



Iglesia
Bíblica Bautista
de Vista Alegre *Llevando fruto que permanece*

SEMENARIO
BAUTISTA
de Venezuela

SEMENARIO BAUTISTA
EN LINEA

Victor and Morella Paez - Preaching Christ in Caracas, Venezuela

Ministry Update

August 2024



VENEZUELANS ARE FIGHTING FOR THEIR FREEDOM

Our country is currently in turmoil. Elections were held on July 28, and the opposition coalition won by landslide with almost 70% of the vote. Our new president elect is now Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia. But current president, Nicolas Maduro, in control of all public institutions, claims to



have won the election without presenting any proof, refusing to leave power, and creating a volatile political situation.

The government is cracking down on opposition leaders and activists. Police are detaining them in their homes without any warrant, and government militia are randomly searching cellular phones of people on the streets, and detaining (kidnaping) anyone they suspect is an activist against the government. Twenty six (26) Venezuelans have died so far in episodes of violence, and countless people have been detained without knowing on which charges and where they are being taken. Beating and torture is the treatment for some, and it looks like this is just the beginning.

Church services have been cancelled several times as a measure of precaution to protect our people from harm. We communicate with them through WhatsApp, a very popular messaging app (text, voice and video) in our country. When the church is physically closed, it is virtually open through Whatsapp. We share recorded messages, announcements, church news, music, etc.

My wife and I had plane tickets to fly to Venezuela on August 9, but our flight to Caracas was cancelled. We could have taken alternative routes, but were advised by pastors in Venezuelan to wait till conditions were more favorable. We have changed our reservations for November 8, planning to stay in Venezuela for six weeks. We have a tight agenda of events to fulfill during that period of time.

Now, sharing this kind of information makes anyone an enemy of the current Venezuelan government. So it would be wise if you did not copy and poste this information in social media.

Please pray for the safety of the brethren in Venezuela, as well as their provision of their basic needs like food and medicine, among others. Pray that the Lord in His mercy may grants us Venezuelans the political freedom we lost many years ago. And pray for my wife Morella and I, that we might be able to return to our country to keep ministering to the people we love, regardless of who is in government, and preaching the gospel to those in need of spiritual freedom through Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:18 *"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."*



Project Life Ministry - taking the gospel to public high-schools

Children Church Ministry / One of our children churches in the Venezuelan Amazon



Our mission church in the Venezuelan Amazon
Preaching to indigenous Venezuelans

THE MINISTRY IN VENEZUELA IS THRIVING

In spite of the crisis our country is going through, the gospel is being preached, souls are getting saved and baptized, men and women are being trained for the ministry, and churches are being planted.

We praise the Lord for the solid Venezuelan leadership team keeping the ministry afloat while we are away. It is comforting to know that we are not essential, that the ministry could keep moving forward without us. The Lord has given us a very capable and faithful team of men and women, through which the ministry keeps thriving in our absence. Please, pray for them.

And pray for the following on-going activities of our church:

- **Children churches** - Provides Bible teaching and a hot meal to children at 15 different locations in poor barrios of our city, and to places as far as the Venezuela Amazon.
- **Life Project** - Taking the gospel to hundreds of teens in public high-schools of our city.
- **Teen Seminary** - A 10-week special summer program for teens currently in progress.
- **Church planting in Caracas** - A new church is taking form in the barrio of Carapita.
- **Online Bible Institute** - About to be launched through our existing online Bible college platform

HEALTH ISSUES

Our plans in the States have been affected by health issues in both my wife and I, slowing our pace of visit to churches. Praise the Lord my wife has slowly been improving from her bruised shoulder. But she needs to be close to her therapist, and not miss any sessions. Her shoulder is going to take a long time to completely heal, according to the doctor. Added to that, we have both been visiting the doctor's office for routine checkups and exams long overdue. As a consequence, and in my case, I need to undertake two minor surgeries. Nothing really serious, but things I need to take care of before our definite return to Venezuela by mid 2025.

CHRISTIAN FM RADIO STATION

We are producing a radio program (Living Hope) that is broadcasted five days a week by the local BBN station. But a window of opportunity has opened to us to have our own FM radio station, with our own programming, and with a reach of up to five million people. Yes, in the midst of the political chaos I described above, the National Telecommunications Commission of Venezuela is telling us we can initiate tests while they process our application for an FM frequency. Things in Venezuela definitely do not work like in most other countries. But in this case, it works to our advantage. Many FM commercial radio stations in our city have come out of the air. So there is a real possibility of us getting that frequency.

The Lord has provided a radio transmitter that we hope to ship to Venezuela in the next couple of weeks, and soon after we expect to start test broadcasting at low power to the western side of our city. Please pray as we need to purchase and install a 15 Mts. tower and antenna within the next three weeks. We will need to set up a small studio with a mixing console, a desktop computer and at least a couple of microphones, among other things. We already have office space, high speed internet and the engineers and technicians that would set it all up.

This has been a dream of mine for many years. And I can only imagine the impact a radio station could have in our ministry. Please pray with us for this marvelous opportunity to

spread the gospel in our city. Pray that the transmitter we are shipping gets into the country without being confiscated by custom authorities.

ONLINE BIBLE COLLEGE TRAINING

If you are a hispanic pastor, you know well the difficulties most hispanic believers find to be trained for the ministry. Particularly if they are married, hold a job and care for a family. But maybe you pastor a church with a hispanic ministry and are looking for a way to train some of your people. We have the solution: ***Seminario Bautista en Línea***. Visit our web site www.sebel.org (sorry, it is in Spanish), and you will find there all the information about our one, two and four-year programs. If you want more information, send me an email or give me a phone call. I will be glad to assist you.

OUR CALENDAR IS OPEN TO CHURCH MEETINGS

Our schedule of visits to churches has been disrupted by the health issues mentioned above and the unexpected changes in our trip to Venezuela.

We have some openings in our schedule for church meetings till November 8th. Please, let us know if you would like us to visit your church before we return to our field.

I will have a minor surgery in the month of January, so our schedule will be open again from February 1st to June 30th 2025. We hope to definitely go back to Venezuela by July 2025.

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