

Dear Friends:

December 2024

Do you remember the best Christmas present you ever received? Do you remember the excitement of it? Can you recall how long that euphoria lasted? Hours, Days? Weeks? Any idea where that present is today? In the next few minutes, I'm going to unwrap a gift I hope you'll never forget. If you accept it; with time it will only get better, never grow old, never wear out, and never run out of batteries.



It started in a garden more than 4,000 years ago when man chose to rebel against God's authority. In that act of disobedience man created a wall of separation between himself and his creator that no one could breach for more than 2,000 years. Mankind tried to tear it down but failed miserably. Not even Moses, David, Elijah or Isaiah could penetrate the sin barrier and reach God's perfection and holiness. Not a single priest, not one holy man, not one chosen leader could look on the Lord and live. Mankind had been created to live in an intimate relationship with God and yet sin separated them. There was no tearing apart the wrapping paper of divine holiness.

Then, two thousand years later God decided to unwrap Himself in such a way that by the time He was done He had ripped apart the veil of eternity so thoroughly that the common man could see Him for what He really was... a God who is not far away, who cares for the broken and downtrodden, and who loves us so deeply He would do the incomprehensible. The God who stretched out the universe, humbly wrapped Himself for nine months in the womb of a woman. He came into our world as a bloody newborn baby crying and suckling at His mother's breast just to survive. It's an image that is hard to grasp in the competitive, performance-driven world in which we live.

For thirty-three years Jesus lived among us; healing the sick, giving sight to the blind, feeding the hungry, and teaching us the ways of a living God. Then comes the most incomprehensible moment in all of history. The God who created and sustains this universe allowed his human (incarnate) side to be killed and buried like any normal man. But three days later everything changed. He arose! In that moment, the veil between God and man was destroyed, and with it we were given an invaluable gift: a gift He unwrapped that is ours if we only accept it. Jesus, the Star-breather, the Mountain-mover, the Death-slayer, the Life-giver came to earth, died, and rose again. In so doing, he shattered the barrier between heaven and earth, between God and man, and gave us the gift of eternal life!

That God, who with one incomprehensible exhalation of air breathed into existence the entire universe (Psalm 33:6), bought our freedom from death and offered us the very relationship for which we were created. It is ours to enjoy this Christmas if we accept it. Nothing you could possibly unwrap will ever compare. It is the free gift of God – Eternal Life!



Photo by: Hermes Justiniano

That is why LATCOM exists. God has called us to take the message of His gift to unreached and underreached people groups. We do that with folks who live in poverty in isolated indigenous communities and to unevangelized leaders in the halls of governments in Latin America. Your gifts of prayer and support enable us to do this. We take your donations and invest them in training, equipping, and motivating national leaders who then go out and accomplish amazing things in the power of God. Here are a few examples of the eternal investments made:

In September I shared with you about Dr. Rodrigo Montaña, an orthodontist, and his wife, Sémida, a medical doctor, who accepted Jesus as Savior through LATCOM national missionary Mel's basketball camps and Bible studies. The Rodriguez family went on to start a church in their home that now hosts over 50 people every Sunday. This past week Omar and Anna along with Mel and Karina had the privilege of baptizing their entire family and two other women from the community of San Luis at a small pool in Samaipata. At the conclusion of this event, the Rodriguezes confirmed their commitment to join Mel and Karina's efforts to reach more communities with the Gospel.



On November 10th Mel organized a 2nd basketball camp at Monte Blanco reaching youth from Vallegrande, Los Negros, Mairana, Bella Victoria, and Quirusillas. About 160 people representing 7 teams participated and over 170 more came to observe. This gave Mel and Karina the opportunity to share the Gospel with more young people and open the doors to other communities. So much interest has grown that Mel is now in need of help with both funding and volunteer personnel. If you are interested in financially hosting one of these one-day competitions, please let us know. Each one costs about \$1,000.00.

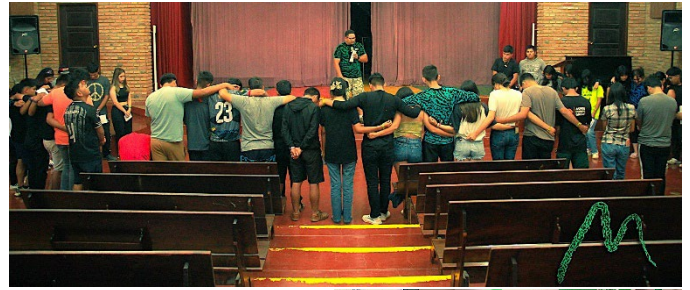


By the time you receive this letter, national missionaries will be handing out annual Christmas gifts to Chiquitano and Andean Valley children. Each year we use this to spread the Gospel in unreached areas. Incredibly enough, God has used your gifts in this way in the past four years to open the doors for two new churches; one in Florida and the other in Fatima in the Lomerio. Last year these gifts opened four new unreached communities that now have formal Bible Studies and Good News Clubs every week. THANK YOU! I hope that encourages you this holiday!

Here is another return on your eternal investments through LATCOM: **MONTE BLANCO** Camp and Conference Center hosted 3,036 campers this year. (The numbers were lower this year due to political protests and yet God

blesed). Of the total, 1,946 campers were Jr High and High School students attending camps. Of those, 560 accepted the Lord, 398 recommitted themselves to following Him, and 824 made some type of life-changing commitment. I wish you could experience one of these altar call moments we see with every camp MB staff hosts.

This is a picture of the final 2024 camp where Raul Cruz, program director, and the MB staff hosted a retreat for the graduating class of the GRM University extension program in Comarapa. Most of the group went forward when the invitation was given. This is due to the awesome grace of God and the power of our purpose-driven programming.



As you were enjoying your Thanksgiving celebrations our Latin leadership director was in Teresina, Brazil teaching character-based leadership seminars with military, police, and civic leaders. I just spoke with him and am thrilled to share that the doors have been thrust wide-open for us to begin training all levels of leadership there beginning in February 2025. **Thank you** for your prayers.



As you consider your eternal investments for 2025, we would like to invite you to consider the following projects that need funding as our team continues to take the Gospel to needy people:

Redes Projects needing funding in 2025

1. We need 4 new **playgrounds** in 2025. 3 have already been funded – We need only \$4,500 for one more
2. 3 new **church buildings**. One has been funded - \$45,000 more is needed to finish all three churches
3. 2 REDES **Youth Camps** - \$3,500 total is needed
4. 3 REDES Valleys **Basketball Camps/Retreats** - \$1,000 each - \$3,000 total
5. **Moto-Missionary Needs** - Fuel, tires and other repairs (currently \$2,000 raised) - \$12,000 more needed for 2025
6. **Dental, Vision & Medical projects** - \$2,500 needed
7. REDES trip to **Brazil** to train pastors in Teresina, Brazil - \$2,000 needed
8. Revitalizing the Heart of the Worker **Retreat II** at Monte Blanco in July of 2025 - \$18,000 needed



Monte Blanco Projects needing funding in 2025

Kitchen Needs:

1. To lower costs, we need to purchase one industrial upright **freezer** for ----- \$2,190
 2. And one industrial **floor freezer** for ----- \$2,400
- Total \$4,590

Computer Needs:

3. Our **computers** at camp are failing and need upgrading – 3 Lenovo i5 16 RAM at \$820 each ----- \$2,460
 4. 3 Epson L121 **printers** at \$220 each ----- \$ 660
- Total \$3,120

Replacement of failing **sound system** in the auditorium

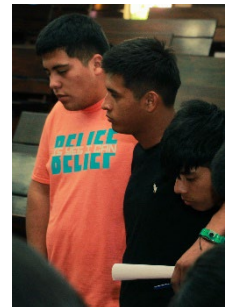
1. 2 medium speakers at \$750 each ----- \$1,500
 2. 2 large bass speakers at \$1,160 each ----- \$2,320
 3. 1 Crossover PAZ Digital Processor ----- \$ 500
 4. 1 Digital Control Consol U124 Sound Craft ----- \$1,000
- Total \$5,320

Maintenance of Walk-in **refrigeration** Coolers and Freezer ----- \$1,000

Old pipe replacements for **potable water** ----- \$2,600

New lamps and repairs for our Aqua Treatment **water filtration plant** ----- \$6,000

TOTAL urgently needed for Monte Blanco going forward ----- \$22,630



LATCOM USA's entire upper leadership team is now over 70 and the mission needs new people to carry it into the future. We are actively looking for a new executive director, a new administrator, and a new director of field ministries. If you know of someone who might be interested, let us know. These positions require individuals capable of raising personal support.

Finally, I want to wish you all a very blessed Christmas and extend to you my best wishes and prayers for an incredible New Year. **THANK YOU** for helping us touch the lives of so many people both here and abroad.

Tim for the LATCOM Team



You can also follow us on our LATCOM Mission Facebook page and on Monte Blanco- Una Experiencia Inolvidable

Remember, online giving can best be made through WePay connecting through LATCOM.ORG web page or directly through <https://www.aplos.com/aws/give/LATCOM/donations>.

