

Executive Summary

WVCSB & Baptist Theological Seminary of Trujillo Peru Partnership

Between the fall 2020 and winter 2021 Executive Board Meeting of the WVCSB, the Send Committee (missions committee) prayerfully considered three potential international mission points for engagement. After much prayer and discussion, the Send Committee (missions committee) unanimously voted to recommend to the Executive Board that we pursue the partnership in Peru.

Eric W. Ramsey, WVCSB executive director, and Pastor Joe Nott, Send Committee chairman, were tasked with traveling to Peru to investigate and establish potential terms for a partnership. In August 2021, the two men traveled to Peru, met with Baptist leadership, church planters, missionaries, pastors, administrators and professors.

Early in 2021, when the Send Committee, Executive Board and WVCSB staff began seriously looking at a partnership in Peru, specifically with the Baptist Seminary, the seminary was fully staffed. Although student enrollment had declined some and the Peru economy was suffering, the seminary was fairly healthy and moving forward. But, over the next several months the seminary lost Ken Bowie, a beloved missionary with more than 40 years of engagement in Peru, David Trigo, arguably the most influential and celebrated Baptist leader in Peru and professor and dean at the seminary for nearly 60 years, and Julio Montolvo, seminary president. This loss, combined with the social and economic impacts of Covid has left the seminary in need of a reset.

The vision of the seminary, since 1959, has been to academically and spiritually equip Peruvian pastors. The School of Missions, founded in 2014, is part of the seminary and therefore holds to the same macro vision. However, it has a specific focus on equipping missionaries from Peru to plant the gospel and plant reproducing churches among unreached and unengaged people groups in Peru, South America and the world – with special focus on the Middle East (they have not yet engaged in the Middle East).

Points of engagement for West Virginia Southern Baptists

- Seminary Students (2022)
- Seminary Faculty (2022)
- Seminary Campus Construction & Remodel (2022)
- Adjunct Teaching & Seminars (2022)

- Mission Projects with Seminary Students (2022)
 - Jungle
 - Mountains
 - Urban
 - Suburban
 - Barrios
- Church Planting Partnerships with Graduates (2023)
- Partnering to Begin Internationally Deploying Peruvian Missionaries (2025)

Proposed approach for engagement

- September 10, 2021 – Propose engagement entry plan to WVCSB Executive Board
- September 12, 2021 to October 22, 2021 – Develop details and communication materials for WVCSB church engagement.
- November 4, 2021 – Unveil, celebrate and enlist churches and church leaders to engage in Peru. Invite interested church leaders to attend a Peru Missions Summit in January or February 2022 and travel on a vision/mission trip in early 2022.

Financial Information for Consideration

- Seminary student tuition and fees is about \$300 per semester
- Seminary professors are paid about \$150 to \$200 per month
- There is an immediate construction / repair needed at the seminary.
- Airfare to Trujillo, Peru is currently between \$900 and \$1300 from Charleston.
- Hotel costs are between \$40 and \$60 per night.
- Current repairs and maintenance needed on the seminary campus is in the thousands of dollars. Exact figures have not been determined.
- Sponsorship of a Peru church plant, on average, would range from \$500 to \$800 per month.