

South America

Theological Education in Peru

It came as no surprise to me when an evaluation team from a major international missionary society working in Peru concluded just recently that the Peruvian Evangelical church's major need at present is theological education. The national church is labouring arduously, but too often the work is marred by weak foundations due to a lack of Biblical and theological knowledge. The church leaders who have been called by the Lord to the ministry but, more often than not, have not had the opportunity for adequate training.

Bible Institute teachers

Two major needs in this area are for Bible teachers in Bible Seminaries and Institutes in Peru's major cities, like the Iquitos Baptist Bible Institute (IBBI) which serves the city of Iquitos in the Peruvian Amazon, a thriving city of nearly half a million inhabitants and an established national evangelical church. At IBBI we currently have 18 teachers, 14 of whom are nationals, and around 30 students (such as Jaime, Job and David in photo). However, we are in need of Bible teachers who can raise the academic level and address theological issues critically.

TEE (Theological Education by Extension) teachers

There's also a great need in the mountains and jungle for roaming Bible teachers who can teach pastors in rural settings by means of regular modules throughout the year. This eliminates the need for these church leaders to uproot from their church and home for several years in order to attend a Bible Institute in the city (most of whom never return to their home churches when they finish their studies). It's an exciting ministry in many ways, travelling by road, river and on foot to villages hidden from the rest of the world. Just to see the

enthusiasm on the men's faces as they learn from God's Word makes it worth the effort. Here in the jungle we currently train pastors and church leaders along the Amazon and Ucayali Rivers, but who will teach the others in the hundreds of villages not yet reached by our teachers? Maybe the Lord is calling you!

