



NOVEMBER 2019

**Mission News &
Helping Hands**
Evangelical Lutheran Synod
Sharing the Gospel in South America and Asia

PERU

A Strong
Congregation
on the Move! **Page 2**

From the Editor—

*Rev. Thomas Heyn, Board for
World Outreach Administrator*

Last month, we brought you news from our brothers and sisters in Peru. After our recent visit to Peru in September, we learned more about this field where our synod has been working the longest. **Mr. Dan Browning**, chairman of the BWO, recently visited Peru for the first time. He writes about outreach continuing in interesting ways and with new excitement. We hope that you enjoy learning about the work God is doing there and invite you to join us as we pray for and support this important work in Peru.



Chimbote congregation's
current church home

A Strong Congregation on the Move!

By Dan Browning

“COME, FOLLOW ME,” JESUS SAID, “AND I WILL MAKE YOU FISHERS OF MEN.” AT ONCE THEY LEFT THEIR NETS AND FOLLOWED HIM. MARK 1:17

The Dios Es Mi Fortaleza (God Is Our Strength) Lutheran congregation of Chimbote (Chim-bo-tay), Peru, is taking significant and exciting steps to plan for their future in a new location.

The congregation, a longtime member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Peru, is in Chimbote on Peru’s Pacific coast. Chimbote is a city of about 400,000 inhabitants. It has thrived over the years as the largest commercial fishing center in the world, primarily due to its perfect harbor, the Bay of Ferrol. Over the years, Chimbote had the unfortunate reputation of the city that constantly smelled of fish. However, a few years ago the large seafood processing plants (with their unpleasant odor) moved inland and away from the city center. Today it is a thriving city and the fourth largest city in Peru.

The Chimbote congregation is served by Pastor Segundo Gutiérrez. Pastor Gutiérrez also serves as president of the seminary for the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Peru with the principal campus located in Lima, a five-hour drive to the south. The congregation has worshipped for more than ten years in a building on a side street in a largely modest residential area of Chimbote.

With God’s help, that is about to change. The congregation has purchased undeveloped land in Nuevo (New) Chimbote to the south of Chimbote. It is a planned community of homes, retail businesses, hospitals, and schools. It is exactly where a congregation blessed with plans and prayers should attempt to grow and expand to bring the Gospel message of salvation to all.

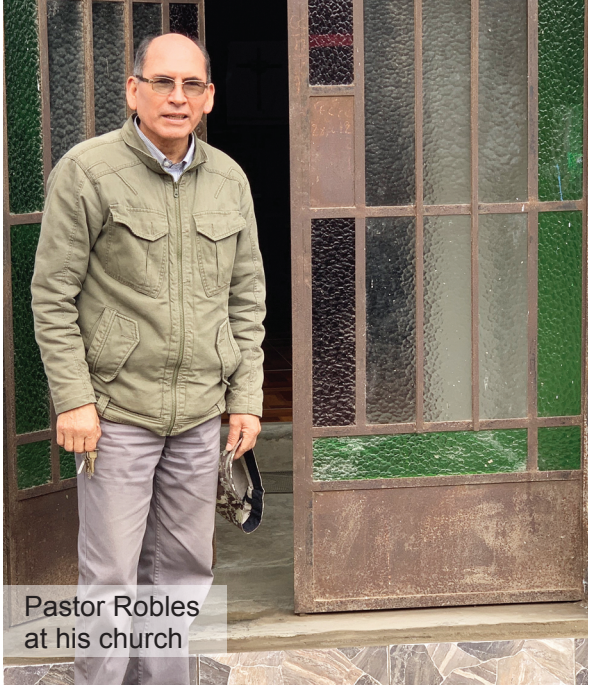
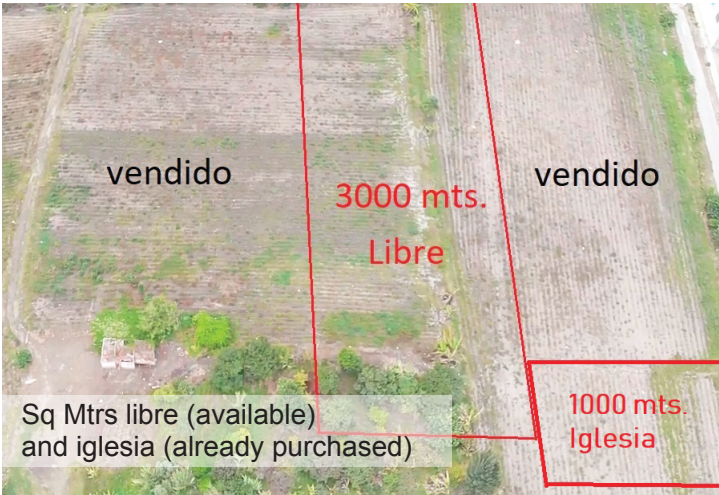
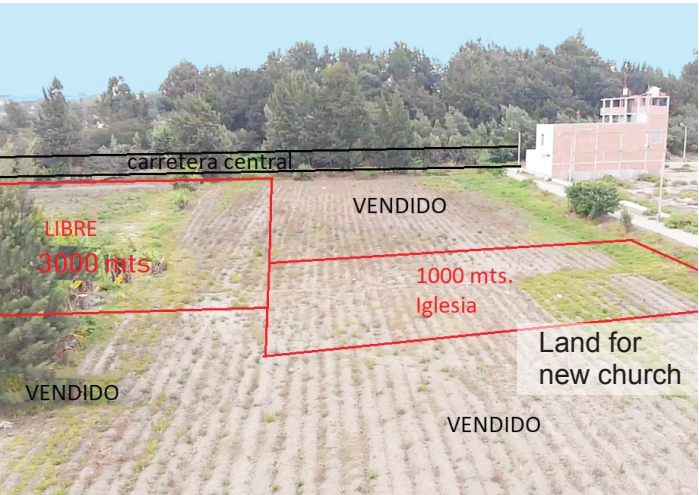
The congregation already has many dedicated and enthusiastic members who have moved their own family residences to Nuevo Chimbote. In addition, the congregation is blessed with many educated and professionally accomplished members

who see the value of moving the congregation to Nuevo Chimbote. There they will begin a new chapter of drawing their neighbors to the message of eternal life through the saving blood and resurrection of Jesus Christ. They pray for the opportunity to move to a new and high potential fishing ground – to be fishers of men.

The first phase of the new building plan will be a multi-purpose facility for worship and other activities during the week. One member, a medical doctor, and another who will soon be a practicing dentist are hoping to use a corner of the new facility to offer free or low-cost services to draw attention to the new church in their Nuevo Chimbote neighborhood. The members also contemplate plans for a Christian day school.

To keep their options available for future expansion, the congregation hopes to raise sufficient funds to purchase a lot adjacent to the one they now own. (See photos below.) This will allow for building and parking expansion as the Lord may bless them in the future.

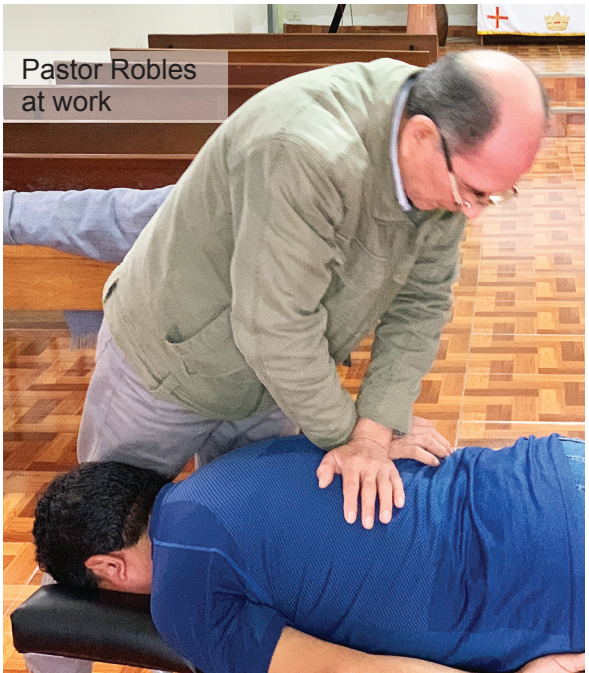
Readers of Mission News are invited to direct much-needed, and much-appreciated offerings for the exciting plans of Dios Es Mi Fortaleza congregation. Please see the information highlighted on the back page.



Pastor Robles at his church



Pastor Robles with baptismal font



Pastor Robles at work

Bi-Vocational Ministry Calls for Adjustments

By Dan Browning

A pastor in the Peru or Chile Lutheran churches affiliated with the ELS, often finds it necessary to be bi-vocational. He must work for income at a job or trade in addition to serving as a pastor of one or more congregations. Sometimes a pastor is the owner of his own business. The workday is filled, not only with the demands and pressures of his secular job, but as a pastor, he must make time for study and sermon preparation, along with serving the pastoral needs of his members.

In these South American fields, there are pastors who teach martial arts, own a sheet metal firm, are welders, or teachers. Pastor Andres Robles, of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Peru, is a practicing and licensed chiropractor.

Pastor Robles has two congregations a few miles apart in the barrios of Lima, Peru. Each congregation is a small group of believers, generally from the neighborhoods surrounding the worship facility.

We visited one such worship facility served by Pastor Robles. It is well-maintained inside and out. Pastor Robles, also talented in working with wood, recently completed a beautiful wood baptismal font for the church.

Pastor Robles uses the worship facility as a place to provide his chiropractic services. On weekdays, he goes to his church to meet patients for treatments and adjustments. The patients cannot help but notice the unique use of the church sanctuary. This becomes an easy conversation starter about the importance of hearing the Word of God to guide their temporal lives and, ultimately, to lead to their Christ-won eternal inheritance.

Pastor Robles treats and feeds the body and mind, while also sharing God’s Word to let the Holy Spirit do the rest.

News from Other Mission Fields

INDIA—Our Indian brothers and sisters continue to face many difficulties. They face resistance in this predominantly Hindu nation. They recently experienced floods that devastated much of their country. We await news of how they are doing and how recent gifts have helped.

SOUTH KOREA—The pastors and congregations continue serving the Lord, one another, and their community. A new mission outreach in another part of Seoul may be investigated in the coming year.

CHILE—Pastor Herb Huhnerkoch is concluding three months with the congregation in Linares, where they have been without a pastor for many years. Mr. Jon Gross continues pastoral training via online seminary classes at Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary. At the time of preparing this newsletter, Chile is experiencing significant political unrest. Pray for our brothers and sisters who live there.

LATVIA—Pastor Ivo Sildegs recently visited the United States for the General Pastoral Conference in Minneapolis in early October. He was able to share the background and work currently underway in Latvia. His brother, Pastor Ugis Sildegs, is scheduled to teach for several weeks at Asia Lutheran Seminary in Hong Kong where political unrest continues. Pray for his safe travels and blessings on his teaching.

CZECH REPUBLIC—Martin Luther School in Plzen has undergone some renovation projects while the school has begun another year of teaching. Pray for outreach opportunities in this field.

UKRAINE—The medical and dental teams are visiting villages that need these essential services. Soon, they will return to Ternopil for the winter where they will continue to provide services from their winter garage. The counselors at the crisis pregnancy counseling centers continue their important life-saving work.

In Other News

KENYA—The pastors in Kenya continue to be instructed via online classes. President John Moldstad, President Gaylin Schmeling, and Rev. Thomas Heyn have met with and continue to meet with leaders of the Kenya group to discuss our respective doctrinal positions. Our hope is to find complete doctrinal agreement and, if possible, to establish official fellowship with this group.

What Can You Do To Help?

■ Pray for each of the mission fields in this newsletter. Pray for the national pastors of these churches as well as for the members of their congregations, that they might remain faithful in their homelands that often do not welcome the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And thank the Lord for their faithful service.

■ Please—prayerfully consider a gift or regular donation to the work in the various fields. Every field, and some more than others, has many needs where God's people can provide much needed assistance.

■ You may designate a gift to a particular field or project on the memo line of a check. You may also go to els.org and click on "Donate" in the top banner on the right-hand side.

■ If you have questions, please contact us in the following ways:

Board for World Outreach
6 Browns Ct.
Mankato, MN 56001

website: els.org/our-work-together/world-outreach/

Rev. Thomas Heyn
BWO Administrator
(608) 335-4612

