



Ministry Update June 2026

STILL A TROUBLED COUNTRY... BUT FERTILE SOIL FOR THE GOSPEL

A good number of our supporters have asked whether conditions for the Venezuelan people have improved since Nicolas Maduro was detained on January 3. But while the political landscape has shifted significantly since then, the economic situation remains a complex mix of stagnation and hyperinflation.

As a result, everyday life for most Venezuelans has not seen the "post-Maduro" dividend so many had hoped for. Instead, they continue to face the same grueling challenges and sense of apprehension they have endured for the past decade.



We remain certain that the irreversible political shift we are witnessing will eventually turn the economy around—but we don't know when. Pundits predict it will take time. A long time, that is.

Nevertheless, this crisis has presented us with incredible opportunities, as Venezuelans everywhere remain remarkably open to the Gospel. However, we know this is a unique window of time that could eventually close. Because of this—and certain that the Great Commission must be fulfilled—we continue doing our best to win souls, disciple new believers, train nationals, establish Bible Preaching Points, and plant local churches.

Please keep praying for our ministry. And please pray for us personally, as we have faced our share of trials lately.

TRAINING PIAROA PREACHERS



The Piaroa (who refer to themselves as the *Wothuha*, meaning "the people") are an indigenous group located in the middle and upper Orinoco River Basin, spanning the Colombian and Venezuelan Amazon. Much of their territory consists of dense jungle, which they navigate using the Orinoco River and its tributaries as highways through the Venezuelan Amazon. Their population within Venezuelan territory is estimated to be between 15,000 and 20,000 souls, spread across small communities throughout a 35,000-square-mile area.

Praise the Lord, the Bible has already been translated into their native language!

For the past seven years, the Venezuelan government has restricted free access to the Amazon, favoring only indigenous peoples to live in or freely enter the region. While this policy initially hampered our plans to evangelize indigenous groups and plant churches there, God has provided a way forward.

To fulfill this mission, we are currently training two young Piaroa men in our Bible college who will return to minister to their people upon graduation: Rivaldo Perez and Adixon Perez (picture above).

Please pray for Rivaldo and Adixon. Both are extremely enthusiastic and deeply motivated to return to Piaroa territory to win their own people to Christ and plant independent Baptist churches.



JAIL MINISTRY

I have not reported on our jail ministry for quite a while. I have much to say, but usually very little to show, as cell phones and cameras are strictly prohibited inside these detention centers. However, we are deeply grateful to have obtained a rare photo to share with you in this update so you can see some of the men we are ministering to.

It is difficult to comprehend the horrors endured inside Venezuelan jails and detention centers. Picture more than 100 men packed into a single cell no larger than 20 by 20 feet—with only one bathroom, no ventilation, and no food provided by the facility. Many are awaiting trial for months. Relatives or friends must bring food daily, which is then shared with those who have no one to care for them. Space is at such a premium that only the "senior" inmates are allowed to sleep stretched out on the floor. New arrivals are forced to remain standing for days at a time. It is an unwritten law of the place—a true nightmare in the midst of profound spiritual darkness. But praise the Lord, we are bringing the light of the Gospel into these desperate places.

When our team arrives, only 30 men are permitted to leave the cell to hear us preach. When the iron door finally opens, the men push, pull, and scramble past each other to be among those 30—desperate for a chance to breathe fresh air and see the light of day in the courtyard where we are allowed to gather. We bring food with us for every single visit; it is both needed and expected of us. And every visit is an absolute blessing because someone always surrenders his life to Christ.



Please pray for the team members leading this ministry—some of whom are ex-convicts themselves who uniquely understand the miseries of these places. Pray also for the men still in those terrible cells, that they may find true freedom in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and join a good Bible-believing church when they leave that place.



FRUIT OF A SOUL-WINNING CHURCH



Ours is a soul-winning church. Our people faithfully knock on doors and preach in public spaces—parks, subway stations, and anywhere else they see an open door to present the gospel.

Two weeks ago, five new believers were baptized and have already begun taking our discipleship program.

Would you please join us in prayer for them? Each comes from unique, challenging circumstances, and they deeply need the Lord to work in their lives and strengthen their new walk with Him.

A TESTIMONY OF A NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

Yanitza was going through an incredibly difficult time. Her husband had just left her, leaving her heartbroken and confused. Despite her grief, she had to go to work that morning at the shopping mall pizza restaurant she co-owns. When she arrived, a certain woman came to mind—someone she always saw smiling but didn't personally know, who owned a tiny women's apparel store in the same mall. Yanitza had always thought there was something special about her, perhaps because she had heard the woman was a Christian. That woman was Mariely, a faithful member of our church.



Driven by a need she couldn't quite explain, Yanitza walked over to Mariely's store to introduce herself. When she arrived, she asked Mariely if she was a Christian and confessed that she was looking for someone to talk to. Right then and there, Mariely shared the Gospel with Yanitza (on the right in the picture), and she surrendered her life to Christ. Since that day, Yanitza has experienced a profound peace and joy she had never known before—a transformation so clear that it has left her family and friends astonished. Yanitza is a living testimony to the power of the Gospel. She was recently baptized, is currently being disciplined, and is already actively involved in our soul-winning program. Would you please pray for Yanitza as she grows in her faith? And please pray for her husband as well—he needs to be saved.

FAMILY TRIAL

A few weeks ago, a cardiologist friend of ours graciously offered to do a routine check-up on us and detected a problem with Morella's heart mitral valve. He said bacteria most likely got in her bloodstream, causing perforation of the valve. She will have another echogram performed in 6 months to check if her condition remains stable. Dr. Collet is a renowned Venezuelan cardiologist and surgeon who came to know the Lord last year through one of our men. Dr. Collet has offered to do further studies on my wife that cost a fortune, all without charging us a dime. We praise the Lord because He is taking good care of us. Please pray for Morella.



DEAD AFTER 20 YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE

Twenty years ago, our dear brother and friend Pastor Randy King (Wyldeewood Baptist Church, Oshkosh, WI) visited our church to be the guest speaker at our Bible college's first graduation ceremony. Through Omega Ministry—a mission outreach of WBC that provides 2-year financial support to national preachers—I became the first pastor they supported in Venezuela.

When Pastor King came and saw what the Lord was doing through our ministry, Omega decided to extend its support for another year. This allowed me to save and purchase a second-hand 1997 Honda Odyssey from a departing missionary—the best car I have ever had. I did my absolute best to maintain it and keep it running. But after 20 years of faithful service to the cause of Christ in Venezuela, it has finally come to the end of its life, leaving me without a vital tool and the convenience of reliable transportation. Please join us in prayer for a replacement vehicle that can handle the rigorous demands of our ministry.



A reliable vehicle is a vital tool for our work in the field, allowing us to manage daily operation. But it is also crucially important to safely travel to visit remote locations within our country, where we have or are about to plant new churches.

SPECIAL NEEDS OF OUR CHURCH AND BIBLE COLLEGE

We are always asked about our current needs. And because of the nature of our ministry, there are many. I share below a couple of them:

Need #1: Printer Ink

We are completely out of printer ink. All of our ministry printers use ink, which is the most economical way to print material in our country—far cheaper than toner. Unfortunately, the specific ink cartridges we require cannot be purchased in Venezuela. And if found, the price is ridiculously high. Since this is a recurring need of our ministry, it has begun to weigh on our budget.

Need #2: Washer and Dryer

Our Bible college is in urgent need of at least four commercial washer and dryer sets. The machines we currently have are long past their life expectancy and have become a constant maintenance nightmare to keep running. We need to replace those units before our students arrive for the upcoming fall semester, so we can properly accommodate them. If you or your church would like to donate toward any of these practical needs, contact me directly for further details.

PROPERTY PURCHASE CHALLENGES

The Lord has been incredibly good to us and has allowed us to raise the necessary funds to purchase the property needed for the expansion of our Bible college. However, we have hit a significant hurdle: the owner has been evading us to avoid closing the deal, and it appears he intends to raise the price.

Ever since Nicolas Maduro was detained and extracted following the US incursion last January, real estate prices have been steadily climbing. The political shift created an immediate expectation among the population that the economy would reactivate. In reality, economic conditions have not improved a bit —yet this speculative market trend continues.

Please pray that the Lord moves the heart of this property owner to finalize the transaction quickly and honor the originally agreed-upon price.



UPCOMING VISIT TO CALIFORNIA

My wife and I will be traveling to California this upcoming August. We currently have openings in our schedule for meetings between **August 12 and August 26**. If your church would like us to present an update on the ministry, share what God is doing in Venezuela, or preach, please reach out to me to secure a date. We would be honored to fellowship with you!

Ephesians 3:20-21 *“Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.”*

Final Words

Thank you so much for caring for the Venezuelan people. Thank you very much for your prayers and financial support.