

Dear family and friends,

Since our last Bolivia update we have had a lot of different ministry activities which we have been involved in. On Oct 9<sup>th</sup> we were invited to the home of Pastor Adolfo Chambi for a dinner and time of sharing. All of the adults from his church, La Gracia were invited and there was a really good group there. What a blessing to play a few games with them, listen to the ideas of different ones for the future of the church, and then to share a wonderful meal with them. After the dinner, Dan and I ended up staying and talking with the Chambi family until very late. What a precious family! Their son Ruben, is one of our main leaders out at the Km 14 La Gracia Church. Two days later we had a big fundraiser dinner for the continuing construction at the Km 14 church. It was great to see the leaders working together preparing the different food items. Mary Sue took her potato peeler and the women were very intrigued by it. They are so used to peeling potatoes and carrots with a knife, they were amazed at how fast it could be done with the peeler. They all wanted one! At the dinner Mary Sue and Tasha sold pineapple juice.....so refreshing on a hot day!

On Oct 16<sup>th</sup> elections were held in Bolivia to elect members of the Supreme Court. Elections are always held on Sundays and people are to walk or ride a bike to a designated location near their home to vote. Only emergency vehicles are allowed on the streets. If you are caught driving a car you will receive a fine. They are actually very quiet, peaceful days. People walk up and down the streets because there is no traffic. No public gathering are allowed so there is no church in the morning. These rules are lifted around 6 pm and then you start to hear some vehicles on the road. Many churches will then have an evening service. Can you imagine if the government told you that you couldn't drive on a certain day? Life is different in all countries. Here people just seem to accept it.

Our annual Women's Retreat was held at our own Camp Buena Vista the first weekend in Nov. What a fun time! It was incredible to be with so many of our women from our different churches. We had around 60 women who attended and they were just a great group! Mary Sue had the opportunity to share and demonstrate how to hold a Christmas Gathering – a way of inviting friends or neighbors into one's home during the Christmas season, sharing family traditions, and then tying it all in with a clear gospel message. The women were so receptive to this idea of evangelism right in their homes, and each of the churches represented at the retreat were given a resource manual. In our closing session we asked women to come forward if they had met someone new during this retreat. Many came forward with their new friends. It was so neat to see these bridges of friendship that were made between women from different churches. What a blessing!

Dan and I recently had the privilege of attending the 15<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration for Rebeca, the daughter of one of our Bolivian pastors. In Bolivia, a girls 15<sup>th</sup> birthday is a very big deal, she is no longer a little girl but is considered a young lady. These celebrations can be as elaborate as a wedding, usually going until 3 or 4 in the morning. They can be very interesting. Rebeca's celebration was unlike any we had ever been to. Among other things, her family presented her with a purity ring, a necklace with special significance,

and a new Bible,. It was very touching and honoring to the Lord. A mariachi band was there to liven up the festivities, and of course a wonderful meal was served to everyone.

For Nov 13<sup>th</sup> the Km 14 La Gracia church had their much anticipated river trip. We met at church and then most of the kids and leaders walked the ½ mile or so to the river. We drove our vehicle with the grill and food supplies. Our morning service was held right by the river, it was beautiful being outside. After the service the kids played in the river, which by the way looked like liquid chocolate. The water was so brown but the kid didn't seem to mind one bit. Everyone brought their own rice, potatoes, and drinks and the leaders grilled meat to share. We brought a large cooler full of juice to share which was a good thing since it was so hot. Everyone was so thirsty! We are already looking forward to the next river trip, since everyone had such a great time. The following Sunday we held our first service in the upstairs of our church. Many from La Gracia Church (the church that started the Km 14 church plant) came to celebrate this special service with us. Pastor Adolfo Chambi preached and at the end of the service we had a very special prayer circle. Pastor Chambi prayed for the future of the church and for the new building to be used to further God's word in that community. The church building is by no means finished. The upstairs windows have no glass in them, the walls are brick, and the floor is rough cement. There is still a lot of work to do on the construction, but it is slowly moving along. At the end of the service there were chicken salad sandwiches for everyone. We always seem to eat when we are together!

On Dec 1 – 4, we celebrated the 53<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of our Bolivian mission, Mision Evangelica Bethesda. It was so special to have people from our churches in La Paz, Cochabamba, and Oruro with us. At the closing program on Sunday night, Dan and I had the privilege of sitting at a table with some of our people from La Paz. What precious people! It was really something during this program to hear of the love that the Bolivians feel towards all of the missionaries that have been here through the years. Interspersed throughout the program they read a history of the missionaries. It was really interesting! They really give the missionaries credit for starting the work here in Bolivia. They are so grateful for the sacrifices that were made through the years. These four days were a real celebration of what has been accomplished through the years, but also a look at what the Lord has in store for the future of our Bolivian mission.

Trevor and Tasha are finishing up this week with final exams and are looking forward to Christmas vacation just around the corner. I think we are all anxious for some relaxed time to enjoy as a family. We hope that each one of you will have a blessed Christmas surrounded by family and friends. Thank you for your faithful support of our ministry here in Bolivia. We are so thankful for your prayers and financial help. If you would like to donate online to our ministry through Grace Ministries International, please click [here](#).

Please pray:

1. for our mission president, Pepe Yucra and the MEB Leadership Committee as they plan for 2012.
2. for the health of our family. (Although the H1N1 flu crisis seems to be behind us, we are now hearing of an increasing number of cases of dengue fever in Santa Cruz)

3. for Dan as he has a heavier load of preaching and teaching in our various churches at this time.
4. for the growth of the church which was recently re-opened in the department of Oruro, Bolivia,

Praise:

1. for the wonderful anniversary celebration of our Mision Evangelica Bethesda.
2. for the good group of youth who are meeting on Sat evenings at the Km 14 La Gracia Church.
3. for our faithful Bolivian pastors and their families.

Serving through Christ,  
Dan, Mary Sue, Trevor, and Tasha Reed