

Dear Praying Friends & Supporters,

While ministry in Europe often feels slow and difficult, it reflects life with its ebbs and flows. Sometimes I feel as though it moves at the pace of molasses in winter, but then there are times when something shifts, and I feel like I can't keep up. The first quarter of 2025 reflected the latter.

**Diego** has been with our church for seven years. He came from a Pentecostal background but had shared a testimony of faith in Christ and believer's baptism twenty years prior. Diego has been discipled, completed a two-year intensive course preparing him for ministry, and I have spent countless hours training and mentoring him. Through a one-on-one meeting with him on a rainy Tuesday evening, the Holy Spirit guided our conversation to reveal that Diego had never placed his faith in Christ alone. While confessing faith in Christ, he was also heavily trusting his ability to live a sinless life. When confronted with this reality, Diego bowed his head in prayer and, with brokenness and relief, trusted Christ and only Christ as his Lord and Savior. Diego was joyfully baptized two weeks later.

**Fran** arrived at a Wednesday night Bible study with a church invitation in hand that had been placed in his mailbox. His first contact with the gospel was as a 10-year-old boy while partaking in his First Communion in the catholic church. By age 20, he had read the gospels on his own and was convinced that Jesus was the only way of salvation. Over the next 3 decades, Fran had come into contact with several different religious groups, but always rejected them as the gospels had convinced him that salvation was found in Christ alone. I started a Bible study with Fran, and one evening, as he closed out our time in prayer, he asked Jesus to save him from his sins and confessed his faith in Christ. I was shocked. When he finished praying, I asked him what that was all about. His response: "Justin, I have known for 30 years that Jesus is 'the way, the truth, and the life' and I thought that was enough: I believed. But I had never asked Him to save me, and I have felt an urgent need all week to ask Him." Fran will be baptized soon.

**Sara** came to our church through our teen group. Her aunt is a co-worker of one of our members and felt a heavy burden to help her niece find a safe group of friends. She has faithfully attended church for almost a year and a half and has completed one of our discipleship programs. I felt hesitant to baptize her, not convinced that she understood the gospel. Grace met with her to explain what baptism represented, and once again shared the gospel with Sara. The Holy Spirit opened Sara's eyes to her need for a Savior, and Sara prayed, asking Christ to save her and confessing Him as her Lord and Savior. Sara will be baptized soon.

For the past two years, **Fabricio** has texted me every Saturday night, asking me to pick him up for church on Sunday. He has participated in two church retreats, never misses a teen study, has heard the gospel every week, and has listened as church members have shared the gospel with him. One Sunday morning, minutes before church started, Fabricio approached me and said he was finally ready to be saved. He bowed his head and confessed his faith in Jesus. Last night, after our Easter service, Fabricio sent me another text asking to be discipled and baptized. He now texts me on Tuesdays, wanting to be in church for Wednesday night Bible studies.

While ministry in Dos Hermanas might sometimes feel slow, God is not slow. He is always at work, and 2025 has shown me just how long He has been actively working to bring these four dear souls to Him.

703.680.6629 VisitHee

In His service.

January - March 2025



Diego (left)



Fran (right)



Sara (left)



Fabricio



Sending Church Heritage Baptist Church 14510 Spriggs Road Woodbridge, VA 22193 703.680.6629 VisitHeritage.com

Mission Board
Baptist International
Missions Inc.
P.O. Box 9215
Chattanooga, TN 37412

JustinGraceHayes@me.com www.Hayesupdate.com