



Answered Prayers

GIFTING AN ENTIRE VBS

You are not alone. That truth was powerfully experienced this summer by **Misión Bautista Hispana de Rivermont** in Danville and its pastor, Manuel Rodriguez, during Vacation Bible School (VBS).

Each summer, the church plant welcomes around 100 children from the community. With the area's growing Hispanic population, the need for volunteers and resources has also increased. Now in its second year, the congregation lacks the means to fully fund certain ministry activities.

While Pastor Manuel and his wife, Martha, prayed for God's provision for VBS, Pastor Pedro Alvarado and his congregation at **Primera Iglesia Bautista Hispana de Roanoke** were also seeking the Lord, asking which church plant they could come alongside and support. In His perfect sovereignty, God brought them together.

Pastor Pedro shared, "Every year, our church commits to supporting a church planter or missionary. Through our convention, we were able to identify new church plants in our area that might be in need of support. As a pastoral team, we presented this project to our church leadership and staff, and the response was immediate—we wholeheartedly embraced it. In fact, there was complete unity in agreeing to support Pastor Manuel Rodriguez and his church."

After connecting with Pastor Manuel and learning about the needs of Rivermont Church, Pastor Pedro and his church donated all the VBS decorations and gave a generous offering, making their entire VBS possible.

"Every year, the members of our church prepare with much love, enthusiasm, and hope for the VBS, through which God allows us to reach many families in our community,"

Pastor Manuel shared. "As we pray for God to work spiritually in the lives of each attendee, we also pray for His financial provision to make it possible."

The church's VBS budget was \$5,800, but as the start date neared, only \$1,200 had been raised. They kept praying and trusting God—then came the call from Pastor Pedro.

"[Pastor Pedro] and his daughter kindly visited us in Danville, provided all the decorations, and gave us an offering of \$2,000 from the children of their church," Pastor Manuel said. "With their help, we were able to carry out our VBS without any problems. We confirmed that God is faithful and hears our prayers, and that neither our convention nor the churches that are part of it leave us alone. We truly realized that we are not alone."

A total of 111 children and youth attended. Thirteen made professions of faith, including seven from the church's own youth group—four of these requested baptism.

The impact of this partnership went beyond Danville. "Becoming aware of the needs of other churches has been very meaningful for our congregation," Pastor Pedro said. "It has motivated us to take action and look for ways to help. This time, our members were so generous that we exceeded our original goal of \$600. Our church has been so encouraged by this experience that we are currently collecting additional funds and exploring new opportunities—whether with church plants or missionaries—that we can bless. We are becoming a generous church."

Through the prayers and generosity of God's people, He provided for His church, changed lives, and made His faithfulness known. ■