



SEMINARIO BIBLICO REFORMADO

PARTNER NEWSLETTER

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SBR: A New Discipleship Initiative

The statistics seem overwhelming. According to the book, *Operation World*, 94.6% of the population of Peru are professing Christians. This begs the question, "Why do we need missionaries in Peru?" Behind this number lies a dark reality. The vast majority of these professing Christians belong to the Roman Catholic church, which is nothing like the Catholicism you may be familiar with in the US. In Peru, Catholicism has absorbed the pagan idolatries of the ancient Incan

culture. This blended theology has led to impossible burdens and rituals that followers must adhere to. The burdens that Jesus freed us from on the cross are exponentially added to these congregants, which has led to a devastating environment of idol worship.

Operation World attempts to bring some clarity to this statistic by stating that only 11.15% are evangelical. But again, this number doesn't reveal the whole picture. A majority of the evangelical community has been poisoned by the false teaching of the "Prosperity gospel," a deceiving message which claims that becoming a Christian will make you wealthy and give you good health. These false teachers prey upon the poor and vulnerable by adding an important footnote to these promises, stating that

they must give exorbitant amounts of money to the church to be blessed.

This is the reality of Peru. Biblically-based and Christ-centered teaching is hard to find, and higher education and discipleship opportunities for future leaders and pastors of the church are nearly non-existent or financially out of reach.

With this picture painted, the need for mission work is quite clear. Specifically, the need for biblical theological education and discipleship are what comes to the forefront. We are proud to present the beginning of a new ministry--Seminario Biblico Reformado (Reformed Bible Seminary). We plan to launch and begin our first classes in March 2018, but we confess that we need your help!

SBR's Vision: A Holistic Approach

“And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.” 2 Tim. 2:2

Typically, when one hears the word “seminary,” they think of lecture halls, biblical language studies and preaching classes. Although SBR seeks to address the head knowledge that is so vital in Christian leadership, we also want to address the hearts and hands of our students in a holistic approach.

To that end, SBR has partnered with Third Millennium Ministries and Birmingham Theological Seminary to offer a Certificate in Christian Ministry. These classes, taught by world-recognized scholars in their respective fields, will give students the biblical knowledge component of Christian leadership. We are also partnering with local churches to offer hands-on training to students of various denominational backgrounds. These partnerships will also provide accountable relationships that will foster character growth in our students.

Furthermore, we are taking a geographically holistic approach. We recognize that current options for higher theological education and training require financial investments and relocations that are unfeasible for many ministry candidates. Therefore, we want to partner with churches and presbyteries all over Peru and Latin America to establish local discipleship centers using SBR as a resource and platform for offering discipleship that is local and affordable. Based out of homes and churches, these centers will



be able to train and equip the next generation of leaders and pastors by forming a network of ministry leaders with a passion to disciple and train future leaders of the church.

Finally, SBR will be more than a center for discipleship. We also desire to be a catalyst for a church planting movement. Our locale will be used as a community outreach center and the beginnings of a core group for a new church plant in Arequipa. These church plants will also provide valuable experience for our students.

We will offer three tracks of training. First, *Apprentices* will work full-time with us to receive theological education and gain practical experience by planting a church alongside of us. Second, *Local Students* will attend classes and be practically trained by their local church pastors. Third, *Virtual Students* will be able to study online in various parts of Peru and Latin America.

PARTNERSHIP

The vision of SBR is an ambitious undertaking. Quite frankly, it is an impossible one without the prayers and support of ministry partners. We would ask you to consider partnering with us as we launch Seminario Bíblico Reformado.

1. **Pray** for the launch and continued ministry of SBR.
2. **Consider becoming a financial partner** in our initial launch costs and continued expenses. Please see our “Partnership Information” brochure for more information. Donations can be made online at: mtw.org/projects/arequipa-team
3. We need both **short-term teams and long-term individuals** to come and improve our facilities and teach classes.