

SEPTEMBER 2019

# Mission News & Helping Hands

Evangelical Lutheran Synod  
Sharing the Gospel in South America and Asia

Peru



## From the Editor—

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

This month, we bring you news from our brothers and sisters in Peru. **Pastor Jaime Cortez**—seminary professor, promoter of schools, synod treasurer—writes about recent events in the Chimbote congregation and the June synod-wide conference. 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.



# Peru Stories



A Congregation Blessed by God
By Pastor Jaime Cortez

The congregation "God Is My Strength" is located in the city of Chimbote in northern Peru. Segundo Gutiérrez is the pastor of the church, is director of the Seminary of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Peru, and also travels once a month to the city of Cajamarca where he evangelizes a group of people hoping to have a church and thus expand the work of the gospel in Peru.

"God Is My Strength" congregation has its services every Sunday morning at 8 a.m. There are also seminary classes on Thursday and Friday. We give thanks to God because the Word of God continues to be preached and taught in all its purity and the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion are also administered.

Recently, we celebrated the sacrament of Holy Baptism and some weddings. Congratulations and blessings to the baptized, married and all the members of the congregation.

On July 28, 2019, the children of Fausto Torres and Sofía Paulino were baptized: Assyria and Ferso Torres Paulino. They are grandchildren of one of the first members of our church, Naomi Príncipe. Four children of Noé Paulino and Liliana Zavaleta were also baptized: Mariana, Fabricio, Nicolás and Guianella Paulino Zavaleta. They are also grandchildren of Naomi Príncipe.

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We also officiated the wedding of Kuster Lozano Mejía and Rosa Cruz Pérez. [See photo on cover.]

In the month of September, the "God Is My Strength" congregation is celebrating its anniversary. God blessed us 23 years ago with a place where we currently meet to praise and honor our true and triune God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God continues to bless this congregation and all the congregations where the pure truth of God's Word is preached.



Blessed Fellowship at a Synod Conference
By Pastor Jaime Cortez

After many years, the conference of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Peru was held outside of the capital city of Lima. This year, it was held in the city of Cajamarca. This city is located to the northeast of Lima, in the Andes Mountains at 9,000 feet above sea level. The Plaza de Armas is surrounded by baroque colonial architecture. The cathedral of Cajamarca has an altar covered with gold leaf. Nearby is the Ransom Chamber, where they imprisoned the last Incan emperor, Atahualpa, who could be ransomed only by filling the chamber with treasure.

Segundo Gutiérrez is the pastor of the congregation "God Is My strength" in the city of Chimbote. He visits the city of Cajamarca once a month. He is evangelizing a group of people especially from his family with the hope of forming a church in Cajamarca.

In October of last year, at the conference in Lima, it was agreed to hold the conference for 2019 in the city of Cajamarca with the idea to encourage and strengthen the group of brothers who are studying the Word of God with Pastor Segundo. The conference took place from June 7–9 with the participation of pastors and vicars from Lima, the national board, some brothers from Lima, brothers from the congregations in Chimbote and Tarapoto and the brothers from Cajamarca.

We had profitable days of studying the Word of God and fellowship among brothers of the participating congregations. Pastor Ronal presented the theme "Who Is Jesus", Pastor Thomas Heyn presented the theme "What Is the Role of Men and Women in the Church", Vicar Roy presented a study of Philippians 3:20-21 and Pastor Jaime presented the subject "Tithes and Offerings".

This conference in the city of Cajamarca motivated and strengthened the brothers and sisters participating in the conference with the desire to hold more conferences like this conference in Cajamarca. We hope, with the help of God, to hold the next conference in the city of Tarapoto, Department of San Martin in the Peruvian Amazon.





## News from Other Mission Fields

**INDIA**—Our Indian brothers and sisters continue to face many difficulties. Not only do they face resistance in this predominantly Hindu nation, now they have to recover from recent floods that have devastated so much of their country. Your gifts can help provide relief during these challenging times.

**SOUTH KOREA**—The new mission project in SongDo came to a close at the end of August. There were too many obstacles to overcome at this time. A different mission outreach in another part of Seoul may be investigated in the coming year.

**CHILE**—Pastor Herb Huhnerkoch and his wife, Barb, are spending three months with the congregation in Linares, where they have been without a pastor for many years. Pastor Huhnerkoch is providing much appreciated pastoral care during his stay. Mr. Jon Gross, a Kingdom Workers mission worker, has begun pastoral training via online seminary classes at Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary.

**LATVIA**—During the recent field visit, BWO representatives met with the pastors and other leaders to discuss strategies for outreach and evangelism. Peter Plume, son of Latvian pastor Ilars Plume, married Shanna Berrospid, a classmate from Bethany Lutheran College and member of the Lutheran church in Peru.

**CZECH REPUBLIC**—Martin Luther School in Plzen has undergone some renovation projects this summer and is preparing to open for another school year. Pray for outreach opportunities in this field.

**UKRAINE**—The medical and dental teams are returning from holiday and will soon begin visiting villages that need these essential services. The same is true of the counselors at the crisis pregnancy counseling centers.

## In Other News

**KENYA**—ELS representatives recently began a series of online discussions with leaders of the Lutheran group that has been studying with several ELS pastors. The aforementioned discussions are being held to investigate and work toward doctrinal agreement. These Kenyan Christians face day-to-day challenges of things that we take for granted, such as availability of reliable electricity.

## 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, 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](http://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:

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