

The Matsuda Family

Independent Baptist Missionaries to Arequipa, Peru

"For we are labourers together with God; ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building."
1 Corinthians 3:9



January and February 2024

Dear Brethren,

It is a privilege to greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior. It is our prayer that the end of this year has been filled with His many blessings. We would like to share with you what has been happening in our lives and ministry here in Arequipa.

January and February

The first two months of the year have been very busy and productive! We are continuing with our classes on Saturday evenings on how to prepare messages and classes. We are thankful for the brethren who are participating in the classes. There are a few brethren from Pucallpa who are also participating online.

We have changed the structure of our adult Sunday School classes a little. One Sunday morning, I am teaching all the adults and teen boys and we are going through the book of Romans, while my wife is teaching the teen girls about how to grow closer to the Lord. The following Sunday, I am teaching the men the topic "Be a Man," while my wife is teaching the women "Being the Woman God Wants Me To Be." We believe that in today's world, many people have forgotten about the responsibilities and functions God has ordained for us to have within our homes and families. That is precisely why so many families and homes are falling apart.

Please help us pray for all of the classes and the families in our church so that they will continue to grow and bring glory to the Lord.

During February, we were doing some fix-up jobs in the school that we will be using for our youth camp this year. The school that we have used during the past 2 years is wanting to charge us too much for the rent, so this year, we talked to another school. It is a public school, so it is much bigger. They have agreed to let us use their installations for free; they simply asked us to put up a fence around their garden area. Praise the Lord, several men from our church volunteered to do this. We have also been offered the opportunity to preach to the students at this school and even offer Christian counseling.

In March, I will be traveling to the city of Pucallpa, which is in the jungle, with Pastor Douglas Meader. We will be preaching at a conference at Antioch Baptist Church. This is the church I have been helping by preaching at while the pastor is receiving treatment in a different city. After that week in Pucallpa, we will have our first evangelistic conference of the year at our church in Arequipa and Pastor Douglas Meader will be preaching for us. We are praying for God's will to be done during this time. We want more people to hear the gospel and trust in Him as their Lord and Savior. Please pray for this!



Family

The past few months have been difficult for our family. In our last prayer letter, we shared that we were expecting our 8th child. In January, my wife miscarried the baby. One Saturday evening, right before our Homiletics class, my wife started hemorrhaging and I had to take her to a clinic, where she had an emergency D&C. It has been hard on the family, but we know that God is in control and we praise and thank Him for everything.

We have also been helping my wife's cousin, who is going through chemotherapy treatment in Arequipa. Please pray for her.

In January, our two oldest children, Andy (15) and Katie (12), had the opportunity to travel to Lima to participate in a Baptist camp for missionary kids. Missionary kids face a lot of things that most kids don't have to face – constant moves, criticism, pressure, etc. It was a good time for them because they were able to meet other kids who go through the same things they go through.



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In February, our kids also started the new school year. Andy is in 9th grade, Katie is in 7th grade, Kristie is in 5th grade, Tommy is in 2nd grade, and Allie started Kindergarten. Artie is 3 years old and Maggie just turned 1 in January. Please keep our family in your prayers!



Projects for 2024

As we start this new year, we have several plans and goals for the work here in Arequipa. If God allows, I will also keep helping periodically in Pucallpa. These are a few of the projects we have for 2024:

- First evangelistic conference in March with Bro. Meader
- Begin the construction of our church building
- 3rd year of our Youth Camp at the end of July
- Preach to the kids at the school which will be letting us use their facilities for camp

Please help us continue to pray for the work here and for all that will be happening this year. May God be glorified through all that happens. Thank you so much for being a part of the work here. Thank you for your prayers and your constant love and support. May God greatly bless each of you!

Your Servants in Christ,
Daniel Matsuda and Family