

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



May and June 2024

Dear Brethren,

Once again, it is a joy to greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior! It is our prayer that God has been greatly using you and growing you during the past few months. We would like to share with you what has been happening in our lives and ministry here in Arequipa, as well as a few prayer requests.

May and June

May and June have proven to be extremely busy! As we mentioned in our last letter, in April, we started leveling out the land, built the foundation, and transported two shipping containers to the land. The plan was to advance as fast as we could in the construction to be able to move out of the building that we were renting for our church services by the end of June. We had a biodigester installed (it functions as our sewage system), had a wall cut out of one of the containers, started working on the metal structure to make a floor to join the two containers, and built a bathroom.



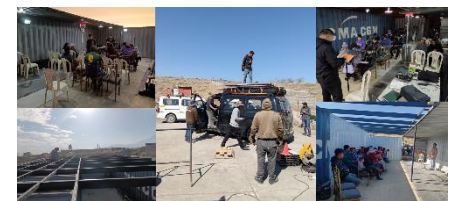
On Mother's Day, we handed out small gifts to the mothers and enjoyed a time of fellowship. As it turned out, that was one of the last services we had in our rented building. We decided to move out of that rented building a month early, both to save on rent, but also because we had advanced a lot in the construction. So, towards the end of May, we packed up the church's belongings, moved everything out, and turned in the keys. Moving out definitely made the construction become more urgent and real, as we no longer had another place to meet in, and our people took it seriously and got to work!



Since moving out, our people have been working on the construction every Saturday and Sunday. On Saturdays, we meet at 9 a.m. and work until lunch time, when one of the ladies from church brings up lunch. After that, we keep working until late in the afternoon. On Sundays, we have our service together at 9 a.m., and then all work together until lunch time, which again is brought up by the ladies. We eat together, clean up, and then keep on working. It has been so encouraging to see our people all work together, from the oldest to the youngest – from purchasing materials, to cutting beams, to welding, to sanding, to painting, to cooking, to setting things up – there is always something for everyone to do. They have been dedicating their time, efforts, and energy, and we are thankful for their commitment and willingness to work. We have even had visitors help with the construction!



On our very first Sunday morning service on our land, we had a couple visitors. 2 little girls who live very close by came to be in our service. What a blessing! Since then, we have been surprised because different visitors have been coming – both from the area and from other places. Praise the Lord! At the moment, our services are still a little more informal, because of construction materials and because of being in the middle of the construction process. On Wednesday evenings, since the roof has not been finished, we are starting our service at 5:30 p.m. and using gas heaters. It is wintertime in Arequipa, so it can get chilly. We are not having separate Sunday School classes or youth meetings. We are hoping to start back up with everything after our youth camp.



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I had told the people that we would take a break from working on Father's Day, to let the people rest and spend time with their families. The plan was to meet at 9 a.m. for our service, and after that, everyone could go home. But my birthday just happened to fall on Father's Day this year, and our people made a special surprise lunch. We had a wonderful time of fellowship together, and we also had a few visitors!

As of now, we have started building the metal structure for the roof, which will also function as the floor for the 2nd story. We are looking forward to having the construction completed enough to start actively inviting the people in our area and having special services to share the gospel with our new neighbors. We have already started getting to know people in the new community. We are praying that God will save more souls! We want to have a place where we can meet together and worship our Lord. We want to be a light in this dark world. We want God to use our church in whatever way He wants for His glory.

We very much appreciate the special offerings that have been sent for the construction! Thank you so very much and may God reward you and bless you! We know many are also praying for this endeavor. Thank you for your words of encouragement! Please keep praying!

Camp

The next big event coming up for our church is youth camp, which will be held July 29 through August 2. Different pastors and teens have already confirmed their attendance. Pastor Nick Stelzig from Boston and former pastor Douglas Meader from Connecticut will be our guest speakers. A few other pastors from Peru will also be attending and helping. We are trying to make plans and get everything ready. As you know, there is a lot of work and money that goes into organizing a camp. Our theme this year is "Running the Race," based on 1 Corinthians 9:24, "Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain." We never know exactly how many campers we will have until camp actually starts. We only charge \$15 dollars per camper for the entire week, because we want as many young people as possible to attend, and we do not want money to be a hindrance. Even with the low price, there have been several teens who we have allowed to come for free in the past because they could not afford the entrance. We have received so many testimonies from different teens on how camp has blessed them and encouraged them. Our main goal is to saturate them with God's Word for an entire week, while they are away from worldly influences and difficult family situations. Please pray that God's will be done at this camp, that souls will be saved, that lives will be changed, that these young people will understand the true meaning of life and that our real purpose is to run this race for His glory and His purposes. **If the Lord lays it on your heart to help, you can send a check; please make it out to Brentwood Baptist Church Mission Account and please include in the memo that it is for "Camp 2024."**



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Tacna

During the first week of July, my family and I will be travelling to Tacna, Peru, for a conference at Missionary Douglas Rose's church. He invited me to come preach that week. He is my wife's uncle and has been working in Tacna for the past several weeks. The teens from his church have come to our youth camp for the past two years and been a blessing there. It is about a 5- or 6-hour drive. Please pray for God's will to be accomplished during this conference!

Family

Birthday season has arrived for our family. I share a birthday with Tommy, who just turned 7. Allie then turned 5 and then Katie turned 13. We now have 2 teenagers in the house! Please pray for our children and our family. Our prayer is that each of our children will come to know the Lord as their Savior and that they will be used by Him. We are very thankful for each of them. They truly are a blessing to our family and the ministry.

Prayer Requests

- Youth Camp July 29 - August 2
- The continued construction of our church building
- Conference in Tacna during the first week of July

Please help us continue to pray for the work here and for all that will be happening in the upcoming weeks! 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

Financial Report

Building Offerings	
Supporter	Amount
Bible Way B.C. TX. USA	\$ 1,000.00
Newby Baptist Church, KY	\$ 1,622.50
Brentwood Baptist Church, VA	\$ 6,000.00
Bible Baptist Church, FL	\$ 5,000.00
Lakes Pond Baptist Church, CT	\$ 500.00
Different Brethren in Peru and USA	\$ 1,200.00
Saved Offerings	\$ 4,000.00
	\$ 19,322.50

Expenses Until July 3	
Supporter	Amount
Containers	\$ 5,500.00
Materials and payment to workers	\$ 11,500.00
Biodigester	\$ 850.00
Generator	\$ 657.89
	\$ 18,507.89

Even though the people from our church are doing most of the work, there were some things that we couldn't do ourselves, such as renting and operating the big tractor, building the bathroom, installing the biodigester, building the foundation for the containers, etc.

Camp 2024	
Supporter	Amount
Heritage Baptist Church, OH	\$ 500.00
Lakes Pond Baptist Church, CT	\$ 500.00
Charity Baptist Church, TX	\$ 200.00
Different Brethren in Peru and USA	\$ 1,100.00
Calvary Baptist Church, IL	\$ 637.00
Nampa Sovereign Grace B.C. ID	\$ 2,000.00
Total until July 8	\$ 4,937.00