



“WHOM HAVE I IN HEAVEN BUT THEE? AND THERE IS NONE UPON EARTH THAT I DESIRE BESIDE THEE. MY FLESH AND MY HEART FAILETH: BUT GOD IS THE STRENGTH OF MY HEART, AND MY PORTION FOR EVER.” — PSALM 73:25-26

Dear Friends and Supporters,

“Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father: To whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.” —Galatians 1:3-5 We hope and pray this letter finds you all doing well and experiencing God’s abundant blessings.

The last few months have been an encouragement to us. During the month of July, we had friends come down from the US to visit us, which was great! We enjoyed the fellowship, and the teens from our church really enjoyed having them help out and participate during one of their activities. Also in July, I was able to spend close to a week in northern Bolivia in the small city of Riberalta helping interpret for a medical mission team that a fellow missionary had come down. The medical team saw over 1,300 people that week. I can’t remember how many professions of faith we had, but there were quite a few. I’m so thankful God gave me the opportunity to share in that experience!

During August, Pastor Rodolfo, one of our deacons named Maximo, and I went on a motorcycle ministry getaway trip together, which was an encouragement to all of us. Then just a couple weeks later, in the beginning of September, Pastor Rodolfo and I went on a pastor’s retreat with a missionary friend and several other national pastors. Again, it was good to get away and fellowship with others in ministry.

Back at the beginning of this year, we met a Christian young man named Eduardo who approached us after seeing us talking to a deaf lady. He shared that God had put a burden on his heart for deaf people a couple years earlier, but he had not yet made any good connections into the deaf community. We invited him to visit our church, and from that point on he would occasionally visit our church. In the beginning of September, he met with me and shared that the pastor of his nondenominational church was upset with him for occasionally visiting our church and, more or less, kicked him out of their church. After that, Eduardo started attending our church services faithfully. Please pray for Eduardo. He made a profession of faith years ago, but only ever attended churches that had questionable doctrine. I have had the opportunity to disciple him a little bit over the last two months. He comes from a broken family where it seems he is the only “Christian”. He is putting himself through college while caring for an emotionally troubled younger sister and a mom with health problems. It is a heavy load for a 23 year old. The last few months Eduardo has been taking sign language classes, and our church people already love him even though he has not officially become a member yet. Despite him saying that he is saved, and despite his evident heart for serving God, we are not yet sure if he is like Cornelius. Cornelius served God faithfully before he was saved all the while searching for the truth, until God brought Peter to him with the truth. So, please pray that if Eduardo is not yet saved, he would understand his lost state and surrender his life to Christ, and if he is saved, pray that he will grow and mature in his faith.



Pastor/Deacon Trip
Luke, Rodolfo, & Maximo



Eduardo



Luke receiving a shirt from the
mayor of the city of Tarija



Left: Luke & Rut
Right: Marisol & Luke

Also, during the month of September our Bible translation team had a special visitor from the Canadian Bible Society in Canada named Fady(*pronounced 'Fau-dy'*). During Fady's visit, I was invited to join several of the Bolivian Bible Society's leadership and Fady on a trip to the city of Tarija in southern Bolivia. While there, we visited a deaf group and were able to present our Bolivian sign language video Bible to them. We were also given the unique opportunity to promote our Bible project with the mayor of Tarija and his staff, during which time he held a little ceremony recognizing us for our work within the deaf community of Bolivia. Later in September, I had the opportunity to travel to the city of Potosí with my deaf friend and bible project coworker CJ for a large deaf event in honor of International Deaf Week. We went to promote our deaf video Bible. While there, I was able to pass out close to 800 tracts and sign language booklets that our church produced, as well as lots of business cards with a QR code linking directly to the video Bible. At the deaf event, I was tremendously blessed to run into a deaf young lady named Rut who got saved in our first deaf ministry in Sucre many years ago. Rut was so excited to see me and was very happy to hear about the Bible translation in her own language. That was such a blessing!

In the beginning of October, we were very happy to host our BIMI South America director Sean Lunday and his wife Stephanie for a week. Not only were they able to minister to my family, but they were also our guest speakers in a 2-day marriage/family seminar we held at our church. We know this benefited the families in our church, because they are still talking about it. We are very grateful for their servants' hearts and willingness to invest in us here in Bolivia. Later in October I traveled with CJ again to present the Bible project to the deaf, this time in the cities of La Paz and Oruro. Both visits went well. Our trip to Oruro was especially meaningful to me because one of the deaf there was a young lady named Marisol, who, just like Rut, was saved in our deaf church in Sucre many years ago. And just like Rut, she was also really excited to reconnect with me. I'm so glad God orchestrated both of those encounters.

On a more somber note, it was brought to Pastor Rodolfo's attention and then later my attention that one of our members, Valerio, has been cheating on his wife. This breaks our hearts because Valerio has been a part of our church since the very beginning and was a part of Pastor Rodolfo's church before that. We don't know how long this has been going on. Shortly after being found out and confronted by his sin, he was in a motorcycle accident and broke his leg. Unfortunately, instead of repenting, he has been pushing away all of our attempts to see him and to counsel him. Please pray that God would get ahold of his heart and that he would repent. Also pray for his wife Erika and his 16 year old son Reynaldo and his 9 year old daughter Mariana. We have not been able to convince any of them to return to church since the motorcycle accident a month and a half ago. Reynaldo especially needs prayer because he is his family's main interpreter, including for his dad in the hospital, with his dad's job, for extra family members visiting Valerio, and for the police and lawyers involved in the accident, etc. It is a terribly large burden for a child to bear, and on top of that, Reynaldo is aware of his dad cheating on his mom.

Some positive and encouraging news to share is that our church has just welcomed it's second baby into the family. Our deacon Maximo and his wife Adela just had their first baby a week ago. They named him Zayn. Both Maximo and Adela just recently agreed to help my wife and I lead our youth group. They are well loved in our church. All the children consider them their adopted aunt and uncle. We are really happy for them and their new precious baby.

Last weekend was All Saints Day (Nov. 1st) and All Soul's Day or Day of the Dead (Nov. 2nd). This is a holiday where many people remember and pray for their loved ones who passed away. Many people believe that their departed family members souls return on All Soul's Day to visit with their families. So our church got together at our city's cemetery and passed out 1,800 tracts and our church's sign language booklets to people visiting the cemetery. We trust that God will take these seeds that we have planted and will bear fruit in the future. Unfortunately, I missed it because last second the Bible Society asked me to attend a two week Bible translation class in Bogota, Colombia. I left last Saturday night, and we just wrapped up the first week of training and have one more week to go. There are eight of us from around South America attending the training. I have enjoyed getting to know the others here and am glad I have this opportunity gain a better understanding of how to carefully translate God's precious Word more accurately.

We appreciate your prayers for us and our ministry. Please keep our family and Pastor Rodolfo's family in your prayers. Pray for our spiritual lives to remain strong and to keep growing. If we falter our ministry falters with us, and the devil is alive and actively fighting our church. Pray for Valerio and his family, for Eduardo, for Maximo and Adela and their new son Zayn, and pray for our deaf Bible translation project to finish out this year by meeting all our deadlines. Every single prayer on our behalf is important and greatly appreciated. God bless you and your families!

For the Gospel's Sake,

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