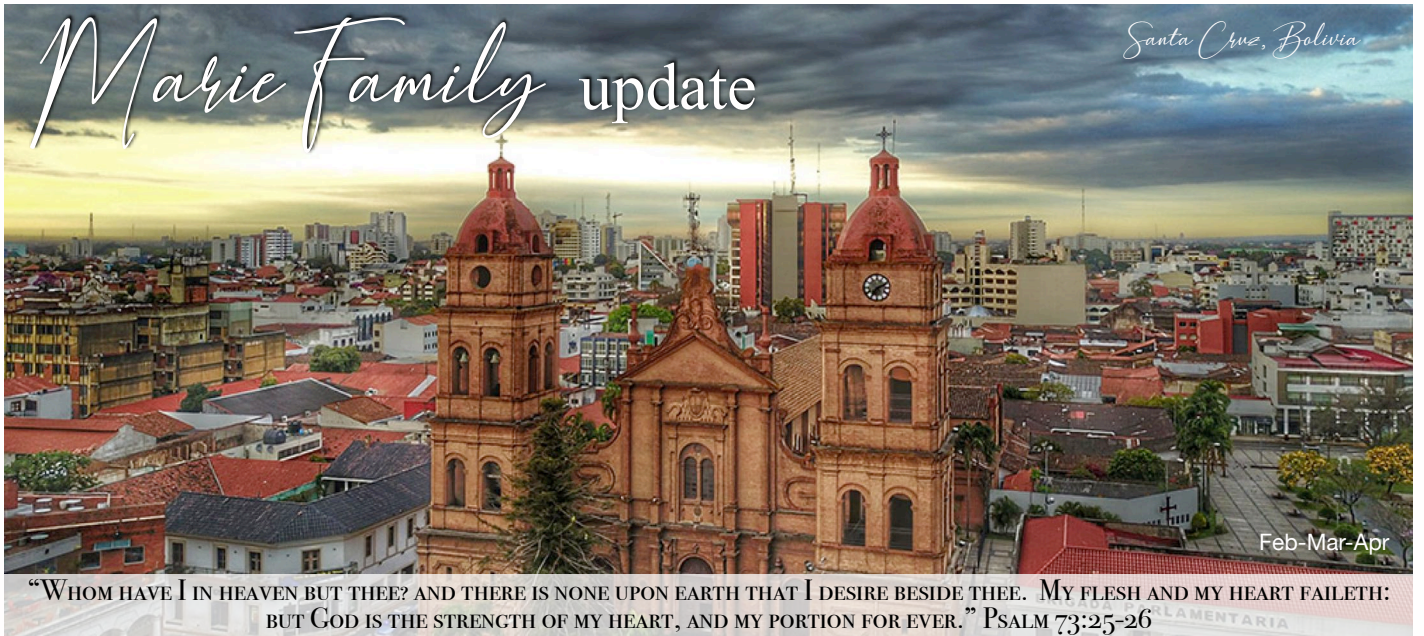


Marie Family update



Feb-Mar-Apr

“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,

We have had a very busy several months. In the beginning of February the Bible Project took on a new deaf team member. Some of you may remember last July when the third deaf member of our bible translation team quit due to problems. Well, the Bible Society finally hired a replacement for that person. The new member is a Swiss deaf man named Andreas who has lived in Bolivia and worked with deaf people for several decades. Interestingly enough Andreas, who is a part of the national deaf association in Bolivia, was one of the people that was against the translation project when it started several years ago. Over the last few years we have worked hard to build a good relationship with Andreas, even to the point of him being invited to be the third team member. What was supposed to be a good addition to the team has become quite complicated. One big complication is that Andreas insists on reworking everything that has already been completed and approved from the last few years. Unsurprisingly, there is a lot of tension among the deaf team members. Andreas is well educated in Bolivian sign language, but has no experience translating the Bible. It is my job to make sure they maintain the integrity of the Scriptures in their translating process. Andreas often disagrees with the others' translation work. I have spent many hours showing him where his understanding of the Bible text is wrong. He has politely accepted what I have to say, so I am thankful for that, but it is a battle everyday. Please pray that he will respect my input and respect the other two deaf interpreters who have been studying these passages for 3 years now.

Mid-March we celebrated Bolivian Father's Day and held an activity after church. We had good attendance and were encouraged to see all the ladies of the church work together to make this day special for all of the the fathers who came.

The first weekend in April our church celebrated its fourth anniversary. Many people contributed to making it a very special day. Jessica's Sunday school class sang and signed several songs for the adults and then a group of deaf put on a skit. After the service we all shared a nice meal together. We had an excellent turnout at the anniversary service with just shy of 60 people in attendance.

Just last week our church received some bad news. One of our members, a deaf man named David, had traveled to Spain to spend time with his brother. Then he went to Argentina to visit his sister. Sadly, he died of a heart attack while there. David was one of our most faithful members. He always helped out when there was a need and he always had a smile for everyone. We will really miss him, but we are thankful that he was saved.

Thank you for praying for one of our deaf ladies named Nelida who had cancer. After a long struggle with her health, a surgery to remove a tumor, and cancer treatments she was just given a clean bill of health a few weeks ago! She will still have monthly checkups for awhile yet. Many thanks for the surprise financial help for Nelida and her family. They are probably one of the poorest families in our church. That gift was truly a huge blessing to them! Pray for Nelida's 16 yr old son Rafael. He has started skipping church the last few months. He is a very nice young man and we hate to see him leave the church after being one of the kids that grew up in a good church. We don't know if he got saved in his former church, but he has never made any spiritual decisions in our church.

In another week I will be flying to the States for a very brief week and a half trip for my father's burial (May 21- June 3). He passed away last December, but could not be buried until spring because the ground was frozen. In New Hampshire during the winter months the cemeteries don't allow burials. I am flying directly to my brother's house for this short trip. Please pray that I get there safely and pray that God keeps my wife and girls safe in Bolivia while I am gone. I am thankful for those of you who helped make this trip possible for me.

For the Gospel's Sake,
Luke & Jessica Marie



4TH ANNIVERSARY OF IGLESIA BAPTISTA SORDOS PARA CRISTO



DAVID VARGAS, OUR BROTHER-IN-CHRIST WHO PASSED AWAY



VLADIMIR & NELIDA SALAMANCA AND THEIR CHILDREN RAFAEL AND SAMANTHA



MY DAD AND ME

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