

The Stevens Family March and April 2025 Prayer Letter



Dear fellow co-labourers in Christ. It has now been about a month and a half since we had our first official service of the "Pillar and Ground of the Truth Independent Baptist Church" – "Iglesia Bautista Independiente Columna y Apoyo de la Verdad," and we are encouraged about what has transpired thus far, and we would like to share with you all what the Lord has been doing.

On the first official service of Sunday March 30th, we had thirteen people in attendance. I must confess that I was initially discouraged by that in light of the many weeks of outreach that we did beforehand. As the clock drew close to 11 AM we only had my family of five, my mother in attendance, as well as two people from our home church (Liberty Baptist Church), who were attending to be an encouragement. But as I began the service at 11 AM sharp, five more people walked through the doors. That encouraged us greatly.

So, the first service was a great blessing, and we have now had six more Sunday services in addition to Thursday evening services. A great encouragement has been that we have had one or more first time visitors every Sunday since the first service, except for Mother's Day. On the second Sunday service we had a woman named Luisa and her husband Daniel attend the service. They are originally from the Dominican Republic, and they have been living in Philadelphia for about a year. She told us in tears that they had been looking for a Biblical Spanish speaking church in Philadelphia like the one they were members of in the Dominican Republic, but they couldn't find one. But when they received the bilingual Romans with our church information delivered to their home, they knew that God had answered their prayers. We plan to talk to them and others soon about church membership. I would appreciate your prayers about that, because I have noticed from my time as a missionary in Honduras, that the issue of Biblical baptism is often more of a challenge when dealing with people than even salvation is.



**Iglesia Bautista Independiente
Columna y Apoyo de la Verdad**

It takes time for people to understand that just because a Christian has been baptized by immersion after salvation, that does not automatically qualify as Biblical baptism if it didn't have the correct authority. So again, I would appreciate your prayers about that.

When our family finished our furlough in the end of 2024, I, like many, thought that this church would take off right away once we started, because of how many Spanish speaking people there are in this part of Philadelphia. Combine that with the fact that there is not any other Spanish speaking Independent Baptist Church in Philadelphia that we know of, I thought to myself, this has to blow up immediately. It was as if I expected people to just flood the doors because we are now here. But the Lord had to humble me, and He reminded me that men love darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil (John 3:19). Point being, lost people, in this case, lost Spanish speaking people, are not running to be a part of an Independent Baptist Church that is preaching against the sinful lifestyle that they love. They need Christ, and they won't come to Him unless we continually go to them and preach Christ to them (Romans 10:14). So, by God's grace we will be faithful in planting and watering the seed of His word in the hearts of those whom He has called us to reach, and we will patiently wait for Him to bring forth the increase in His time (I Corinthians 3:7). Please continue to pray along with us, and we thank you for your partnership in prayer and financial support that is a tremendous help to us with respect to God's calling upon our lives here in Philadelphia.



Because Christ is Risen (I Cor. 15:19-20)

Jason, Arlen,

Micaiah, Jeremiah and MaryEllen Stevens

John 12:32 "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me

Missionaries to Philadelphia, PA

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