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October 2021 Newsletter

October 28, 2021

Beach Street CHURCH OF CHRIST

Dear brethren at Beach Street,

I made my preaching trip to Peru as scheduled, October 5th – 18th. *Iván Palomino* (Miami, FL) met me in Lima, and we labored together with the brethren in **Peru, South America**.

Lima, Peru, South America –

Although restrictions remain in place in **Lima**, the capital of Peru, we moved freely and met with brethren in **Puente Piedra, Villa de María** and **Surquillo**. These are three churches in different sectors of the capital. There are three other local churches, smaller in number, that we were not able to see.

In **Puente Piedra**, *Carlos Pérez* and the brethren live and meet in the outskirts of northern Lima. This is the largest of the churches in Lima. Since they are located outside of Lima, they do not have the Lima restrictions that affect the other churches. *Iván Palomino* and *Emilio Lerzundi* preached excellent lessons Sunday morning, October 10th. *Carlos* is doing a good work at Puente Piedra.

In **Villa de María**, the newest of the local churches in Lima, *Luis Canales* and the brethren are meeting



in the garage of Luis' parents. *Iván* and I preached on the Lord's Day, October 10th. *Luis* and *Arlene Driedger*, his fiancé, are getting married November 12th in Lima. She will be a great help to *Luis* in his work. She speaks Spanish fluently and is a faithful Christian from Philadelphia. Remember this young couple in your prayers. (Picture after Sunday's assembly.)

In **Surquillo**, *Emilio Lerzundi* and several of the members started meeting in *Emilio's* house on Sunday,



October 17th after they were prohibited from meeting in their regular meeting place. Here too, the local church is surviving. They will be returning to their regular meeting place and schedule in the coming weeks. At one time, before the pandemic, this was the largest local church in Lima. *Emilio's* wife, *Rosa*, passed away from Covid at the height of the pandemic. The church has lost many members since the beginning of Covid; they

apostatized. (Picture after Sunday morning assembly.)

Piura –

On Monday, October 11th, Iván and I flew north to **Piura** (no sound church yet in Piura) with the intentions of working with three of the local churches outside of Piura: **Catacaos**, **Paíta** and **Sullana**. However, the brethren in Sullana cancelled due to several members having Covid related illnesses.

Catacaos –

In **Catacaos**, about 15 minutes south of Piura, **Jesús Dávila** and **Henry Estevez** do most of the teaching



and preaching. This new congregation started with a few brethren that left the institutional church in Piura. We met with the church on Monday and Wednesday nights. Iván and I preached both nights. We were gladly surprised to see the growth among the brethren – in spite of the dangers and restrictions related to Covid. The church counts with many young

couples and children. There is a beautiful future for this growing congregation. (Picture after Wednesday night assembly.)

Paíta –

In **Paíta**, a coastal city, about an hour west of Piura, **David Guerrero** is the local evangelist. This is one



of the oldest churches in this region and just as large in number as the church in Catacaos. Iván and I met with the church on Tuesday night and both of us preached that same night. The church has finally finished repairing the auditorium's roof that had suffered damage due to several thunderstorms. The church continues to grow spiritually and numerically in spite of the Covid issues. David, besides his labors with the local church, travels to several cities to

assist the local churches. He is very active in evangelism. (Picture of Tuesday night assembly.)

Bible Lessons –

These are the English titles of some of the lessons that I preached in Spanish:

- “God’s Condemnation of Ungodly Men Is Real” Jude 4-11
- “There Would Be Mockers” Jude 17-23
- “Life or Death – God Says ‘Choose Life’” Deut. 30:8-20
- “No One Should Be Shaken By Afflictions” 1 Thess. 3:1-5

Several other sermons that I preached dealt with first principles. **Iván Palomino** did an excellent job preaching and encouraging the brethren – and once again he was my faithful and proven co-laborer. The Flagler IGLESIA DE CRISTO in Miami, where Iván labors, is helping in the support of brother **Emilio Lerzundi** in Lima.

Luis Josué Ramírez Hernández – Catacaos



On Monday night, October 11th, Iván and I met a young boy, 9 years old, in Catacaos, who had deeply impressed the local church when he attended their Sunday assembly a week earlier. *Luis Josué* told the church that his mom had died after surgery some time ago. He has two older sisters, the oldest one is engaged. Luis lives with his father and sisters just two doors from the meeting house.

One week before our arrival – on Sunday – Luis came by himself to enquire about the church. After learning of the assembly, he returned to his house to change clothing and returned to meet with the church that same Sunday. Luis has attended every assembly since then. Additionally, he asked his sisters for additional proper clothing so that he would have them to wear when attending the church assemblies.

Luis has impressed us. He is very polite and courteous. On Monday and Wednesday nights when we preached, Luis had a notebook where he took notes while we were preaching. We pray for him and the proper influence he has on his family and others. There is a need for more children – and adults – just like Luis. Please, when you pray, remember Luis and his family.

Alicia Ortiz Gonzalez –

The late *Frank Gonzalez*, fellow gospel preacher who lived most of his life in Port Lavaca, Texas, was a dear friend. Frank died in 2012. His wife, *Alicia*, lived to be 88 years old and passed from this life on October 19th. Alicia was a remarkable lady, humble and sweet. She was a faithful member with the Glasgow church in Victoria, Texas. Alicia's three children, Juan, Frances, and Liz asked me to speak at the wake and funeral, October 24th and 25th. It was easy to honor another virtuous woman who left a powerful example for her family and friends to emulate. Please remember Alicia's extended family in your prayers.

Costa Rica in November –

Plans are in place for me to be in **Alajuela, Costa Rica**, November 2nd-11th. The airport remains open in San José, and I look forward to my work with the church in Alajuela. *Santiago* and *Marvin Soto* informed me that nearly all their members are back meeting on the Lord's Day. I will have more to say about my work with the church in Alajuela in my next report.

In Closing –

I deeply appreciate the many sacrifices you make at **Beach Street** to participate with me in the preaching of the gospel of Christ. Your partnership and fellowship are greatly valued by me and the many brethren with whom I labor in Latin America.

In Christ,
Ruben C. Amador