



Acting justly and loving mercy in 2025 and 2026

*And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God. - Micah 6: 8b*

Thanks to the donations of individuals and churches, Paz y Esperanza UK was able to send the offices in Latin America £13,659 at the end of last year, about £2,000 more than the previous year. In this newsletter we will be looking back at 2025 and highlighting some of the work carried out by the PyE teams in Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia. We will also be finding out about the plans the teams have to use the money being raised in 2026. This year PyE is planning a regional project to prevent violence against children and young people, primarily through the delivery of educational workshops. Some of the money will be used to fund these. We know the teams are very grateful for the support from the UK. Thank you so much for partnering with us.

BOLIVIA



PyE Bolivia working with women in the Palmasola Prison

The team in Bolivia, including lawyers and psychologists, focused their work with vulnerable people in 2025 on five main areas:

- Working with women in Palmasola prison. They provided the women with legal help as well as psychological and spiritual help caring for their wellbeing and improving their self-esteem.
- Working with the Guaraní indigenous population in Santa Cruz helping to protect their land and human rights and working with them to promote their leadership skills and women's rights.
- Fighting against gender-based violence, working with women to bring their aggressors to account and providing refuge for those affected.
- Providing practical help to families to ensure they received basic provisions, including food.
- Running workshops with faith communities to strengthen their knowledge of their rights and how to prevent violence at home.

Martha told us: *"I spent two years in prison away from my children and with no clear sentence length. I thought the world had forgotten me, but the PyE lawyers came as an answer to my prayers. They not only took on my case until I was released, but they reminded me that God had a plan for my life. Now I am with my family again and my heart is at peace."*

The team are mindful that the justice system is creaking in Bolivia and resources are limited. In 2026, the team want to use the money from PyE UK to pay for more church workshops in Guaraní communities and more workshops in Palmasola prison and transport and food costs for the facilitators.

COLOMBIA



Women with their 'Butterfly embroideries'

In 2025, the team continued their work with women and young people in Nueva Jerusalén, an informal settlement near Medellín where 27,000 people live in poor conditions.

- One of the projects is called 'Mujeres de la Memoria' (Women of Memory) and helps women come to terms with past traumas after living through the armed conflict by expressing themselves through art. One of the ladies said: *"With this butterfly embroidery, I felt free to share my story with other women. For a long time, I felt that what I lived through was insignificant but I was able to learn from other women who had also had painful experiences. That gave us strength and hope."*
- The team also continued their work with women affected by sexual and psychological violence. They also worked with churches in Urabá Antioquia providing practical and legal support and Bible teaching. One church leader commented on a workshop she attended: *"These groups are a breath of fresh air and God taught me something new."*
- Last year Director Giovanni Gómez was able to work on a strategic plan for 2026-2030, as well as a number of important policies. He will use the PyE UK funds towards projects in Granizál near Medellín helping to prevent violence against children, including domestic and sexual violence.

PERU



Funerals of the six young men killed by Peruvian military in August 1984 in Callqui, Ayacucho

Perú has a population of 32 million people, of whom 10 million live in poverty and 1.5 million in extreme poverty, so the need is great.

- The main focus of PyE Perú is helping people to achieve justice after the period of armed conflict that the country experienced between 1980 and 2000. PyE is part of a national Christian human rights movement involved in a number of cases representing hundreds of victims and survivors.
- In 2025, there was significant political turmoil in Peru and persecution of institutions trying to defend the rights of victims of the conflict and human rights in general. However, PyE continued to work on its three key cases, which are Putis, Huanta (including Callqui) and Ccarpaccasa/Silaccasa/Sankaypata, as well as a number of other cases despite the frustrations with the justice system.
- The team pointed out that it is important to fight as these cases *"leave an imprint in our memory which remind us that the country of truth and justice we are dreaming of will only be possible if we walk a path of solidarity with the victims."*

In 2026, PyE will use the money from PyE UK to offer anti-violence workshops in churches in Lima.

ECUADOR



Women's training workshop in progress

PyE Ecuador continued its work in 2025 in Guayaquil in a context of increasing levels of criminality and violence.

- They ran a number of educational workshops and fairs in public spaces to publicise their key messages and created resources to raise awareness. These included a series of five workshops with 35 boys on positive masculinity, including education about communication, respect and peaceful conflict resolution.
- In Flor de Bastión and San Francisco del Noroeste, 38 women took place in training to make them aware of their rights and to help them live lives free from violence. For three years, the team has also been working in Milagro, two hours from Guayaquil.

- The team have many testimonies of women affected by violence and injustice. Arely is a 41-year-old wife, mother and grandmother. She grew up in a violent household full of fear and hurt. She became pregnant when very young. She said: "*I faced conflict, infidelity and a lack of trust. Although I appeared strong, I would often cry with frustration and pain. My life began to change when I met PyE who taught me to see myself with different eyes. In community workshops I learnt my rights and found my voice. I learnt that nobody has the right to humiliate me or control my life. I learnt that violence is never the fault of the victim. In spite of all the obstacles, I started studying at university and now I support my sister and other women in my community helping them to stand up for themselves and believe in themselves.*"

The money raised by PyE UK will help to continue this valuable work in 2026. It will go towards running the workshops and buying materials, as well as communication and administration costs.

Please pray for all the teams, including Brazil, Chile, Argentina and El Salvador, as they continue their work. We will share prayer requests from the teams in our February prayer update.



SHE DID IT!! Mandy Marshall, one of PyE UK Trustees, completed the 'Christmas Pudding Run' in the Langdale Valley, Cumbria just before Christmas. She raised over £1,100 for the support of PyE across the region. Well done Mandy, and thank you to those who supported her!

Sophia Brehm, the daughter of PyE UK's Trustee Vicky Brehm, has recently joined the PyE Colombia team in Medellín for a 4 month placement. It is part of her university course in History and Spanish. She will also be studying at the Medellín Seminary (Seminario Bíblico de Colombia). Please pray for her during these months.

None of the above would be possible without your support, both financial and in prayer. Do please join us with a regular or one-off donation at <https://www.justgiving.com/pazyesperanza>