



PRAYERPOINTS



SEPTEMBER 2025

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."

Romans 15:13

AMERICAN PEOPLES

We battle against animism and folk Catholicism in our desire to reach the nations in the Americas with the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The people are trapped in darkness, hopelessness, and false religions, so we are doing everything possible to bring them light and hope. Join in this work by praying.

LOSTNESS IN PERU: LOOKING TO THE SANTA ROSA IDOL FOR HOPE

The melancholy sounds of the band playing a dirge-like tune and the heavy scent of incense waft in the air as thousands of pilgrims shuffle down the gray streets of downtown Lima, Peru, every August 30. The music hangs in the air like the damp gray sky that lies low over the sprawling city as the multitudes fall in line behind the four-foot ornately decorated statue of Santa Rosa de Lima. Santa Rosa was a woman who lived in Lima in the early 17th century. She is believed to have been unwaveringly dedicated to her faith and for often taking care of the sick and hungry. The other side of the story is often overlooked. She often induced self harm, was said to experience visions of Satan throughout her lifetime, and also believed herself to be wed to Jesus, claiming that He had called her in a dream to be His wife. Her followers often attend mass before making their way to the church of Santa Rosa, where they drop prayers written on cards into a well, believing that Santa Rosa will see and answer their



Pilgrims pay their respects in a procession during the Feast of Santa Rosa de Lima. IMB photo.

petitions. Many who come to the well of Santa Rosa live in a state of dismal hopelessness. Every year, they return to the same church, well, and idol in hopes of receiving health, better jobs, and even love. Yet, year after year, they continue living in darkness, not understanding that the only one who brings true hope and joy is Jesus Christ.

Pray for the lost in Lima to see their need for Christ and have hearts that are ready to receive the gospel. Pray that the gospel will advance and that believers will share the hope of Christ clearly and boldly. Pray for your missionaries in Lima to abide in Christ and faithfully proclaim His Word to the world around them.

GOSPEL

TRANSFORMATION STORY

Susana is an Embera Dodiba woman. At first, she was interested in learning more about Jesus and His Word, but community pressure caused her to lose interest. Despite this discouragement, God did a mighty work, causing Susana to have a great desire to learn God's Word. She confessed her sins, felt conviction, and eventually surrendered her life to Christ. She threw out her talismans, idolatrous photos, and everything not God-honoring. She is sharing her faith boldly and desires to become a missionary.

1 RESEARCH TEAM. Please pray for the IMB's research team in the Americas as they seek to help bring clarity about lostness throughout the Americas. Pray that God will use data to ensure that the gospel gets to those who do not know Christ or have meaningful access to the gospel.

2 LOGISTICS. Changes in visa laws present the need to explore new avenues for obtaining visas for IMB personnel. Please pray for wisdom for those seeking visa solutions and for missionaries who need new visas.

3 BOGOTÁ, COLOMBIA. Pray for many people trapped in self-trusting Catholicism, who spend their lives trying to be good enough and to appear righteous. Pray they will hear and respond to the saving message of the gospel of Jesus and find salvation and freedom from dead works.

4 BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA. "Seemingly insignificant red bracelets, ribbons, and passing conversations about 'individual energies' permeate the culture in our city. Pray for local believers to be bold and clear in sharing the powerful truth of Jesus, who fills us with His Spirit and peace."

5 GUADALAJARA, MEXICO. Walking around the city, it's easy to see spiritual darkness – idol worship, ancestor worship, addictions, abuse, and more.



Embera Dodiba men and women participate in a Bible study. IMB Photo.

Jesus declares, "I am the light of the world." Pray for the people to embrace His light and live in freedom from any darkness.

6 LIMA, PERU. Traditional Catholicism in wealthier neighborhoods brings expectations to participate in religious rituals. The wealthy Catholic's greatest need cannot be met by money or prestige. Pray that they will seek the truth of the gospel despite social pressures to conform.

7 MEXICO CITY, MEXICO. Pray the people of Mexico City will surrender their lives to Jesus and not take confidence in being born into a Catholic family, in worshiping saints, or in works-based faith. Pray they will come out of darkness and into the light of the gospel.

8 PORTO ALEGRE, BRAZIL. "When I was sharing with a man, I asked about the crucifix he was wearing. He said it was not Jesus but a spiritist deity he worships. His religion has a savior other than Jesus who died for his sins. Pray for us as we share among many syncretistic beliefs."

9 SANTIAGO, CHILE. On a high hill, under a giant statue of the virgin Mary, a girl burns a candle to ask for help. Later, she leaves a plaque, thanking Mary. Pray that Chileans will look to the hills and see where their help truly comes from – the Maker of heaven and earth.

10 SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL. Pray for the people of São Paulo, many of whom come from folk Catholic and syncretistic backgrounds. Ask that the Holy Spirit would illuminate the gospel in their lives, bring conviction to turn from tradition, and give them courage to stand firm in Christ alone.

11 THE AMAZON. Pray for Antonio, a man who professes faith but struggles to let go of his tribe's beliefs. For example, when he is sick and says prayer has not worked, he visits the shaman. This is common among tribal people. Pray they will truly repent and completely turn to Christ.

12 SOUTHERN MEXICO. "The Mixtec people fear and worship false gods with their whole being. They need to hear the truth about the gospel and be set free from the deception that holds them captive. They are willing to listen, so please pray that God gives us the words to speak."

13 MEXICO. Please pray God uses IMB teams, new church plants, and connections with Mexican believers in the U.S. to flush out darkness and bring the light of salvation to Mexican peoples. Praise God for the churches He is planting and for the many lives He has already transformed.

14 AYMARA COMMUNITIES. When an individual or family among the Aymara follow Jesus, there are two different attacks from the enemy: pressure to recant their faith or accept false teachings. Pray that new believers among the Aymara will look to Jesus and stand strong against these attacks.

15 BRAZIL. Many Indigenous tribes blend spiritism with Catholicism. They live in fear and spiritual chaos. Struggling with hopelessness, many turn to alcohol. Hopelessness is seen in faces across the country. Please pray many will find true hope and salvation in Christ.

16 PERUVIAN ANDES. Incan traditions and animistic beliefs blend with Catholic influences to create a syncretized worldview among the Quechua peoples of Peru. Pray for a breaking down of barriers that hinder these precious ones from being receptive to being truly transformed.

17 COLUMBIA WIWA. Animism, nature worship, and worshipping the "Ancient Mother" (Mother Earth) govern the lives of the Wiwa. Pray that God, the Maker of heaven and earth, will open their spiritual eyes to the truth found only in Him.

18 AMERICAN PEOPLES. Pray for the people in the Americas bound by animism and folk Catholicism who are lost in darkness and religious tradition. May the true gospel grip the unreached, transform hearts, and lead them into a saving relationship with their Creator through Jesus Christ alone.

19 DISPLACED. Many people in the Americas are displaced. Local pastors and churches are helping them physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Please pray for strength and wisdom and that people suffering from displacement will be impacted by the true gospel and share it with others.

20 VOLUNTEERS. Several missionaries are on the field today because of the impact that week-long mission trips had on them. Please pray for our mobilization team as they receive thousands of U.S. volunteers each year who work with national partners to plant new churches.

21 MEXICO MOBILIZATION. There are large pockets of lostness throughout Mexico. Many people place their hope in man-made idols and traditions. Please pray for the IMB's mobilization team in Mexico as they work alongside U.S. volunteers and national partners, impacting lostness in these areas.

22 MOBILIZATION. "The need for the gospel is great. Many of our national partners in the Americas are being called to the nations. Please pray for them as they move across the world to impact lostness and for their transition to another culture. Lift them up as they join a team of missionaries.

23 GLOBALIZATION. Our globalization team works to guide and mentor many national partners. Please pray that our national partners will not just go to a training but will gain a heart to reach the lost. Pray that God will provide a way for them to go to the nations.

24 HAITIAN CHURCHES. Haitian churches have started to reach the many Haitian migrants in Mexico. Please pray that these churches will continue to grow and raise up leaders to continue reaching Haitian migrants, many of whom follow spiritism.

25 OAXACA, MEXICO. Animism is the belief that the world is controlled by spiritual beings, both good and bad. Pray for IMB missionaries going to Lacy Seminary in Oaxaca as they train Indigenous missionaries to trust that the God of Scripture rules and reigns over the world.

26 BRAZILIAN ROMAN CATHOLICS. A combination of orthodox, liberal, and traditional religious practices blend into what is known as "folk Catholicism." Pray for local Baptist leaders to be trained to develop missional strategies to share the good news of Jesus in this culture.

27 BRAZIL. Many in the Amazon Basin are very religious yet live in fear of hostile spiritual powers. Pray for the development of a missions training center in Belém, Pará, which will train Brazilian missionaries to engage the unreached inhabitants of this region.

28 LEADERSHIP TRAINING. Ask God to empower IMB teams in Puebla, Lima, and São Paulo to train leaders with biblical wisdom, love, and compassion, equipping them for effective ministry and discipleship, with humility. Pray for eager learners who share their faith boldly.

29 SYNCRETISM. Syncretism is an enormous challenge for national believers. Local superstitions, idols, and rituals mixed with culture are not seen as false worship. Pray for believers' hearts to be opened to Christ's redemption without the trappings of false religions.

30 TRUE GOSPEL. Pray for Latin Americans to discern God's truth amid cultural traditions. With faith and obedience, pray they will seek His guidance and wisdom in daily life and community. Pray they will not be swayed by community pressures, false beliefs, or fear of persecution.

LOSTNESS IN MEXICO: MOURNING WITHOUT HOPE ON THE DAY OF THE DEAD

Oaxaca, Mexico, is a place of celebrations, both joyful and sad. Day of the Dead on November 1 is a funeral and family reunion all in one. Preparation for this day begins many months before November. The calaveras (skulls) are present every day in homes throughout Oaxaca. Marigold flowers are planted in anticipation of decorating the graves of loved ones, bringing beauty to dismal places decorated with saints, crosses, and statues of the virgin Mary. Ofrendas (offerings) are personalized to satisfy the worldly desires of the dead. To be present in Mexican culture during the Day of the Dead is to experience the lingering grief and hopelessness of a traditional religion that offers no assurance of salvation. Baptist representatives in Oaxaca spend the time during the Day of the Dead celebration prayerwalking the cemeteries where families are gathered waiting for their dead loved ones to visit them. Sometimes an opportunity comes to



Around the time of Day of the Dead, vendors sell sugar skulls for people to leave on an altar as an offering. IMB Photo.

talk about the hope of Jesus and His victory over death. But more often the aroma of alcohol confirms their desire to ease the painful sting of living without hope or true life.

Pray for the gospel to permeate Oaxaca. Pray that many will draw near to Jesus in faith and follow Him.

2024 FAST FACTS

AMERICAN PEOPLES



Most practice **folk Catholicism**, a blend of Catholicism combined with local animistic beliefs



300+

Unreached people groups live in remote areas throughout the Americas with **little to no access to the gospel**



Increasingly, **Indigenous people** are **more accessible** through internet technology and advancement in **travel**

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Some names may have been changed for security reasons. BI 15M 07-25 P7803-9

**REACHING
THE NATIONS,
TOGETHER.**



Statistics based on IMB Global Research data cut December 31, 2023.