

Frank Niño, serving in Bogotá, Colombia



Frank Niño and his family came under BEME support earlier this year with a core group of 10 believers and a solid 20 congregating. This number has grown to around 50 over the past several months, including eight new believers who were added over the summer as a result of evangelistic outreach events and other efforts. The church just held its first baptismal service with 6 participants. Frank was also able to take a group of 10 teens to a Christian teen camp over the summer.

Salvation Testimony

I made the decision to accept Christ in June of 1993 when I was 9 years old, in a Christian youth camp organized by a church near CONBIBA; the church that we had been attending with my mother since 1992. The Lord brought us to this church during a time when my mother was experiencing a crisis, which guided her to seek her life's purpose in God and comfort amid her loneliness, rejection, and sin.

My mother's call from the Lord marked the beginning of my understanding of three truths about myself: 1. I needed the presence and work of Jesus in my life to avoid replicating for others the abandonment that I lived through because of my father (something my mother always told me not to do); 2. I was a sinner, and that lying, which was very prevalent in me and resulted in many problems between me and my mother and grandparents, was one of the sins for which I needed God's forgiveness, and I needed to accept Jesus' sacrifice for me on the cross; 3. Believing in Jesus would ensure that I would no longer fear death, something that had become very common

in me, that caused nightmares that disturbed my sleep and made me cry when I thought about my mother's death or my own.

Beginning to understand these three truths worked in my heart so that in that children's camp, I would decide to give my life to God and accept the offer of forgiveness through Jesus. I still vividly remember that moment when I raised my hand during the pastor's invitation and went with my counselor to confess my sins to God and give my life to Him.

Call to Ministry

At 9 years old I trusted in Christ as my Savior and continued to attend CONBIBA, the church that the Lord had brought me to over those years. Within the church, I had the opportunity to learn about God, grow in my faith, and serve the Lord in the ministries in which He allowed me to serve.

One of those ministries was a drama group that I participated in when I was 12 years old. This ministry had an evangelistic vision and sought to support the works that the church was planting in other cities in Colombia. It was through this group that I considered the calling that God was doing through my service because for the first group trip, I was asked to encourage the church to support us financially to pay for the trip. The night before the Sunday when I was going to do this, I remember taking my Bible and looking for a passage that would allow me to fulfill my mission. In that pulpit, I ended up giving a brief and heartfelt biblical exposition on the church's call to missions, and for the glory of God, the church responded to His call and supported our trip.

In addition, from the time I was 13, one of the things I like to do the most in my free time is to review the sermons I heard in church and write summaries of them, extracting personal notes and questions. This was normal to me, but with time I realized that this was not a common desire among my friends, even those from the same church.

By the time I was 14, I witnessed the efforts of the church to get those people who believed they were called to ministry to go to Argentina to study at the seminary. So, I began to feel the desire in my heart to do this when I finished high school. However, during my last years of school, I neglected my relationship with God – I frequently missed churches and my heart was dazzled by what the world has to offer: fun, pleasure, money, status, and “comforts,” so I started studying

psychology in college, looking for what the world offers, but wanting to balance it with the feeling that I had in my heart to serve God and people.

As time passed and I focused on preparing for a professional career, the job that helped me pay my way through university, and the search for status and recognition in the world, I was drifting away from that call that was in my heart during my adolescence.

After finishing my studies, marrying the woman whom God allowed me to meet in church, having our first daughter after various difficulties, earning a master's degree, having a son, getting a good job with a good salary, and starting my own business, the Lord started to discipline me for loving both the world and Him at the same time. After removing much of my sin, He called my attention completely to Him.

One day, in the middle of my devotions, the Lord raised the call for which He had set me apart and that I had felt since my youth. He did so through the testimony of the prophet Jeremiah and his call. At that moment, I felt the words of God to Jeremiah as if they were words that had a direct destination in my heart:

“Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations. Then said I, Ah, Lord God! Behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child. But the Lord said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the Lord. Then the Lord put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the Lord said unto me, Behold, I have put words in thy mouth. See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant.” Jeremiah 1:5-10

From that moment, the Lord made me understand the call of my life, and He has directed every situation, thought, purpose, and person so that today I would find myself completely at His service, planting a church that would recognize Him as God, worship Him, and be a bulwark of truth and light and salt in Colombia.