

PERU AND CHILE

WHERE THE
LORD'S PEOPLE
SHARE THEIR JOY

by Pastor Daniel Ruiz
South America Committee



March 2023
**Mission
News &
Helping Hands**
Evangelical Lutheran Synod
Board for World Outreach
Sharing the Gospel in
South America and Asia



“We have to get up by four in the morning so that we can meet our boat taxi. This will take us to the ports where the jungle villages are nearby.” So, we got up at the crack of dawn and sat in our seats next to clucking chickens and banana bunches until the boat finally took off.

Seeing the mist come off the river and glow in the sunrise was beautiful, yet nothing prepared me for the beauty to be found in all the believers at each village gathering for worship to hear the word of God. Creation glorifies God in its wonder, yet it was His people who opened their mouths in their own languages to praise God for what Christ had done for them.

Every church we visited in Peru and Chile produced this joy in me! Despite miles of separation, different living conditions, and a whole other language, we were united in confession of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

It was a refreshing reminder that the Gospel knows no bounds, nor can it be restrained. God's Word breaks through; it is the reality of His Word taking effect just as He wills and said it would, “Turn to me and be saved, the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. By myself I have sworn, from my mouth has gone out in righteousness a word that shall not return: ‘To me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear allegiance’” (Isa 45:23).

Our zeal for mission work in world fields should never dwindle. As our zeal and passion for our own local churches blaze so should the great commission of our
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From the Editor

Rev. Thomas Heyn
Board for World Outreach
Administrator



Last November, Pastor Daniel Ruiz and I visited Peru and Chile. It was the first visit for Pastor Ruiz and he writes the principal article in this issue to share his experiences and impressions. We hope you share his excitement about the possibilities and opportunities the Lord has laid before us. We appreciate your prayers for the work in our world fields and your financial support that makes this work possible.

“O LORD, hear my prayer,
listen to my cry for mercy;
in your faithfulness and
righteousness come to my
relief” (Ps 143:1).



PERU AND CHILE continued

Lord as it is carried beyond our borders and comfort zones. This work is not just by preaching in pulpits or visiting these locations but also with our prayers, wise planning and execution of these plans, aiding in communication of this work and especially teaching the motivation for all these works—Jesus the Christ who rose from the dead and revealed our sins are truly paid for. This especially brothers and sisters of the ELS is our strength and our purpose—to make Christ known!

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All of us at one time, despite our different family and worldly heritage, were lost in darkness and dead in our sin. But God's love drove Him to bring you into His united family. Though we come from many earthly heritages, you and I are made into one people in Jesus. We have a gracious God who searched for us! He used both the good and the bad in our lives in His mission to make us realize there is no other God but Him!

Brothers and sisters, you know this—that Jesus is your personal Savior who has taken the guilt of your sins upon Himself and became the victim of hell's fire, God's wrath, the world's torment and Satan's abominable mockery. But He

lives! You are in Him by grace through faith! So now you too may proclaim Him to the world!

Let me share one event among the many that occurred while I was on this trip. The first village which we travelled to held its church service. Afterwards, we learned of four individuals from another village that wanted to speak with us. One of them was a young man engaged to a young lady in the current location we were visiting. She had shared the gospel with her future family and then, knowing we were going to be present, they left four hours earlier at dawn, walked on a jungle trail to the village, to simply say, we also want this same good news brought to our village. One person was used by God to capture the hearts of four more, and she was in her own local community.

Consider these things, brothers and sisters, how the Lord uses us in our own local community. I encourage you to bring the truth in love

to your own family and friends and to also now consider how you may contribute to the work of the Church outside of our nation.

Pray for Peru and Chile and their pastors. There is so much work to be done but the workers are few. Pray that God will raise up faithful men to be pastors and faithful women to help serve and teach among their own. Pray that the families in our Peru and Chile missions be strengthened by the Holy Spirit in the message that Christ shares with them. As we pray, let us never forget the promise God makes (and God cannot lie), "In the same way my word that goes out from my mouth will not return to me empty. Rather, it will accomplish whatever I please, and it will succeed in the purpose for which I sent it" (Isa 55:1).

Let us together trust in this wonderful promise. Let us strive with a zeal produced by God's grace to carry out His will in searching for the lost, those captive in sin and the devil. Let us encourage our young men and women to carry on this work unashamedly knowing that the reward is great, it is purchased, it is ours by faith in Christ Jesus! To the God of all nations be the glory now and forever!



Martin Lutero School, Peru



Chimbote, Peru



Taiwan, Peru



Linares, Chile



Louis Terry, Peru

News From Other Mission Fields

How Can You Help?

PERU—Political turmoil continues to affect our work in Peru. On occasion, blockades prevent essential items from entering the capital of Lima. Sometimes, it is impossible for the pastors to leave Lima to travel to other church locations.

CHILE—The training of one man for ministry continues through online instruction. Pastor Mario Gálvez will present a paper at the June international convention of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference in Seoul, South Korea, on equipping lay members for evangelism.

INDIA—The pastors are continuing their work in reaching out to the villages. The leaders have begun the final year of studies for the current class of seminary students. Several building projects are ready to be completed that will provide homes for worship and will help in the training of future workers.

NOTE: The above building projects require over \$160,000. One congregation recently gave \$80,000 for these projects as a “challenge gift”. Can you help provide for the remaining \$80,000 to complete these projects?

KOREA—The church body is preparing for the triennial convention of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference to take place in Seoul the first week of June. As many as 34 Lutheran church bodies from around the world—all of them in doctrinal agreement with the ELS—may be represented.

LATVIA—Three men continue their seminary studies. Work continues with a new evangelism and apologetics center in a historic part of Old Town Riga.

CZECHIA—School activities are underway at Martin Luther School in Pilsen. Pastor Petr Krakora continues to explore other outreach opportunities.

UKRAINE—Administrators Nick and Kerry Laper plan to return to Ukraine in March. All counseling centers are open and providing services. The medical and dental mobile clinics offer their services from the winter garage. Although the war with Russia is a challenge for the work of Gift of Life, the Lord continues to bless this work for his glory and the blessing of many.

Pray for each of the mission fields, for the national pastors of these churches as well as for the members of their congregations to remain faithful in their homelands that often do not welcome the Gospel of Jesus Christ. May God work all these challenges for the good of his people, as he has promised.

Please—prayerfully consider a gift or regular donation for the work in the various fields. Every field, and some more than others, have 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 or simply **scan the QR code** below which will take you to the donation page.



For more information, please contact us in the following ways:

Board for World Outreach
6 Browns Court
Mankato, MN 56001

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

Rev. Thomas A. Heyn
Administrator
(608) 335-4612
theyn@blc.edu

