



This year has flown by so quickly. It is hard to believe that more than half of the year is already over. We are thankful God has given us a good year so far. Thank you for praying for us and for our ministry.

Our church still seems to be slow in recovering from last year's lengthy Covid quarantines. Even now we have people who previously attended our church who are still afraid to come back to church because of Covid-19. Bolivians are still wary of the pandemic and we are still required to wear masks everywhere in Bolivia inside and outside, except in private homes. During the beginning of June the government did another partial quarantine which shut everything down on Sundays and forced us to do online services again for about a month. Surprisingly we have had quite a few new visitors this year thanks to posting our services on facebook and our people inviting other deaf. Those of our church people who have been coming regularly have had a great spirit and that has been an encouragement to us. Jessica's children's Sunday school class has especially flourished this year averaging between 12-16 children each Sunday. We are excited to see that side of our ministry grow. We now have a small handful of teens and have started a monthly teen class. Two of the times we had our teen class we were able to invite some other youth groups from some other good local churches. It was nice to have the extra kids since our group is so small.

The Bible translation project has reached an exciting point. We are getting ready make and edit the final videos of several passages of Scripture to present to the deaf community in Bolivia. After this big meeting where we will show the deaf these video Bible passages we will use their feedback to tweak

the sign language and then upload the finalized passages of Scripture onto a website on the internet, as well as put them on dvds and flash drives and freely distribute them with Bolivia's deaf community. The project has certainly faced many big trials over the last several years. Our most recent trial came in the form of one of our deaf translation team members, named Jesus Fernando. We have had problems with him before, but this year we really started to see a downward spiral. He started lying about things and talking bad about all of the other team members behind their backs, myself included. He and his wife made some unfounded and hurtful accusations about another team member Jimena. We had several lengthy counseling sessions after church regarding those accusations. Remember all of the deaf translators are also members of our church. Instead of getting better and acknowledging the sin in his life, Jesus Fernando hardened his heart and things got worse until he quit the Bible project and his family left the church. Unfortunately they still refuse to see any wrong doing on their part and are slandering the Bible project and accusing me of preaching false doctrine. Pray for restoration for him and his family and pray God will protect the Bible project and our church from his slander. Their daughter was also one of our few teens we had and was good friends with our two oldest daughters. We know this must be really hard on her.

We would appreciate prayers for my dad who has ALS. I've mentioned him

before in other updates. Because it had been two years since our last furlough and last seeing him we decided to make a fast trip back to the states to visit him since his health has declined a lot in the last two years. We combined the trip with a necessary passport renewal that had to be done this summer and couldn't be done in Bolivia since our embassy closed all those types of services since covid hit Bolivia last year. What was supposed to be a short trip seeing my dad and visiting with a few of our supporting churches and expediting a passport has had to be extended due to our family getting covid in August. God kept us safe and we recovered quickly. My mom got it as well and spent a week in the hospital, but miraculously God protected my dad and he never got it. We are so thankful for God bringing my mom out of it safely and protecting my dad. We had to delay our flight home twice now because of a false positive PCR test that is required to return to Bolivia. We recovered about a month ago, but we were warned that it could take several months before our tests would be negative. We will be taking the test again in less than two weeks. Please pray that we can make it back to Bolivia at that time. God certainly has a plan in all of this craziness. We've been keeping busy visiting supporting churches in the area around our sending church in SC, but we are eager to get home to our ministry and our life in Bolivia. We appreciate all your love and prayers.

For the Gospel's Sake,  
Luke & Jessica Marie

**Contact Info:** Field Address: Casilla #4202 Santa Cruz, Bolivia, South America

Support Info: BIMi ATTN: Accounts Receivable P.O. Box 9 Harrison, TN 37341 - LukeMarie@bimi.org