

## Leo Arriaga • November 2024

*“...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:20*

### I Went to Peru to Dig a Grave

*I traveled to the Peruvian jungle September 23-27. The purpose was to teach pastors and leaders about the Gospel and missions. I was in the jungle for a week, but passed through the capital city of Lima to have the opportunity to preach in Filadelfia Church. I preached the whole weekend, to men, youth, and then the whole church. I left for the jungle on Sunday the 22nd, on an exciting trip to preach at the Church of Sisa. This is a large people group in the jungle. The next day, I began classes in the Bible Institute. For the first three days, classes were normal. I taught Biblical principles and strategies to reach the unreached. I discovered that many churches in the Peruvian jungle have closed themselves off inside their four walls. They have become very closed to the people in their communities.*

*I encouraged them to create evangelism committees and have activities that would impact their community. We went into the streets to evangelize one-on-one. They began to see and agree that they had not been participating in reaching out to their communities, that they weren't sharing the love of Jesus with their neighbors.*

*On Wednesday, at noon, we received the news that a daughter of one of the students had taken her life. She was a 23-year-old single mother of two. This impacted us greatly. They asked me what they should do, they asked how we could walk with the family, and if it was prudent and correct to have a funeral service in church for someone who had taken their life. This was the moment to apply all that had been learned and give a practical example. I told them it was our opportunity to preach the Gospel through our service to the family, and to show love to them in their suffering. I told them we needed to offer comfort to those still living.*

*What came next was very impactful. Twenty-two of us (the students and myself) went to dig the grave. This was an arduous job because of the soil. We dug for five hours, 22 men taking turns digging. This was my first opportunity to speak into their lives and tell them we found ourselves in the best situation to reflect on how fragile life is and that there is an end.*

*After digging, we as a team cut wood, went looking for platanos (their basic food), chickens, and other food to offer the people who would come to the funeral. We definitely held the services in the evangelical church of the town. I preached four times between the funeral and the cemetery. People from the town were in church as well. We walked around the town with the casket. And people wondered why a Salvadoran pastor was there for the funeral. There is no doubt that God joined us together to teach us about the love of God with actions and with service. The mourning family, the students, and the town were impacted and we were able to preach the Gospel. There is no doubt that it was the greatest practical teaching of evangelism and missions that we could have ever had. God has His plan and He has control of our lives. His will is good and perfect.*





## Back Home!

The work in my country continues. We celebrated one year of Women's Ministry at Family of Faith. It is a joy to watch the women of the church rise up to serve God.

On October 7, we celebrated Children's Day. We had various activities, games, prizes, and the best part was sharing the love of Jesus with all, especially the guests.

We continue to fulfill the calling God has for us.

## Prayer Requests

*-Pray for my health. I have a severe UTI and an ear infection.*

*-Pray for the year-end activities.*

*-Pray for me as I prepare for the Medical Team which will be here in January. I am already at work on that!*

*-Pray for protection and guidance in the day-to-day and the strength I need to continue with the work God has given me to do in this country.*

*Thank you for your prayers and your support for my life and ministry in this part of the world.*

## Leo Arriaga

Would you partner to provide the support I must raise for the mission of World Reach to serve in El Salvador?

- Go to [world-reach.org/donate](https://world-reach.org/donate) to give once or set up monthly recurring gifts under the campaign for "Arriaga."
- Make a check payable to World Reach and mail to the address below with a note indicating your preference for supporting "Arriaga ministry."

**The World Reach office is moving! Please use the following mailing address effective 12/9/24:**

**2871 Acton Road, Suite 201  
Vestavia Hills, AL 35243-2560**