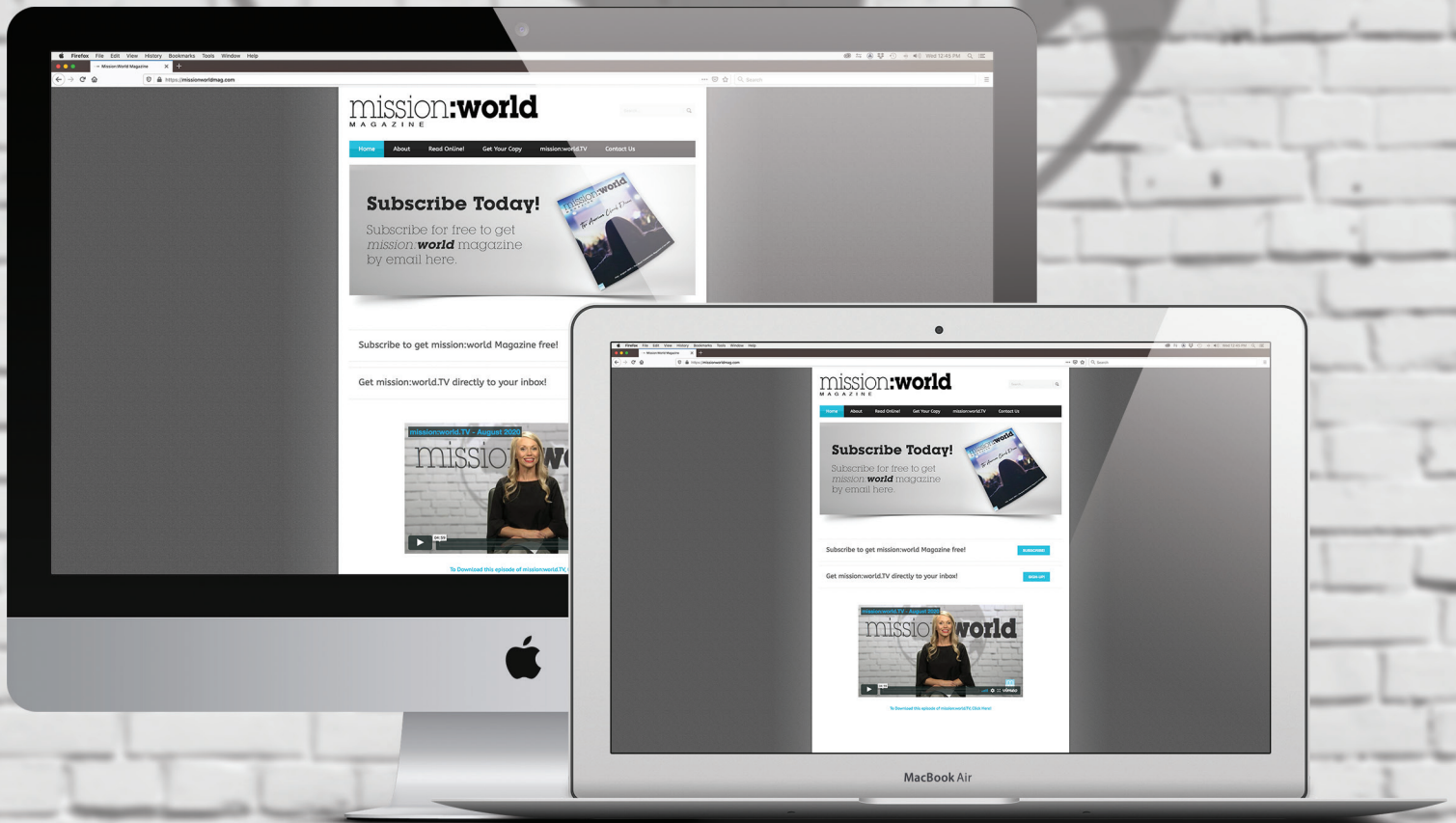
SOUTH AMERICA



May - June 2021 ::: The Great Commission Magazine of the BMA



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## mission: **world**

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**BMA Missions** seeks to facilitate churches in fulfilling the Great Commission through assessment, training, coaching, and missionary care.



**Lifeword** assists in taking the gospel throughout the world through radio, television, the internet, and mobile devices.



**Ministers Resource Services** helps meet the financial planning needs of BMA pastors and staffs.





BY: Dr. John David Smith  
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# What Happens When You **Go.Disciple.Plant.Repeat.**

**T**hank you for opening *mission:world* to see and hear some of the awesome things that God is doing in the nations. Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) Global Missions values multiplication and considers it as its highest goal. The New Testament pattern of multiplication is encouraged and evidenced in the primary areas of disciples, leaders, and churches. For those who have obeyed the command of Christ to practice Great Commission missions, there is no greater personal joy and no more accurate measure of ministry than when we pour our lives into others and they repeat the process! In missions lingo, this is called indigenous missions. The word *indigenous* simply means that something originates and belongs locally.

For the next few issues of *mission:world*, some of the indigenous leaders around the world and their ministries will be in the spotlight. In BMA Global Missions we call these leaders ChangeMakers. A ChangeMaker is an indigenous believer who, most of the time, has been won and discipled by a BMA missionary or another ChangeMaker and now carries out the ministry of go, disciple, plant, and repeat in their own country. Currently, we partner with over 400 ChangeMakers globally.

The biblical examples of “ChangeMaker missions” fill the pages of the New Testament and are especially visible with Jesus and His earthly ministry with the twelve and Paul in his church planting efforts. For the duration of this article, we will look at some of the principles for ChangeMaker Missions from Paul as found in Colossians 4:7-15:

*<sup>7</sup> Tychicus, a beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me. <sup>8</sup> I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that he may know your circumstances and comfort your hearts, <sup>9</sup> with Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will make known to you all things which are happening here. <sup>10</sup> Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, with Mark the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him), <sup>11</sup> and Jesus who is called Justus. These are my only fellow workers for the kingdom of God who are of the circumcision; they have proved to be a comfort to me. <sup>12</sup> Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. <sup>13</sup> For I bear him witness that he has a great zeal for you, and those who are in Laodicea, and those in Hierapolis. <sup>14</sup> Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you. <sup>15</sup> Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea, and Nymphas and the church that is in his house.*

Paul is in prison and concluding his letter to the churches in and around Colossae. This passage is the ending of that letter, and he is greeting many in the Colossian churches in the name of some on his missionary team. It is in the names of these team members that we have a great opportunity to look into Paul’s multiplication ministry and see foundations for ChangeMaker missions.






**CHANGEMAKER MISSIONS IS BASED ON OUTSIDE PARTNERSHIPS THAT ARE THE SCAFFOLDING, NOT THE BUILDING.** We certainly seek to enter partnerships with indigenous believers who are doing Great Commission ministry and especially those who are the fruit of our own missionary efforts. However, we do recognize that these outside partnerships are temporary, like scaffolding. They are intended to give support and structure until the permanent building (ongoing local ministry) is ready, then we take our scaffolding and go build in another place. Paul was a great leader, not because he got things done, but because he got things done through others! He had no intention of building his own private empire in any place; it was all about building the kingdom of God through the multiplication of disciples, leaders, and churches.

**CHANGEMAKER MISSIONS IS BASED ON PASSING THE BATON, NOT PATERNALISM.** Historically, many involved in global missions talked much about passing the baton of ministry to indigenous leaders, but rarely followed through. Paternalistic actions where one “partner” dominates the other was more of the norm. In Colossians 4, Tychicus, Onesimus, Epaphras, Luke, and Demas were all Gentiles while Aristarchus, Mark, and Justus were Jews. These men were from a myriad of places and backgrounds, but Paul’s aim was always the same: win, disciple, equip, and release into ministry around the known world. Paul really did not have to “pass” the baton because he included them from the beginning.



**CHANGEMAKER MISSIONS IS ABOUT LIVES CHANGED BY THE GOSPEL WHO ARE NOW REPEATING THE PROCESS.** Tychicus was the missionary mailman who delivered many of Paul's epistles. He did this in spite of great personal peril in travel and deep personal sacrifice. Onesimus was the thieving runaway slave from Colossae who, according to history, later became the pastor of the church at Colossae. Epaphras started the church in Colossae; Luke was the beloved physician who wrote the books of Luke and Acts; Aristarchus was with Paul in riots, imprisonments, and shipwrecks. Their stories were altered by Jesus and now they were sharing the story to the known world.

In this issue, we will focus in on ChangeMakers in South America. You will hear about ministries in Peru, Paraguay, Ecuador, and Brazil. You will hear men and their stories and how God is using them now in their places of ministry. You will have the unique perspective of seeing the relationship between a missionary (Buddy Johnson) and a ChangeMaker (Marco). These men have been transformed by the gospel, they have been equipped and entrusted as leaders, and now they are repeating the process. BMA Global Missions is proud and honored to partner with these ChangeMakers!



These men have been transformed by the gospel, they have been equipped and entrusted as leaders, and now they are repeating the process.





## Contributing to and Engaging in the Local Church

### TIMES OF PANDEMIC, TIMES OF OPPORTUNITY

**P**andemics have always left profound marks on humanity. We know how much it impacts the Church and society as a whole. People all over the world are experiencing a crisis of fear, suffering, and uncertainty. Many analysts already say that the current pandemic is the biggest challenge facing humanity since World War II. There is also a consensus that it will leave profound marks in the history of humanity and that a lot will change in the post-pandemic period. Whether we think of humanity in our country, in our church, or among ourselves, these are times of great opportunity:

### THE OPPORTUNITY TO EVALUATE AND CHANGE OUR MENTALITIES

The Holy Scriptures hide absolutely nothing about the reality of sin. On the contrary, they reveal humanity's sinfulness and the consequences of sin. Furthermore, they show that God is always calling His children to repent and is always ready to forgive those who, confident and repentant of their sins, plead for His help.

This reality is explicit in the book of Judges. When there was peace, tranquility, and prosperity, the people of Israel would slowly move away from the path to which God had called them in His Holy Law and would embark on a path of idolatry, clinging to the gods of the pagan peoples and living a life of promiscuity and disobedience to God. When the Israelites chose the path of perdition, God, in an educational way, allowed enemy peoples to invade, conquer, and dominate their territory for a few decades, until the people recognized their sins and turned to Him. When that occurred, immediately God provided deliverance through one of His servants, like Gideon, Jephthah, Deborah, and others.

Likewise, God has a good purpose in this pandemic, as He assures us that all things cooperate for the good of those who love Him (Romans 8:28). What does God want to show you, me, the Church, and the world? What do we need to repent of and correct in our lives?



### THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE BETTER STEWARDS OF GOD’S GIFTS

Here in this world, we do not own anything; everything belongs to our God and Lord. Being a good steward of these goods is our obligation. We must do it in the best way because one day we will give an account for the way we manage these assets.

This time of quarantine and lockdowns provides us with an opportunity to reevaluate several of our preconceived ideas including how we use the resources we have available. It is time to review our personal and family budgets. It is also time to review our personal and family expenses and priorities. When redistributing the resources that are made available to us, we will be forced to analyze the real motive for acquiring a certain good. Is it to impress our neighbors and colleagues or is it a mere want?

In this period, we should also evaluate our contribution and engagement in our local church, both in fellowship with our brothers and sisters in the faith, as well as our offerings and tithes that help sustain God’s work. Are we giving as the Holy Scriptures teach us? Are we

looking around us to see how people are doing? Are we managing well our divine gifts to help meet the needs of our neighbors?

What a blessing to see that, instead of being scared or in hiding, our churches more and more are using technology to proclaim the gospel and to show Christ’s love. Our pastors, their wives, and so many other members of our congregations here in Brazil are browsing the internet and learning new tools to virtually meet the needs of our communities. Despite the storm and the uncertainty ahead of us, they are charting these new waters to fulfill the vision and mission of the church.



BY: Jarede Souza  
BMA Missions  
bmamissions.org





### **THE OPPORTUNITY TO FIND NEW WAYS TO SHARE CHRIST WITH THE WORLD**

Our Missions department's motto is "Christ for All!" "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

The mission of saving is of God, but the challenge is to the church. Yes, God's goal through the church is to reach out to those who do not know the gospel and bring them into fellowship with Him and with other brothers and sisters, showing them the joy of living the love of Jesus. Our big limit is in "everyone."

Looking at the history of the Christian church, we see that it has not always been easy to proclaim the truth that sets us free. In the middle of the twenty-first century, we would never have imagined that church buildings would be forced to close. Yes, this is the reality that we have lived in the past few days because of Covid-19. The saying goes: "It is in small battles that we become stronger." We can say that the battle in which we are living is great, but with the grace of God, we will come out of it stronger. In these last days, we have seen wonderful actions of taking Christ to all. Many have been reached by love of Jesus! We have not stopped proclaiming and spreading God's word during this pandemic. We realize that the church goes far beyond our four walls, and through social networks the Word has reached many more homes. Many have made their homes a temple and have been strengthened in their faith and received forgiveness of their sins without leaving their residences.

We do not know yet the impact that Covid-19 will have in the history of humanity, in the history of the Church, or in our history of personal and family life, but we can be sure that God wants to leave a positive mark, to renew our minds [change our minds], to strengthen our faith in His Son Jesus Christ, to transform us inside and out, and to deepen our relationship with Him and with those around us. May His will be done in our lives!



### GOD IS WORKING IN OUR CHURCH DURING THE PANDEMIC

In 2019, I started a revitalization process at Castelo Forte Baptist Church. It was without a pastor and church members felt discouraged and abandoned. As a cry for help, the church reached out to me and asked me to become their interim pastor. I prayed to the Lord and we began the process of restoration and revitalization. With the few members that had remained, we began discipleship, slowly confronting the issues we inherited. This awakened the church to evangelization and missions. After a few months, God started to bless us, and new people were converted and baptized; thus, the revitalization began to take place.

In June of 2020, God brought to our church a Hispanic family, Denis, Tatiana, and Davi. They are originally from one of our sister churches in Peru. With the arrival of this family, I started to pray and ask God what He wanted to tell us in the midst of the pandemic. It didn't take long for God to answer us. We understood that He wanted to use this couple to start a cross-cultural missions project. We started talking and praying with this family until God clearly showed us what His plan was. Denis and Tatiana became members of our church, and soon after they were approved and elected by our Missions department as our missionaries to the Spanish-speaking people in our city Sao Paulo, Brazil.

In October of 2020, at the height of the pandemic, our Portuguese-speaking church launched a church plant to Hispanics. This couple is currently working on evangelizing and discipling many Hispanics in our area. Some have already accepted Christ and a few others are participating in evangelistic Bible studies. This is a great blessing from God to our church in the midst of this pandemic and the many other challenges that this church has gone through. God is at work and the church is being restored for His honor and glory. I ask for prayers for this revitalization process and for support of the missionaries in our association.

Like many of you, I have not been able to travel to our different states to support our national church-planting missionaries, but I continue to support them over the internet. In the month of March 2021, churches were once again prohibited from holding services in-person. We do not know when we will be back in our building. Please continue to lift us up in prayer.







BY: Rudson dos Santos  
BMA Missions  
bmamissions.org

# REACHING OUT TO STREET KIDS





**H**ello! My name is Rudson dos Santos and I am one of your ChangeMakers in Brazil. In 2016, my wife Luana and our two beautiful daughters Rebeca and Maia, moved to Cidade Jardim to start a new mission. Cidade Jardim is a well-known neighborhood in the city of Belo Horizonte, the capital city of the state of Minas Gerais. With a population of around 2.7 million and a metropolitan area of 12.7 million inhabitants, Belo Horizonte (Beautiful Horizon) is the third-most populous metropolitan area in Brazil and the thirteenth largest city in South America.

We started by connecting with and pouring into the lives of street kids. Typically, these are children of separated parents and many of them are involved with drugs and alcohol. Much like the rest of the country, there are several kids in our city that have run away from home or have a terrible home environment and have ended up living in the streets.

Through our ministry, many of these kids, some are tweens, have come to know Christ and His transforming power. Although this has been our entryway, we haven't stop there. Our goal is to also reach their parents. Some of these parents have started attending church. Pray for us and our ministry among "the least of these." By God's grace,

we've had some great victories and have been able to preach and reach some with the gospel of Christ in our community. I am grateful to Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) Missions and all its churches with a heart for missions. I truly appreciate you supporting us and all the other ChangeMakers here in Brazil.







# INVESTING IN RESOURCES TO REACH THE LOST

**H**ello! I greet you cordially. My name is Pablo Muñoz Contardo, and I oversee the work in Chile. I have been asked to give an account of what the situation has been with the Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) work here in Chile during this pandemic that we, along with the entire world, are facing.

The first thing I have to say is that the Lord has been with us. Our work has been done totally online since the very beginning of the pandemic. We normally meet in a building in our neighborhood that we rented for our meetings; but after the beginning of the pandemic, we had to adjust to a new world of communication.

The first thing we tried was to make transmissions via YouTube. However, this method allowed no interaction with the brothers which made communication difficult for us. Communicating

with our members was, in our opinion, of vital importance. Instead, we opted to purchase a Zoom account. At the beginning we had used Zoom, but in its free version, we would be cut off after 40 minutes. After we purchased a Zoom account, everything improved.

Our work, as I said, has been happening entirely online. Our church meetings and the women's ministry of our church organized a fellowship with our three churches with the participation of Taffy Bell Johnson in the exposition of the word of the Lord. The youth groups of our three churches also had their fellowship online. In addition, we have been doing our discipleship, marital counseling, and pre-marital counseling online. In fact, a couple from our church who we have been counseling will be getting married in September. We've dealt with topics such as God's purpose for the Christian



home, dangers to the Christian home, the role of the husband, and the role of the wife, along with several other biblical principles for the Christian home. The latter topics we were able to do partially in-person when conditions allowed it.

This whole new experience has of course presented its own set of drawbacks. Some members had a weak internet signal or did not have adequate cell phone plans. Over time, each of these issues have been resolved.

We have seen very positive results from this situation. We have been able to recover brothers who had once left the church; and we have been able to win their relatives gradually simply because they were captive audiences next to their family members listening to the gospel. These ultimately made a public profession, recognizing Jesus Christ as their Savior.

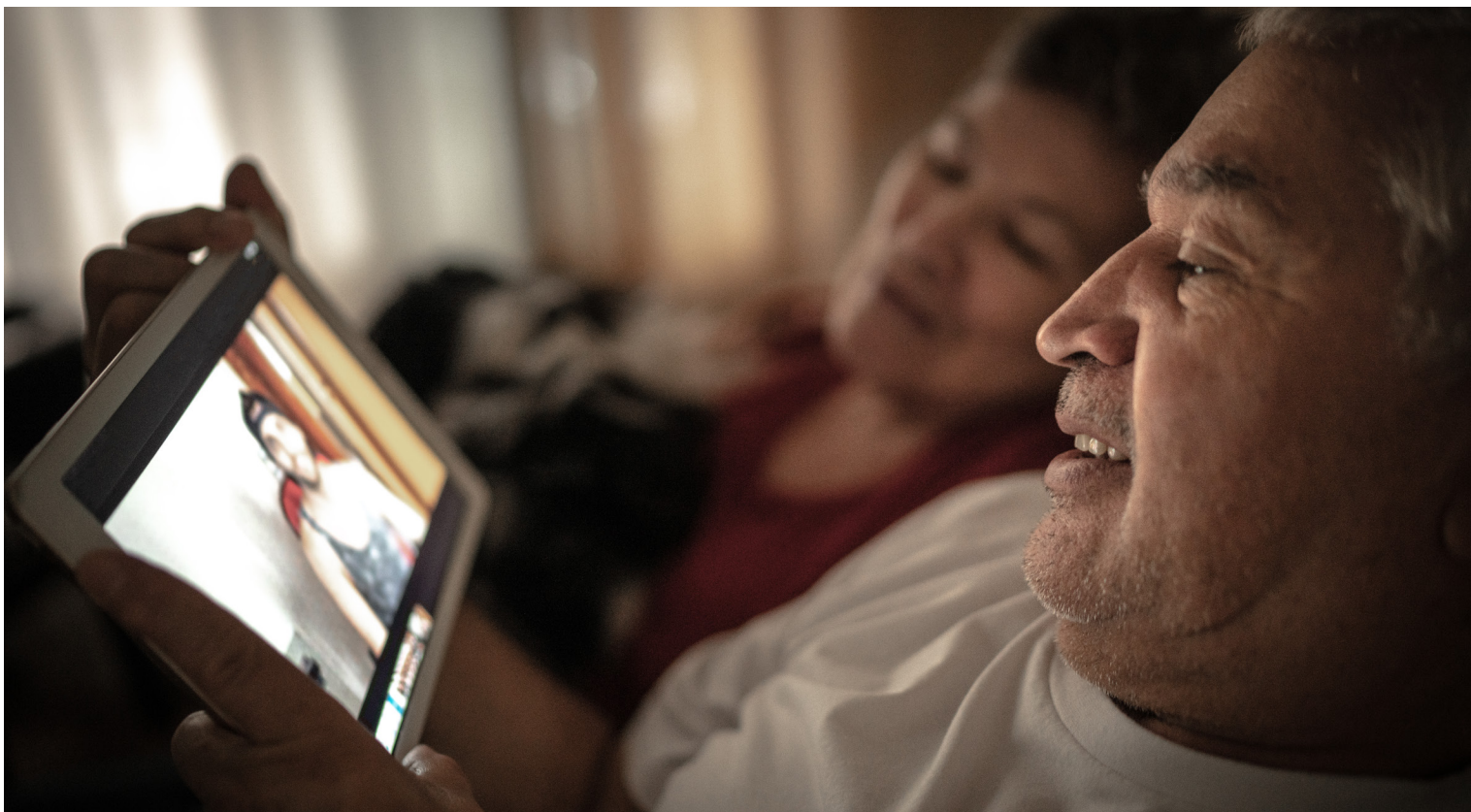
Today, unlike the past, people are no longer attending church. Instead, the church is going to them in their homes which is far better. In fact, that is what we should have been doing as a church all along.

Our Sunday meetings are centered around expository preaching with a devotional thread of going through the Bible in one year. We have also had two special programs with large audiences. The first was in December where, for the entire month, we looked into the theme of the implications

of the birth of Jesus. We dove into topics such as: “The prophecies fulfilled in the birth of Jesus,” “The details of the birth of Jesus,” “The purpose of the birth of Jesus,” and “The proclamation of the birth of Jesus.” We also collaborated with friends to provide special music. The entire program had an evangelistic emphasis. During the month of April for Easter, we developed a similar program. This also had an evangelistic emphasis. The topics were: “The last words to His disciples,” “Gethsemane,” “The trials and the crucifixion,” and “The resurrection of Jesus.”

These have been wonderful times in which we are seeing the hand of the Lord sustaining us. Another thing that we have begun during these times has been to start Bible study classes at the institute level, taking advantage of the knowledge my son Felipe has acquired from attending the Argentine Palabra de Vida (Word of Life) Bible Institute for three years. Together with him, we have been studying subjects such as Genesis, the Pentateuch, Proper Theology, and currently, the Life of Christ.

One of the things that I have learned as a pastor during this time has been that we have to be creative and adapt to each situation by taking advantage of all the tools at our disposal. The believers need to grow. We must invest in and facilitate resources so that everything continues working well.







## Multiplication Vision in Ecuador

BY: Buddy Johnson  
BMA Missions  
[bmamissions.org](http://bmamissions.org)

**M**arco Andrés Tamay Bueno is a native of Cuenca, Ecuador. Marco has been a believer since his teens and has been the leader of the mission which Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) missionary Trevor Morris began in 2014. He has been the caregiver of three nieces and nephews and has dedicated most of his adult life to caring for them. Also, he has cared for his invalid sister for most of his adult life until her passing about two years ago. As field coordinator for the BMA, it has been my privilege to work with Marco for the past several years. His dedication to the development of the mission has been remarkable. Marco has supported himself and his family members by owning his own auto body shop while also serving as the bi-vocational leader of the mission.



One of the tremendous struggles that has burdened Marco has been the need for doctrinal purity in the growing mission. Charismatic practices and doctrinal issues have given Marco the desire for deeper studies of Baptist doctrinal principles; and together we have dedicated ourselves to studying these. He is presently teaching our people the “Doctrinal Principles of the BMA of America.” As a direct result of these studies, we have eleven people awaiting baptism.

Marco has the vision and the burden to lead this very first BMA church to maturity and to becoming the “mother” church of many other churches in Ecuador. At the present time, he is working in another village about two hours from Cuenca. His desire is to see this group of believers become the second BMA church in Ecuador. He is actively working with lawyers for the legalization of our mission here in Cuenca. His goal is to get the “Es Por Ti Jesus” (It’s for You Jesus) Baptist Church duly registered with the government so we can purchase property and build a building where the church can worship. The rented building we now have is not sufficient for much future growth.

Marco has recently begun leading eight couples in an outreach program where each family will begin a “Center of Love” where the love of Christ will be shared in home Bible studies. We hope to see substantial growth as our people share the gospel in their homes and bring their friends into our fellowship.

I ask your prayers for Marco as he continues to seek God’s will and to share his vision with our growing church. We understand that “some plant, and some water, but only God can give the increase.”







# CULTIVATING A STRONG DOCTRINAL FOUNDATION

BY: Marco Tamay  
BMA Missions  
bmamissions.org

**G**reetings to all who read this from the Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) of America. I am very grateful to God for His blessing on our work. I am very thankful for all the support we have received from the churches of the BMA of America. Also, I am very thankful that you have sent Brother Buddy Johnson to work with us during these difficult times.

We have formed a team of coworkers. Our goal is to give a Biblical basis to those who attend our worship service. We are working together to form leaders who have a strong doctrinal foundation. We are presently working together to establish home Bible studies which we call “Centers of Love.” These will strengthen our church as new believers come together from these studies.

We have between forty and fifty people who love our Lord and are struggling to learn sound doctrine from the Word of God. Many are striving to learn true Bible doctrine and are correcting some of the false doctrines they have been taught by other churches. I confess that I am one who has struggled in this same area, and I am grateful to God and to you for the truth of God’s Word that you have taught me.

We are a mission from Union Hill Baptist Church in Brownsboro, Texas. We hope to become an

organized Baptist church in the near future. We are grateful to Brothers Buddy and Eric Johnson for giving us a vision to plant other churches in our country. We have a mission outreach in SigSig which is a town about two hours from us.

We are very thankful for the prayers of many who have committed to pray for us. Also, we are grateful for those who have worked with us over the years—Brother Dickson, Brother Johnmichael Poulin, Brother Chris Huson, Brother Pool, and others. It is an honor to be a part of BMA mission work. I ask you to pray for our many young people who have problems they are struggling to overcome. Pray for those who have come to Christ and are to be baptized. Pray for many whose marriages are not good. Pray for our identity and our impact in our city. We want to be known as the church that loves Jesus, people, His Word, and the truth. Only Scripture is to be the basis of our work. We also want to be known as a Great Commission church. We ask you to pray for God’s blessings on our work. We are truly grateful for the work Brother Buddy Johnson is doing with me and our men; and we are extremely thankful for the work his wife Mrs. Taffy is doing with the women in our congregation.



# 2021 BMA NATIONAL MEETING

# THINK GLOBALLY ACT LOCALLY



**THE MARTINS**



**JEFF SWART**



**LUIS ORTEGA**

## 2021 BMA NATIONAL MEETING AUGUST 2-4, 2021

**FARLEY STREET BAPTIST CHURCH**  
1116 BROWN ST  
WAXAHACHIE TEXAS 75165

### FEATURING-

**SPEAKERS-** BMA PRESIDENT, JEFF SWART  
LIFEWORDD DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS, LUIS ORTEGA

### SPECIAL MUSICAL GUESTS-

THE MARTINS  
SOUTH CITY CHURCH WORSHIP BAND

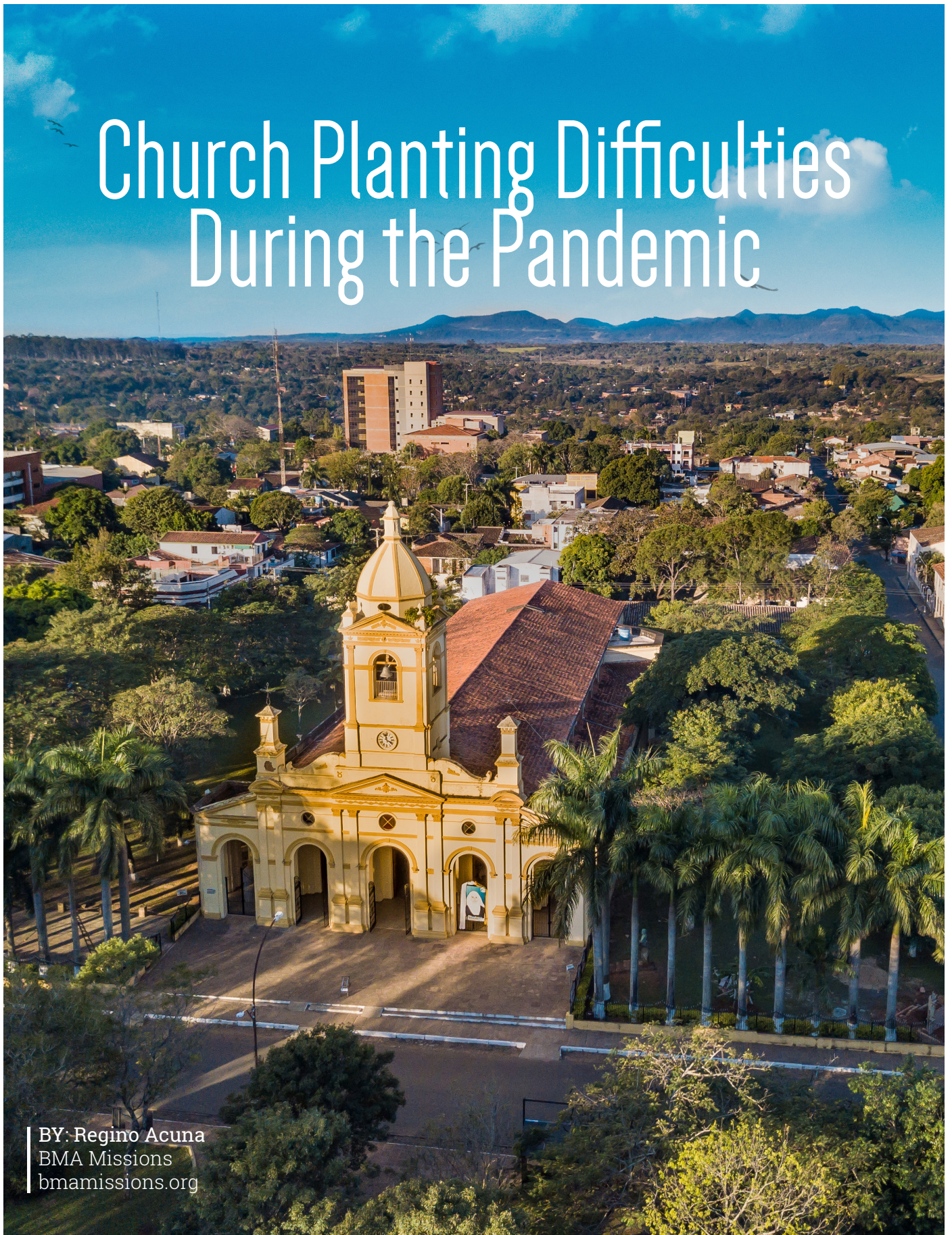
REPORTS FROM ALL NATIONAL BMA DEPARTMENTS.  
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A SPECIAL SESSION TO HONOR BRO & MRS JERRY KIDD, BRO & MRS PHIL KNOTT, BRO & MRS DOYLE MOORE. AND A SPECIAL TIME TO HONOR THE MEMORY OF DARLENE CAREY

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# Church Planting Difficulties During the Pandemic



BY: Regino Acuna  
BMA Missions  
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### IN “GRAN ASUNCIÓN”

**I**n the city of Luque, an average of about 30 brothers gathers together on Sundays in a place that we have rented (although now we are only allowed to have gatherings of 20 people or less). This group is the one we want to organize into a local church. There are 30 baptized; and we have other candidates who will be baptized as soon as circumstances allow.

During the week we have Bible studies in different places. On Mondays, we meet at 8:00 AM in the house of the Fernández family (San Lorenzo). That evening we meet at 5:00 PM at the Garoso Olmedo family’s house (San Juan neighborhood) and again at 6:00 PM at the Pérez family’s house (Barrio Yukiry). On Tuesdays, we meet at 6:00 PM at the home of the Arévalo family (Capiatá). On Wednesdays, we meet at the Acuña family’s house (Fernando De La Mora). And on Saturdays, we meet at 5:30 PM in the “Ña Mari” convenience store (Tarumandy). The goal is that in the future each of these places will become a new local church.

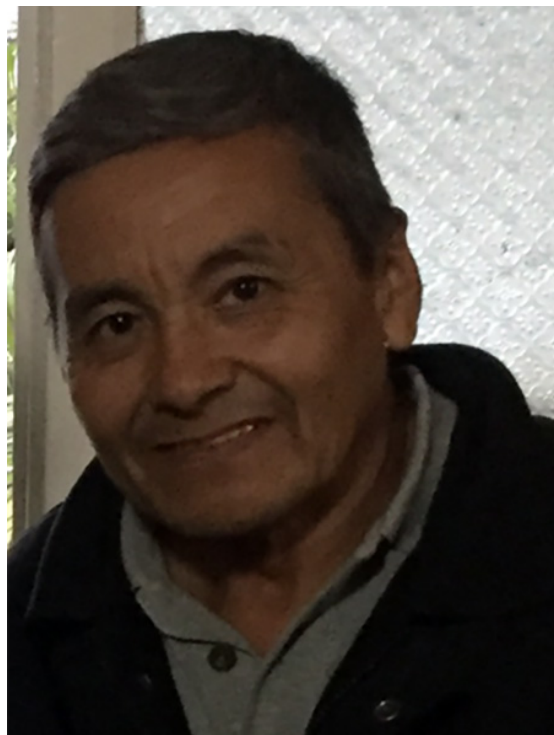
### IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SAN PEDRO

In the indigenous community of Tapuinkue, we did house-to-house evangelism along with preaching services. There, we saw 60 people who accept Christ. We travel to visit there once a month. This community of Tapuinkue is a Guarani village which translates as “the forgotten place or the abandoned place.” Lifeword will be partnering with us as we provide audio Bibles loaded to memory cards along with other Guarani audio materials for these new converts.

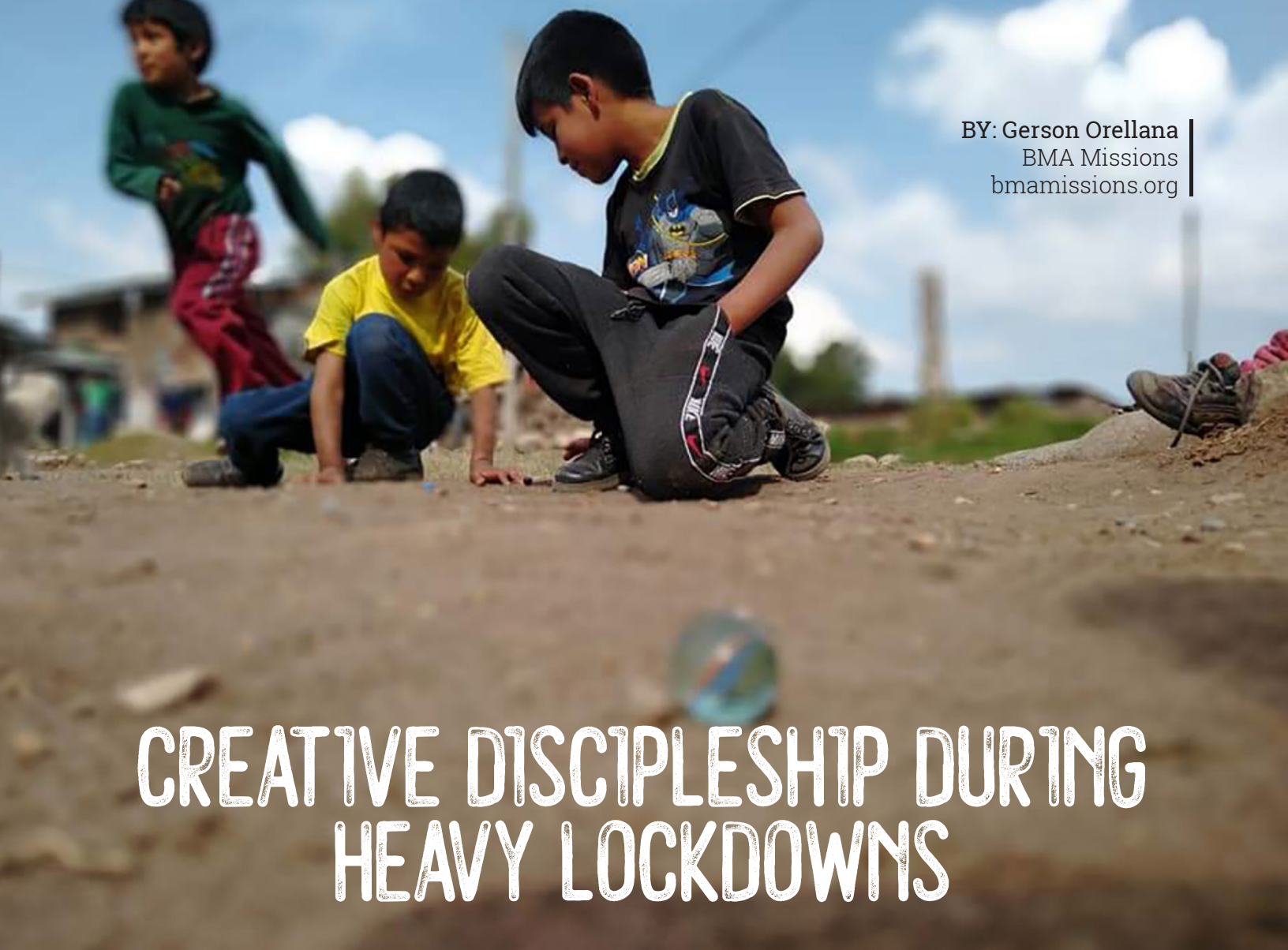
In Tapuinkue, we had 45 candidates for baptism—but then the pandemic came and for five months we were not allowed to travel. During that time a group of charismatics entered saying that they were just like us, and unfortunately much of the work has been destroyed in that place. Thank God, we are gradually recovering the brothers. We covet your prayers for that place.

We have also entered the indigenous community of “Naranja.” While visiting with the chief, he and two of his daughters accepted Christ and gave us permission to go preach in their community. We also covet your prayers for the salvation of the people of these communities.

The plan is that once the church is organized and Brother Iván is ordained pastor, I will place greater emphasis on San Pedro and Concepción until I establish the church there. We are grateful for the support we receive to continue the missionary work of the Great Commission here in Gran Asunción under the leadership of her pastor.







# CREATIVE DISCIPLESHIP DURING HEAVY LOCKDOWNS

**W**e are the Orellana Chacón family. My name is Gerson Orellana, my wife is Loren, and my children are Dariana, Eliam and Ezequiel.

I am a Costa Rican serving with my family in church planting in the Peruvian Andean Sierra.

In Costa Rica, we were always linked to missionary work in different fields and supported the startup of several missions. When we were planting a church in the town of San Antonio of Escazú, we felt a strong call to cross-cultural missions. Once this call was confirmed and supported by our local church and the Baptist Missionary Association (BMA), we headed to Peru with two suitcases each and the Great Commission before us. We entered the Andean Sierra, into a town called Chupaca at 3,500 meters above sea level with the firm purpose of planting a church that exalts Christ's name. The beginning was not easy. My family and I spent many days in the market meeting people and, in the evenings, preaching in the park. Today we are an established church, a beautiful community of imperfect believers worshipping a perfect God. We thank our Lord for this. We have been pioneers as we are the first Baptist church in the entire area.

Something I am passionate about is church planting and the training of leaders. And I thank God because today our church has a mission in the town of Miraflores, Pilcomayo. This mission is under the care of leaders from our church who understand the importance of missionary work and are committed to the Great Commission.





This year we are preparing a brother who feels a genuine call to the pastorate. Brother Josué, along with his wife Marilyn and their son are willing to give their lives to the service of the Lord in the ministry. I request your prayers for them, and for me to be able to support them in whatever way I can. Additionally, pray for the godly women who have prepared themselves to take the children's ministry "Andean smiles" to both the town of Chupaca and to the mission in Miraflores, Pilcomayo.

At the beginning of last year, my family and I began to work in what we call the "foreign church," by ministering to Venezuelan migrants who, due to the political condition of Venezuela, have had to immigrate to Peru, specifically those in the Andean Sierra. As a result, we have been able to meet with many people. Since we ourselves are foreign, it has been easier to reach them.

During this time of pandemic, we have been able to see the Lord's hand upon us. Nearly all the brothers and sisters in our church, including my wife and I, have fallen ill with Covid. But God has taken care of us along the way and we can say that we are fine. No, I am not saying that it has been easy during this pandemic. The restrictions in Peru are very strict. For almost a full year, many houses of worship have been closed without the possibility of opening their doors until today. We have had to resort to social networks and Sunday services online. In our case, it has been a bit difficult since many of the people in this sector of the Andean Sierra do not have internet service in their homes.

We have had to devise strategic visits to their homes to carry the Word and continue discipleship despite the government's restrictions of visiting with one another. This has been a beautiful experience. In the town of Pincha, for example, we have seen how several people wait for us to hear God's Word, regardless of the world's condition with Covid-19 and the strict restrictions. Some wait for us sitting with open bibles, attentive to a new Christ-centered message.

I do not know what the future will hold, but I give infinite thanks to the Creator for allowing us to be part of what God is doing in this place.

II Thessalonians 3:3, "But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil."





# *Defying Government Restrictions*





BY: Huber Allaga

BMA Missions

bmamissions.org

A year ago in March of 2020, the government in our country forcefully ruled to shutdown churches. Even though a year has passed, our worship meetings are still severely restricted. In addition to this, a good percentage of our church members fear falling ill or dying, keeping them from gathering together to worship. Though I certainly found myself concerned over the government's intervention, I worried more about the hopelessness of Christendom. The words of my beloved Savior echoed loudly in my ears, "Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Where is the song you happily sang, 'The wise man built his house upon the Rock and the storms did not knock it down...'? On what or on whom is your faith founded?"

At Antioch Baptist Church, we began studying and preaching virtually which is very useful. However, while studying the book of Acts, some of our church members' desire and need to gather together in person was strengthened. In our understanding, the early church in Jerusalem gathered in the houses and in the Temple of Jerusalem, despite the fact that persecution increased and the danger of dying became more and more real. They did not stop congregating. Prompted by the God's Word, we began gathering secretly in houses in small groups throughout the week, and on Saturdays or Sundays we gathered to worship together before the Lord.

At one of the Bible study groups, during a time of prayer, one brother named Mora asked if there were any prayer requests in his group. A lady named Melania requested in a soft, calm voice asking him to pray for her. Mora asked for the specifics of her prayer request. She responded with a sigh, "I want to go!" "Where do you want to go?" he asked her. She responded more emphatically, "I am ready to go be with the Lord!" Melania is still among us but continues to reiterate her request for prayer. I am sure our Savior will be ready to receive her when the time comes.

Last Sunday we decided to meet openly. Brother Beto with an animated voice said, "I'm ready, Pastor!" Surprised, I asked, "For what?" He replied, "I'm ready to go to jail; I will accompany you, Pastor, if the police arrest us for gathering to worship." He is being a witness for Christ immersed in the middle of a volatile group of people who are very vulnerable in every way. Christ is his immovable Rock.

Certainly, Christ's Church continues to go through adverse situations, from the early church to the current ones He has established. He is the Sovereign Lord, the One about whom Peter and the other apostles firmly preached that it is better to obey God rather than men. He is the Sovereign Lord who is preached by His church today. He is the Eternal Rock; our faith is founded on Him and by Him. It will certainly help us to endure until the day we can contemplate Him face to face.

Antioch Baptist Church of Ica, Peru greets all the saints and loved ones of the Lord. We hope to be united. Come, Lord Jesus!



July 6-8 2021

# PAUSE

Hilton Anatole - Dallas TX



**\$110.00** PER PERSON  
REGISTRATION BEFORE JUNE 4, 2021  
(DOES INCLUDE TSHIRT AND FREE PASS TO JADEWATERS WATER PARK)

**HILTON ANATOLE - DALLAS TEXAS**  
**\$139** ++ PER ROOM BY JUNE 4, 2021



## SOAR SERVES

This year during SOAR SERVES we will be filling 500 backpacks with school supplies. We are asking every church that comes to bring at least 1 backpack worth of supplies. If you want to fill several backpacks that would be AWESOME (supply list can be found at [www.soarconference.com/soarserves](http://www.soarconference.com/soarserves)). After the last session, churches are encouraged to take as many filled backpacks back to their community schools.



**Chris Vines**  
Host



**Aaron Williams**  
Speaker



**FLAME**  
Concert



**Building 429**  
Concert



**Brad Faulk**  
Speaker

[WWW.SOARCONFERENCE.COM](http://WWW.SOARCONFERENCE.COM)