

# VENEZUELA UPDATE



## VENEZUELA UPDATE

MAY 18, 2021

(7 min. read)

Dear Pastors and Friends of Venezuela,

### MINISTRY IN THE BARRIOS UPDATE

If you are new to our Venezuelan updates, the Barrios are the slum districts of Caracas. Half of all the children in the Barrios are suffering from malnutrition. The purpose of these meetings is to present the Gospel to the children and then feed them a meal. The goal is to reach the entire family for Christ.

The first three Children's Churches will begin May 16, 18 and 22. There are 35 children signed up for the first location on the 16th. There will be five more locations beginning in the next two weeks, and the balance in a few weeks after that until all 23 locations are operational. Our part is to supply the food for these meetings. They are expecting to feed 500 to 800 children weekly at the beginning. Pastor Paez says the church people involved are very excited about this NEW WORK! There will be 3 to 5 adults working at each location.

### A FEW EXPERIENCES IN THE BARRIOS FROM THE PAST

The following is taken from part 4 of Pastor Paez's sermon (full sermon can be found at the bottom of this letter). The first three parts of this sermon can be heard on Pastor Webster's website and were preached at his revival conference a few weeks ago.

I have been with my wife and daughters to the poorest and probably darkest of places in Caracas in our efforts to take the gospel to the destitute and forgotten, places where human misery is just indescribable in words. These are areas of town where people risk their lives every time they go there. Places where you may have to step over the dead body of a person shot in a narrow alley, places where you may be caught in a gun fight between two gangs.

These are the areas in the Barrios where no police, no military force dare to set foot. God needs people that are willing to put their lives on the line to see people come to Christ. We must go and tell sinners wherever they may be, that Jesus loves them and so do we, even at the risk of our being hurt or even killed.

My dear brother, the subject of loving people is so key to having revival. When I talk about loving people, I am not talking about an emotion, BUT AN ACTION! God's love involves ACTION, and it involves GIVING. God expects us to give a piece of our lives to others in a very personal way. It took me a while to understand the power of loving.

One Sunday morning, a man in rags came into the main auditorium of our church. He was homeless and lived in the streets. He was dirty and had probably not taken a shower in weeks. At the end of the service, I came up to him and asked him what his name was. He said his name was Luis. I then asked him if he knew Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour, and he said he did not.

I immediately called one of the men from our church and kindly asked him to show Luis how he could be saved. But Luis was hesitant to go with him. And then I did what I have been doing for the last 15 years. I gave Luis a big hug and told him God loved him, and that I loved him too.

He was frozen, he did not know what to do with that hug. He was confused. It was obvious that he had not been hugged in a very long time. Soon tears began to roll down his face, and he smiled at me. No more words were necessary. That hug made the whole difference in having Luis listen to the message of the gospel. That day, Luis got saved.

We immediately took Luis to our church kitchen and served him dinner. After that, we invited him to have a shower, and some of our students rushed to get him some clean clothes that the Canadian churches had sent sometime back. Luis knew that very same day, that he had a new family in Christ. He was immediately bathed in Christian love.

That very same week, Luis got a job and found a place to live. Now he knew he was a new creature in Christ. He went back to his family, and like the prodigal son, he was accepted back into their loving fellowship.

He got baptized and began to faithfully attend church, and when he came to greet me, he was always looking for that hug. But now he was clean and smelled so nice.

One day, Luis suddenly fell ill and had to be taken to the hospital. In a few weeks, Luis was going to be with the Lord. I wonder what would have happened to Luis without that first casual loving gesture? Do you want revival? Then love people, love sinners, love the brethren, AND NEVER STOP LOVING THEM!

On Saturday, May 15th, Pastor Paez had a men's meeting at the church with 150 men in attendance. The theme of the day was revival, and the men of the church are very excited about LIVING IN REVIVAL!

From May 11-14, they had a teen's Bible conference. There were 80 teens from their church in attendance that are extremely motivated. Most of them were 14-16 years old, and they will be involved in what they call "Junior Bible College," for a 3 month program. (This is another ministry where our food shipments are used, same as the adult Bible college.)

Pastor Paez concluded his text by saying, "I am so happy the Lord has called me to be the Pastor of this wonderful church." We all would agree that the Lord is using him in a wonderful way to accomplish a great work in a very difficult hour in Venezuela.

#### NEW FOOD ORDER IN PART

- 600 lbs flour
- 600 lbs sugar
- 600 lbs rolled oats
- 1,000 lbs rice
- 15 gallons cooking oil for Bible college
- 50 cases of cooking oil. 12 X 1 litre
- 50 lbs raisins
- plastic bags
- 1,000 small and medium sized bowls for use in the Barrios

The second order of prescription drugs from Columbia was delivered to Pastor Paez church on Saturday, May 15th.

#### NEW PROJECT

We have begun the process of putting together a small bakery for the Bible college students to benefit from as well as to be used to bake buns and cookies for the ministry in the Barrios. A small bakery would be a major asset to the ministry. The Bible College is unable to buy bread from local bakeries because flour is in very short supply in Venezuela.

We have begun the process of purchasing some items for equipping this bakery project. The approximate cost of this equipment will be \$30,000. Some equipment will be new and some used. This will be money very well spent. A good point is that the church there has natural gas already coming into the building. The cost is a flat rate of a few dollars a month, no matter how much is used. May God be pleased to bless this project in a major way.

Your gracious support in prayer and finances keeps this important ministry moving forward. May God be pleased to richly bless all who have given sacrificially and prayed faithfully.

Pastor Unger