

Stilwells to Perú

May 2026 - *To Every Town and Place*



Dear friends and faithful partners,

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. Luke 10:1

Greetings from Curumuy, Piura! Eight hours north of Trujillo along Peru's coast, Ben is currently serving alongside three seminary students as they walk through villages, visit new converts, and share the Good News from house to house. Much of their ministry happens on front porches, under shaded trees, and out in the fields where men spend long days working. As they help haul bananas and key limes, conversations naturally open for sharing the gospel and encouraging believers. Some of the fruit being carried through these fields may eventually find its way to kitchen tables far from Peru, but our prayer is that something far more lasting is taking place: seeds of the gospel being planted in hearts.

Peru Baptist Seminary ministry practicum trips

Twice each year, the Peru Baptist Seminary, along with its professors and church leaders from Trujillo, sends teams throughout Peru to assist churches in need. Many of these churches are small ministries, and some are led by faithful servants who continue ministering without a pastor. These ministry trips provide an opportunity to encourage churches while also giving seminary students valuable hands-on ministry experience. Ben, along with three students, Joseph, Kimberly, and Mirna, has had the privilege of serving two churches in northern Peru during this trip. Currently, they are ministering in the rural village of Curumuy. Surrounding this area are approximately five neighboring villages, representing nearly one thousand families.

During the evenings, Ben and Joseph are preaching a missions conference, while during the day the team visits homes and villages to share the gospel, encourage women and children, and go into the fields to minister to the men as they work. We thank the Lord for professions of faith and for believers returning to church as a result of these visits and personal encouragement.

The second portion of the trip will take place in the city of Piura. There the team will serve at Iglesia Bautista El Buen Pastor (Good Shepherd Baptist Church). Ministry opportunities

will include another missions conference, home visitation, children's park ministries, biblical counseling, and church leadership training.

In total, Ben will be preaching approximately thirteen times over ten days. Please pray for the team to have good health, strength, and courage as they serve these two areas of northern Peru. Pray also that God would continue to open hearts to the gospel and strengthen His churches.

Ben's Coin Evangelism

Ben has been using a fun but meaningful method to share the gospel over the last year. Peru's currency is called the *Nuevo Sol*, and Ben walks around with one *Nuevo Sol* coins to use as a simple and memorable way to present the gospel. The conversation usually goes something like this:

"Would you like to have some fun answering a couple trivia questions? If you answer well, I'll give you this coin. Great. Question number one: What is on the face of the One Nuevo Sol coin? Like, what is its purpose?"

People usually answer that it says "*Un Nuevo Sol*" and gives the value of the money.

"Yes! It gives the value of the money. When I first came to Peru many years ago, one sol could buy me a bottle of Coca-Cola and several candies. Now it really does not get you very far. Value fluctuates in this world.... But you know what? His love for us does not change. You probably know John 3:16: 'For God so loved the world...' God valued you and me so much that He was willing to send His Only Begotten Son to die for us. Why did God the Father do that? Because we have offended Him. We have incurred a debt against Him. This is called sin, and it brings eternal separation from God if that debt is not resolved."

Then Ben moves to the second question: *"What is on the back of the One Nuevo Sol coin?"*

People quickly answer: *"The shield and seal of Peru!"*

"Yes! Peru, the best country in the world! I have lived here for almost twenty years and think it is a wonderful place. The back of the coin gives the currency identity. It tells you where it belongs and where it has value.... God offers you and me not only citizenship in an earthly country, but also the opportunity to become part of His heavenly family and receive a new identity. He is extending to all of us salvation and to be part of His family."

Then Ben explains about receiving salvation: *"Faith and repentance. Two sides of the same coin. Faith is trusting that Jesus died and carried your burden of sin. Not with a billion Nuevo Soles could you buy or work your way into heaven. Jesus carried that burden for you. The other side of the coin is repentance. Repentance is choosing to follow Jesus as your Savior. It is a choice of change in direction to obey the Lord. This is a decision only you can make for yourself, and I encourage you to think about it seriously."*

At the end, Ben hands them the coin and says: *"Well done answering the trivia! Here is your One Nuevo Sol. Every time you think about this coin, remember how much God values you and the new identity He wants you to find in Him."*

People also receive a small gospel pamphlet with contact information and directions to a nearby church. Please pray that the Lord would continue using these simple conversations to open hearts and bring people to Christ.

Peru Baptist Seminary: Meeting the Need

As we travel through villages and churches, one reality becomes increasingly clear: the need for laborers is great. Many churches throughout Peru are faithfully continuing the work of ministry with limited leadership. Some churches have pastors carrying heavy burdens, often serving multiple responsibilities at once. Others are led by faithful men who love the Lord and His people but are serving without a pastor or formal ministry training. Many communities still have little gospel witness and need men and women willing to go. Jesus' words continue to ring true today: *"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few."* The need is not simply for more people, but for faithful and prepared laborers.

This is one of the reasons the Peru Baptist Seminary exists. The goal of the seminary is not merely to fill classrooms or grant diplomas. The desire is to train servants who love Christ, know His Word, and are prepared to serve in local churches. Students are not only taught in a classroom but are disciplined through ministry involvement, church life, and hands-on opportunities like these ministry trips.

One of the joys of serving with SBP is watching students move from studying truth to living it out. This week Joseph, Kimberly, and Mirna are not simply reading about ministry in a book. They are walking through villages, sharing the gospel, visiting believers, teaching children, and serving churches. We pray that God would continue raising up laborers through this ministry for Peru and for all of South America.

Please pray that the Lord would continue to call men and women into ministry and provide the resources needed to continue training them.

The Ministry at Home and Upcoming Furlough

While Ben is up north serving, Jenn is holding down the fort at home. Originally, we were planning for the whole family to travel together for this ministry trip, but we could not make that happen this time around. **Please pray for Jenn as she faithfully cares for the mission field of our home. Ben will be making another trip to the jungle city of**

Iquitos next month. While ministry often takes us into villages, churches, and classrooms, one of our most important ministries continues to be our own family.

We are thankful to share that Russell has made a profession of faith, and we have been encouraged to see fruit in his life. Please pray for his continued spiritual growth and understanding as he learns what it means to follow Christ. Please also pray for Cameron. As many of you know, we will be taking a three-month furlough from August through October to visit supporting churches and families in the Illinois, Michigan, and Ohio region. **One of the reasons for returning home during our first term is so Cameron can receive a procedure in his lower abdominal region. The consultation and surgery have already been scheduled for within the first three weeks of our arrival. He is not in pain or discomfort, and we are thankful for that, but doctors believe this is the right time to address the issue before further complications arise.** Please pray for Benaiah as well. He is beginning to understand sin and what Jesus did on the cross. We are encouraged by the questions he is asking and would ask you to pray that the Lord would continue working in his heart.

We also thank the Lord that Russell's visa finally came through. We have been praying for this for quite some time and are grateful to see the Lord provide. We are still waiting for Cameron's and Benaiah's visas to be approved and processed. Please pray that these would come through soon, as they are needed in order for our family to leave Peru for our upcoming furlough. We are trusting the Lord with the timing and details, but would appreciate your prayers as we work through these final preparations. Please pray for Hadassah too. She is beginning to understand obedience and is discovering the world around her with all the energy and curiosity that comes with being little. That means she is also beginning to discover all kinds of things around the house she probably should not!

Please also pray for Deshawn and Demarion. We have had very little contact with them recently, and another important reason for this furlough is to reconnect with them and see how they are doing. We would appreciate your prayers that the Lord would open doors and strengthen those relationships.

As always, thank you for praying for our family. We are grateful that while you may be many miles away, you are serving alongside us through prayer and support.

His worshippers,

Ben and Jenn Stilwell

Russell (7), Cameron (5), Benaiah (3), Hadassah (1)

Praises:

- We thank the Lord for professions of faith and believers returning to church through village visitation and outreach.
- We praise God for opportunities to serve churches in Curumuy and Piura through missions conferences, evangelism, counseling, and leadership training.
- We thank the Lord for the ministry opportunities given to the seminary students as they gain hands-on experience serving churches.
- We praise God that Russell has made a profession of faith and that we are seeing encouraging fruit in his life.
- We thank the Lord that Russell's visa has finally come through.

Prayer requests:

- Pray for Ben, Joseph, Kimberly, and Mirna as they minister in Curumuy and Piura, for health, safety, boldness, and lasting fruit.
- Pray that God would continue using village outreach and the Nuevo Sol gospel illustration to bring people to Christ.
- Pray that the Lord would raise up more laborers through the Peru Baptist Seminary for Peru and South America.
- Pray for Jenn and our family as she faithfully ministers at home while Ben travels.
- Pray for Cameron's upcoming surgery and for Cameron's and Benaiah's visas to come through in time for furlough preparations.
- Pray for our children's spiritual growth.
- Pray for opportunities to reconnect with Deshawn and Demarion during our upcoming furlough.
- Pray for Ben's upcoming ministry trip to Iquitos, for safety in travel, strength for ministry, and that the Lord would use the opportunity to encourage churches and challenge young people to consider ministry training through the seminary.



