



Entering a jungle village



## What can you do to help?

- Consider supporting, with your prayers and financial gifts, this unique outreach program in the Amazon region of Peru.
- Pray for Pastor Ronal Rivas and Pastor/Professor Jaime Cortez as they teach pastors and train evangelists from the Shawi villages in the jungle region of Peru.
- Pray for the Shawi pastors and evangelists that study with the men mentioned above, that they and their congregations may grow in their knowledge of and appreciation for the gospel of Jesus Christ, our Savior and theirs.
- Support the schools and orphans in the Shawi villages with your gifts and prayers.
- If you have questions, you may contact the Board for World Outreach at 6 Browns Ct, Mankato, MN 56001 or by contacting Rev. Thomas Heyn, BWO Administrator, at theyn@blc.edu.
- **To donate to the ELS World Outreach ministries, please use the attached envelope or visit our website: [els.org/donate](http://els.org/donate).**

 Evangelical Lutheran Synod  
Board for World Outreach

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## Planting, Watering, Growing

by David Haeuser, missionary to Peru, retired

*"I planted,  
Apollos  
watered,  
but God  
gave the  
increase."*

1 Corinthians 3:6, NKJV

Lidia grew up in the Peruvian jungle city of Tarapoto. She traveled to Lima, the capital of Peru. There she met a young man and had a child. Sadly, she was abandoned by her boyfriend. Nevertheless, his family treated her as part of their family. Some of those family members were active members of the Mothers' Club in the mission in Año Nuevo, a barrio in Lima, Peru. When the Mother's Club began a preschool, Lidia became the teacher. She also taught Sunday School for many of the other children in the community. Lidia knew the Gospel and did not forget the family she had left behind in Tarapoto. She talked to Pastor Tim Erickson about the possibility of the Gospel being shared with her family there. When the opportunity presented itself to visit Tarapoto, Tim met Lidia's family and shared God's word with them.

Later, Missionary **Terry Schultz** began to visit Tarapoto. He visited Lidia's family, and some of her family became part of the nucleus of the Tarapoto congregation. Terry traveled farther to Yurimaguas and Pelejo. He contacted a jungle guide who helped him gain access, with the permission of their leaders, to several villages deep in the jungle of the Chayahuita or Shawi people, an indigenous people of that area of the jungle.



Terry Schultz

After a number of visits by Terry Schultz, it was evident that local leadership would also be needed



to care for the spiritual needs of the people in the Shawi villages between visits from the missionary. As a result, a training program was developed in Tarapoto to train leaders of the newly formed Shawi congregations and to train evangelists to carry the gospel to more villages of the Shawi people. Village leaders were invited to come for training sessions to the church in Tarapoto. As time went by, those leaders became responsible for conducting many visits to evangelize or care for other villages located in their neighboring areas. God worked through his word taught to the native leaders. Through these leaders, God transmitted the Gospel to the people living in many additional villages.

A few years ago, it was decided to reduce North American personnel in Peru. The work in the jungle would continue, however, under the pastor of the church in Tarapoto, **Ronal Rivas**, together with **Jaime Cortez**, one of the Lima seminary teachers who had spent some time in the jungle in the early days of the work there. They continued both the visits to the native communities and the training of leaders in the extension seminary program.

Last year, a group of the Shawi Christians made the trip from their homes in the jungle to Lima where they joined the celebration which the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Peru held to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation.

God continues to perform his wonders through the Word that the Holy Spirit inspired, that the Reformation restored in its truth and purity, that the Evangelical Lutheran Synod defended in the controversies of the past, that missionaries sent by the synod to other lands proclaimed faithfully, and that national pastors and teachers continue to teach and preach today, fifty years after the beginning of the ELS mission work in Peru. Many people have planted, watered, tended and provided for the care of the new Christians. With God's continued blessing, much remains to be done.

My personal prayer is that God would continue to bless and guide the Peruvian members and called workers through his Word that many more souls in every area of Peru will be reached with the Gospel. Many have worked, many will work in the future, and God alone, as he promises, will give the increase. — *David Haeuser*

**NOTE:** This month's issue is a preview of the missionary stories that will be told in a special convention issue of *Mission News/Helping Hands* as part of celebrating the 50th anniversary of our mission work in Peru. Please watch for the special issue at the 101st convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod to be held June 17–21, 2018, at Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, Minnesota.

(left) Pastor/Professor Jaime Cortez  
(right) Pastor Ronal Rivas

