

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



March and April 2024

Dear Brethren,

It is a privilege to greet you once again in the name of our Lord. We pray that the Lord continues to use you for His glory! We would like to let you know what has been happening here over the last couple of months.

March and April

In the month of March, I travelled to Pucallpa with Pastor Douglas Meader for a conference at Antioch Baptist Church. I was able to travel with my youngest son Artie (3 years old). It was very exciting for him because it was his first time on a plane! We had a wonderful time in the Lord during the conference and we are very thankful for the way in which the brethren welcomed us. After the conference in Pucallpa, Bro. Meader flew back with us to Arequipa and he spent a week with us. During that week, we had our first evangelistic conference of the year in our church. Praise the Lord, several visitors arrived and heard the gospel for the first time. One of our members, Sister Karina, brought a total of 20 visitors (visitors were counted as points for every service they attended) and she won a study Bible for winning the visitor contest! Other members also brought several visitors. In the end, we know that numbers are not what is important, but rather the preaching of the gospel to as many as possible. We are very thankful for everything that happened during those 2 weeks of conferences and pray that God will continue to work in the hearts of those who came. We are also thankful for the time we got to spend with Bro. Meader and for the encouragement he has been to our family.



During our evangelistic conference, the owner of the building that we are renting informed us that she would be raising the rent by 50%. We told her we could not pay that and so she agreed to give us 3 months to move out. After discussing it and praying about it, we made the decision to start building on our land. It has been a leap of faith because we did not have the money, but we did not want to move to another building and start paying rent all over again. So, at the beginning of April, we hired a tractor to level everything out on our land and hired a team to start building the foundation. We also sent out letters asking churches and brethren to help us pray about the matter, and in just a couple weeks, close to \$12,000 dollars was given. God is very good! Our church is very excited about what is happening! And to see God providing and opening doors is always humbling. As of now, the foundation has been completed and 2 containers have been transported to our land. The men from our church and I will be doing all of the work involved here on out. Parts of the containers will be cut, we will need to add insulation, and build a metal floor and roofing to join it all together. There will be a lot of work involved and we have 2 months to get everything done in order to move out of the place that we are renting now.



With the offerings that have come in, we calculate that we will be able to complete the first floor of our church building. Obviously, with time, we will need to do finishings and make improvements, but we are hoping it will be ready to at least start meeting there. The first floor will only be the sanctuary for our services. We are hoping to build a second floor, with 2 more containers, and are calculating an expense of approximately \$12,000 more. Please keep us in your prayers. All of this has been a tremendous answer to prayer and it is exciting to see everything start to unfold. Once we start meeting in our building, we will be able to start inviting people from the neighborhood. We are thrilled to see what God has in store for our church!

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Camp

Our youth camp is quickly approaching. The dates are July 29 to August 2. Our theme this year is “Running the Race.” As you know, there is a lot of work and planning involved in youth camp and it seems like there will be a larger group this year. We ask you to please keep our camp in your prayers. If you would like to give an offering towards this, please let me know.

Family

Our family has experienced different trials this year, but we thank God through it all. My sister’s cousin who has been staying with us during her cancer treatments will be having surgery at the end of May, and we ask you to pray for that. In April, we were able to get more tests done on our daughter Katie (12 years old) because she had been having some health problems. We found out she was insulin resistant and pre-diabetic. Praise the Lord, she is doing much better, and we are very happy to know that.

Prayer Requests

- Construction of our church building
- Youth Camp July 29 – August 2nd
- Our church and family

Thank you so much for being a part of the work here! Thank you for your support, offerings, and prayers! May God richly bless you!

Your Servants in Christ,
Daniel Matsuda and Family