

# Marie Family update

Santa Cruz, Bolivia

Nov-Feb '25

“SOME WISH TO LIVE WITHIN THE SOUND OF CHURCH AND CHAPEL BELL. I WANT TO RUN A RESCUE SHOP WITHIN A YARD OF HELL!”  
— C.T. STUDD

Dear Friends and Supporters,

*“Only one life, 'twill soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last.” — C.T. Studd* It is our hope and prayer that each of you are doing well. God has been reminding us a lot recently that we only have one life to live, and we ought to be living that life fully for Christ and for His kingdom. We are tremendously thankful to get to live and serve in Bolivia, and to get to minister to the spiritual needs of the Bolivian people, deaf and hearing alike.

The end of 2025 was busy and full of blessings. God has been at work opening new doors for me. Through our Bible translation project, I have been invited to participate in additional training for Bible translators. This training is comprised of several block classes each year for the next two and a half years, and the focus is how to accurately translate the Bible. In November I attended my first block class. I spent two weeks in Colombia. I am excited to participate in this training so I can better myself for the furtherance of the Gospel. Our translation project is continuing well. It is slow going, but steady. Each new verse we translate accurately for the deaf population of Bolivia is another verse that brings God's light to dark hearts. We have created business cards with a QR code that connects people with the portions of the Bible that we have already finished. We are distributing these cards within the deaf community to get portions of the Bible into their hands. Please keep praying for this project. It is one of our most important ministry endeavors.

In December I finally finished my master's degree. I completed a Master of Ministry with a specialization in biblical counseling. I didn't think I would continue grinding away in higher academics, but God has different plans for me. I just recently received a fully paid scholarship to pursue a second master's degree. This degree will be an MA in Translation of Scripture. I will start online classes this coming fall. I trust God will use this additional degree for His glory.

Our church ended last year with our traditional big Christmas party. We had multiple visitors and returning visitors attend, and were able to present the Gospel to them. We also held an extra special youth activity for our teens. We are thankful to see our teens growing in Christ and taking more of an interest in church.

In our last update we mentioned a man in our church named Valerio who cheated on his wife Erika. Please keep praying for their family. The family started to attend church again, but not faithfully. Their 16 year old son Reynaldo has come to church even less. We are heartbroken for this family. Reynaldo is one of the kids in our youth group that has been with us since the very beginning. We are worried he is making bad choices.

Over the new year we have had 4 new teenagers start to attend our church who have



Avril & Ángel with some of our church kids and a visiting friend



Hayley  
(senior photo)



Jessica & Luke  
Church Christmas Party  
2025



Luke and his Bible  
Translation Team

deaf family members. Pray for Raldes (19) and Flavio (16) whose parents are deaf and do not attend our church. They have only come a handful of times, but have expressed a desire to know more about God. Pray also for 17 year old Ángel and his 15 year old sister Avril(pronounced like Abril). Their grandfather attends our church. Their parents are Catholic, but they are okay with the kids coming to our church. Both Ángel and Avril came faithfully for two months straight, but recently they had conflict with their father who is harsh on them. Ángel ran away from home for awhile, but thankfully he was found. They both have missed church for the last two weeks. All four of these new teens desperately need Christ. They need to know there is hope in this world full of struggles and disappointment. Please pray for God to work in their hearts, to bring them back to church, and most importantly, pray for their salvation.

This last month has been extremely busy. Thanks to a special generous gift from one of our supporting churches, we were able to purchase office furniture and convert a small unused room in our church into an office for our pastors. We were also able to make various repairs and improvements for our church, including painting our church and buying a new pulpit. We are excited to have everything ready and looking nice for our church's 8th anniversary coming up in March. Please pray for our anniversary preparations. We always have our highest number of visitors on that Sunday.

Other news happening in the Marie family...Our second oldest daughter Hayley is wrapping up her last few high school classes and will be attending her graduation ceremony in the states in June. We are proud to say that she has been accepted into Pensacola Christian College and will be attending there this fall and majoring in art and missions. She is committed to serving God as a missionary! Hayley has applied for a job at PCC this summer, but we were told due to the high volume of current students looking for work, she might not be hired. We are relying heavily on this job to help pay for part of her college bill. If she doesn't get hired by PCC, she doesn't have the connections, a vehicle, or a place to live and work in the states before fall classes. We would greatly appreciate extra prayers that PCC hires her.

Since Hayley is graduating, and we need to bring yet another daughter back to the US to attend college, we will be taking a furlough this spring and summer. We have already begun to schedule meetings, and are trying to prioritize churches that we haven't seen in a long time. Furloughs are a blessing, but are also a big undertaking as we set up meetings and plan our schedule in the states, while wrapping up life and ministry in Bolivia. Please pray that God helps us with each detail of our furlough preparation, and pray that God provides the meetings as well as the finances to make it all happen.

Finally, I wanted to let you know what has been going on with my health recently. Some of you may remember that when we were in the US in 2024 bringing our oldest daughter to college, I started to bleed in my esophagus and was taken to the emergency room. It was discovered that I have a severe case of Barretts Esophagus, and I have been controlling my acid reflux with medicine and diet ever since. Recently I had a scare that ended up with me in the emergency room again, and I had an endoscopy done. Thankfully my Barretts was not any worse, but they did discover that I have a hiatal hernia. Thankfully the hernia is not very bad, but the doctor recommended surgery. I believe it is somewhat of a complicated surgery, so I will be getting a second opinion in the US and maybe having surgery there. My family and I would appreciate your prayers for my health.

Thank you for prayers and support through all these years. We covet your extra prayers as we have been and still are tremendously busy during this time.

For the Gospel's Sake,

*Luke & Jessica Marie*