

September 2025

Mission News

Evangelical Lutheran Synod
Board for World Outreach
Sharing the Gospel in
South America and Asia



Challenges in PERU

Pastor Segundo Gutiérrez
President of the Peru Synod



From the Editor

Rev. Thomas Heyn
Board for World Outreach
Administrator

There are many things happening in the ELS mission fields: blessings, opportunities, new faces—and challenges, **big challenges**. Pastor Segundo Gutiérrez, president of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Peru, shares with us a very distressing development. We pray that the Lord will use it for his glory and the blessing of his people, just as he has promised. We appreciate your many prayers for the workers in our world mission fields. Your financial support makes this work possible. We are grateful for both your prayers and your gifts.

"And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose"

(Ro 8:28).

I am sad to give this update regarding the security issues that have been occurring at Martín Lutero School. At the beginning of the school year, some Venezuelans demanded a weekly payment from us for providing security. This demand grew increasingly larger. As a result, I requested support from the National Police and the Carmen de la Legua Reynoso District Security Guard. I have also found it necessary to hire personal security in order to perform my duties at Martín Lutero School.

Unfortunately, the support from the national police was not enough. The Venezuelans found out the cell phone numbers of my family and me, took photos of my truck's license plate, and this further complicated the situation. We had no other option but to pay for the safety of the children, the school's property,

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PERU continued

the teachers, and myself. We had to pay the sum of 20,000 soles (about \$5,700) to stop their threats and to reassure the parents.

As an unfortunate result of this situation, many parents chose to withdraw their children from the school because they feared something might happen to them. This has affected the school's income, which is now only covering the teachers' payroll expenses and the maintenance of basic services (water, electricity, telephone, internet).

We still have many needs to be met, but we can no longer do so, due to a lack of financial resources, because of the extortion issue. Please pray for our school and our synod. ■



▲ Martin Lutero School



▲ Pastor Segundo Gutiérrez



▲ Martin Lutero School class



▲ students on Culture Day

How You Can Help

- Pray for each of the mission fields, for the national pastors of these churches as well as for the members of their congregations who live where the Gospel of Jesus Christ is not always welcome. 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, 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. Or scan the QR code to be taken to the donations page.
- For more information, please contact us in the following ways:

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News From Other Mission Fields



- CHILE Family of God congregation continues to grow through invitations of members and online teaching by Pastor Mario Gálvez. Vicar Pedro is a great help to Pastor Mario in the ministry of the church.
- KOREA Seoul Lutheran Church is strategizing to reach new members and reverse a loss in membership as the congregation ages. Pastor David Choi at Great Light Lutheran Church is gaining new members. He is also working with some non-Lutheran pastors who want to learn more about Lutheran doctrine and may be interested in further advanced studies.
- INDIA Seminary training continues. Plans are being made for outreach through health fairs and a youth rally.
- AUSTRALIA Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Brisbane, Australia, will be welcoming their new pastor, Skyler Hepler, in September.
- LATVIA Seminary teaching continues with two men enrolled in seminary studies. New outreach opportunities are being explored. A 100-year-old building continues being renovated as the church home of a mission congregation in Jelgava.
- CZECH REPUBLIC The BWO continues to evaluate the status of St. Paul's congregation and Martin Luther School in Pilsen. Pastor Martin Vrsecký serves the congregation part-time while he manages and teaches religion at Martin Luther School.
- UKRAINE Administrator Dmytro Maksymenko continues developing and promoting new ways of Gospel outreach through the pregnancy counseling centers and mobile clinics. 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. Dmytro and his daughter Mariia were recently confirmed as members of Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Mankato, Minnesota.

What's New?

- ▶ Intriguing images and inspirational stories from World Outreach ministries in Peru, Chile, India and Korea among other world mission fields.
- ▶ Available now as Bible study lessons - perfect for personal use, family devotions, small-groups and/or congregational classes.
- ▶ Download World Mission Souvenirs (original format) and "Let's talk about . . . World Mission Souvenirs" (study material): www.worldmissionsouvenirs.com

