

Editorial Bautista  
Independiente  
exists to aid  
Hispanic churches  
in the fulfillment of the  
Great Commission  
through the creation,  
publication,  
distribution,  
and training in  
the effective use of  
gospel-centered,  
doctrinally sound,  
and theologically  
profound literature.

## OBSTACLES & OPPORTUNITIES IN MISSIONS

In 1996, we (the Burkholder family) arrived in Mexico City, Mexico. We were thrilled to begin the ministry to which God had called us: sharing the gospel, planting churches, and training national leaders. Admittedly, we were naïve about the challenges ahead. Learning a new language, navigating a different culture, and coping with separation from family and friends were just a few of the many cross-cultural obstacles we faced. The adjustment was difficult, and the struggles were real.

When we returned to the United States in 2005 to join Editorial Bautista Independiente (EBI), we were equally naïve. We assumed that a change in location would ease the challenges of missionary service, and we dove into EBI's ministry with eager but unsophisticated enthusiasm. While I knew books, I quickly realized I had no experience in book publishing or the many complexities of the ministry at EBI. I had much to learn.

In this edition of the *EBI Vision*, we want to share some of the challenges we face at Editorial Bautista Independiente. Publishing is a unique form of ministry. While traditional ministries proclaim God's Word through teaching and preaching, we put God's Word on paper. We produce books and resources that explain, teach, and apply Scripture. While that may sound simple, it is anything but.

The ministry of EBI involves a variety of logistical challenges including: the coordination of translators and editors to ensure texts are accurate and readable, the determination of the most cost-effective locations to print high-quality books, the identification of the best ways to promote our titles to Spanish speakers around the world, and the protection of our resources in the digital age. These are just a few of the logistical issues that we work through every day.

As you read this edition of the *EBI Vision*, we invite you to see not only the obstacles but also the opportunities God has placed before us. Each challenge reminds us that this ministry belongs to Him—and that through your partnership, His Word continues to reach Spanish-speaking believers around the world.

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# REACHING THE NATIONS:

## *Overcoming the Obstacles of Distance*



**O**n any given day, EBI will receive orders from all over the Spanish-speaking world. A pastor in Mexico, a church in Ecuador, and a conference in Spain – all are interested in EBI books and inquire how they might be obtained. One significant obstacle in the fulfillment of EBI's mission is the considerable geographic distance between our office in Sebring, Florida, and the Hispanic communities we aim to serve.

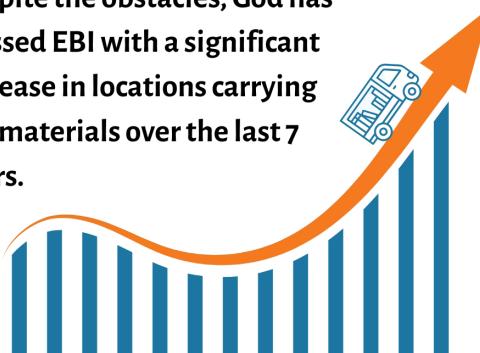
While the Hispanic population continues to grow here in the United States, our office is located at least 600 miles from Mexico and over 4,000 miles from countries like Chile and Spain. This distance raises an important question: How can we make EBI books accessible to our brethren across the globe? How can we reach the nations?

For many years, direct mail was a viable solution. Through the U.S. Postal Service's "M Bags," EBI could ship books internationally at a relatively low cost. Though not the fastest method, it was effective in distributing EBI titles. Unfortunately, the steep rise in postage rates has made this option unsustainable. Today, the cost to ship a book internationally far exceeds the price of the book itself, making it far more difficult to recover publication costs.

We next attempted to establish our own network of EBI distributors. A family in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, and another in Lima, Peru, volunteered to help. These families worked tirelessly to make EBI materials available in their regions, but with limited time, energy, and resources, they were unable to reach all of their own countries—much less the wider Hispanic world.

### **60% ANNUAL GROWTH OF BOOKSTORES CARRYING EBI MATERIALS**

**Despite the obstacles, God has blessed EBI with a significant increase in locations carrying our materials over the last 7 years.**



In 2018 we joined the Spanish Evangelical Publishers Association (SEPA), a growing network of Spanish evangelical publishers, distributors, and related services. Through SEPA, we were introduced to dozens of distributors and hundreds of bookstores across the Spanish-speaking world. Today, by God's grace, EBI titles can be found in more than 200 bookstores spanning sixteen Spanish-speaking countries. Our dream of placing EBI resources within arm's reach of Hispanic ministry partners, wherever they might be

found, is being realized. And what about digital books? Is that a good means to distribute books internationally? Yes, all EBI titles are available through Kindle and Logos which means that any EBI book can be acquired instantly all over the world. But this leads us to another significant obstacle...

*"Today, by God's grace, EBI titles can be found in more than 200 bookstores spanning sixteen Spanish-speaking countries."*

# THE BOTTOM LINE:

## Why Publishing Costs Keep Rising



Publishing has become far more expensive in recent years. Paper prices are up nearly 40% since 2020, and shipping remains about 30% higher than before the pandemic. The costs of ink, packaging, and even cardboard boxes have all climbed as well. (See the included infographic for details.)

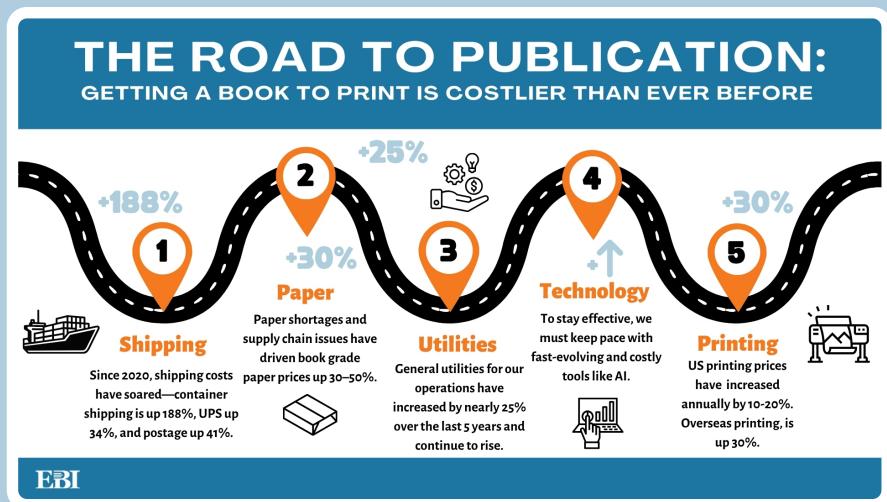
But the greater challenge for a ministry like ours isn't just higher costs; it's higher expectations. Readers today expect professional design, durable binding, and digital access. They also look for new, relevant materials that meet the spiritual needs of growing churches. Meeting that standard requires more than good intentions. It takes better tools, systems, and skills.

We've been steadily improving every part of our operation. Cloud-based systems now connect our editors, translators, designers, and printers across several countries. AI tools assist with accuracy, layout, and order fulfillment. These upgrades help us work smarter and faster, but they also add new expenses.

Better tools mean better equipment and more training. Our team continues to grow in editing, translation, and design to meet today's publishing standards. The result is a ministry that operates more efficiently and professionally than ever before. EBI has come a long way from printing booklets in a home garage.

For us, the bottom line isn't just about dollars. It's about stewardship. Every investment in systems, tools, and training helps strengthen the future of Spanish-language gospel ministry. We are not simply keeping up with publishing trends—we're striving to lead in quality, accuracy, and accessibility for the glory of God.

Yes, costs have gone up, but so has the impact. Each new book produced with excellence reaches further, lasts longer, and serves more effectively than ever before. Excellence in publishing is costly, but what it accomplishes for the cause of Christ is priceless.



*"Excellence comes at a price, and it's higher than ever before."*

# THE DIGITAL LEAK:

## How Online Piracy Threatens Publishing

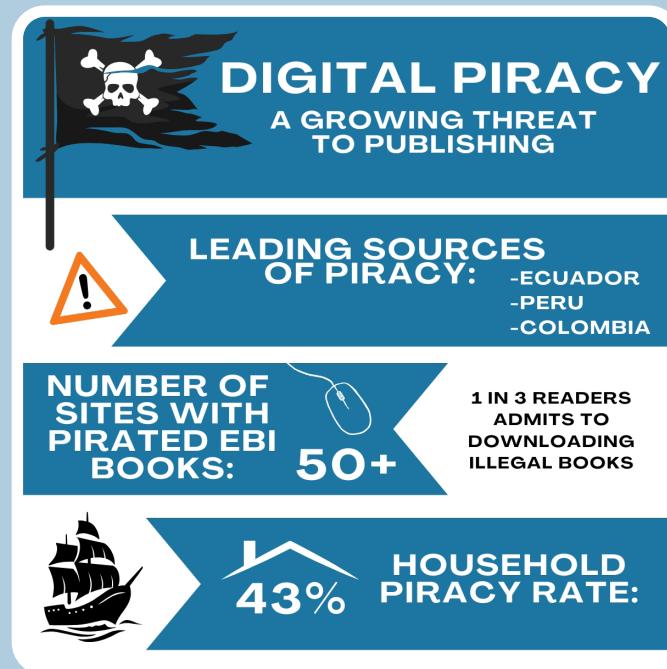
I will never forget walking along Punta Hermosa Beach just south of Lima. Between food vendors and umbrella rentals, people walked the sand carrying bags filled with CDs, DVDs, and even books. For the cost of a soda, you could buy a new release, all of it pirated. During my fifteen years in Peru, I realized this was everyday life. Studies show that 98% of all media in Peru is pirated and sold openly in markets and on street corners.

What I saw in Peru is not unique. Across Latin America, piracy is widespread. In Mexico, more than 40 percent of people admit to reading pirated books. In Chile, police have seized hundreds of thousands of counterfeit titles worth millions of dollars. University students often rely on photocopied textbooks instead of originals. The numbers vary from country to country, but one fact remains: piracy is everywhere.

For our ministry, this presents serious challenges. We are committed to paying authors fairly and producing books of high quality. Each pirated copy, whether printed or downloaded, undermines that mission. Editing, design, printing, and distribution all have real costs. When sales are lost, resources for new projects disappear and authors go unpaid. Quality also suffers. Pirated books are known for thin paper, crooked text,

missing chapters, or bindings that fall apart. Yet those are often the editions readers encounter, and both the publisher and author's reputation are damaged.

At the same time, we understand that many students, pastors, and families simply cannot afford books. In one sense, we are encouraged that our titles are in such demand. Seeing them shared freely online shows that the content is valued. But it also weakens our ability to continue producing and distributing Christ-centered resources for the Spanish-speaking world. That is why we are so grateful for those who partner with us through prayer and giving. Because of their generosity, EBI is able to donate thousands of books to students and pastors across Latin America. Donations make it possible to keep prices low so that more readers can afford genuine editions.



For us, this issue is about more than money. It is about integrity, stewardship, and faithfulness to the work God has given us. Every time someone chooses an original book, they protect authors, preserve quality, and help ensure that Spanish Christian publications continue to serve churches and families with excellence and honesty.

*"Donations make it possible to keep prices low so that more readers can afford genuine editions."*



# HELP US TURN OBSTACLES INTO OPPORTUNITIES

While walls cannot stop the gospel, we need your help to rise above them. Your support transforms obstacles into opportunities—publishing life-changing literature for those who need it most. Give today and be part of this unstoppable movement.



GIVE A ONE-TIME GIFT TO  
HELP WITH A SPECIAL  
PROJECT



BECOME A MONTHLY  
DONOR TO HELP OUR  
ONGOING MISSION



# FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

by Dr. Bruce Burkholder



## Keeping Ministry at the Heart of Our Mission

One could compare EBI to the hybrid car—a perfect blend of two essential elements working together in harmony. In the late 1990s Toyota launched the Prius which combined a gasoline engine with an electric motor. Much like this hybrid car, Editorial EBI is a ministry with a necessary business component, and it is the combination of these two that drives EBI forward to fulfill its mission.

EBI is first and foremost a *ministry*. One could say that ministry is the “electric motor” of EBI. Driven by a love for God, a hunger for His Word, and a passion to proclaim the gospel, our primary purpose is to equip Hispanic national churches and believers with the very best resources for Great Commission ministry. EBI resources are crafted for the sole purpose of seeing lives transformed by the gospel, strengthening churches in doctrine and practice, equipping pastors and leaders, and proclaiming our doctrinal beliefs in the public square.

But just like the hybrid car requires a gasoline engine to charge the electric battery, the ministry of EBI requires a logistical component to keep it going. Property and equipment must be purchased and maintained. Books must be written, printed, and broadly distributed. For this, a sustainable business model is essential. Through the sale of EBI books in Christian bookstores and to ministries worldwide, EBI is able to continue our work, fund new projects, expand our reach, and fulfill our mission. This is the “gas engine” of EBI—providing the financial energy and the logistical process to sustain our momentum and amplify our ministry impact.

But here is the challenge we face and for which we need your prayers. This logistical side of EBI, if we are not careful, can overwhelm us. Yes, we want to do our job better. Yes, we want to produce the best-looking books for the lowest price. Yes, we want our books disseminated as widely as possible. And yes, this takes hard work to utilize the many opportunities that the Lord has provided us. However, if we are not vigilant it can control our decisions and even, may God protect us, alter our course.

### Staff Highlight: Darrel and Lori Jingst

Darrel and Lori Jingst both grew up in the Midwest in Christian homes and trusted Christ as their Savior early in life. They met at Faith Baptist Bible College, where Darrel majored in Youth Ministry and Lori studied in the secretarial program. They were married in 1983.



After graduation, Darrel served as a bi-vocational youth pastor at First Baptist Church in Brayton, Iowa, while working during the week at a phototypesetting and composition company. During those years, they often questioned why they were in secular jobs when their hearts longed for full-time ministry—but God was using that time to prepare them.

In 1990, Bob Owen, an EBI missionary printer, visited a pastors’ meeting to present the EBI ministry and its need for an experienced printer. After various conversations between Darrel and Bob Owen, it became clear that this was the ministry for which God had been preparing them. For the past 30 years, the Jingsts have faithfully served at EBI. Darrel served first as a printer, and later as Production Manager. Lori serves in the Accounting Department.

We are grateful for Darrel and Lori’s years of faithful service and hard work at EBI. While only the Lord knows the full impact of their ministry, we know they are an integral part of everything we do at EBI. Thank you, Darrel and Lori!

*“For the past 30 years, the Jingsts have faithfully served at EBI.”*