



**“ALSO I HEARD THE VOICE OF THE LORD, SAYING, WHOM SHALL I SEND, AND WHO WILL GO FOR US?
THEN SAID I, HERE AM I; SEND ME.” ISAIAH 6:8**

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a beautiful Christmas and New Year. It is hard to believe we have reached 2023 already. We have so many things to be thankful for from the year 2022. Thank you for your part in making our year a good year. We are so blessed.

We have had a busy and interesting end of the year. Not much happened in September and October apart from normal ministry. We had several really good youth group activities. Our youth group is tiny, because most of the kids that come to church are younger. Pray for our teenagers though. Pray God would give this new generation a burden for reaching their own deaf families for Christ. During the month of October my bible translation team worked really hard trying to finish a whole batch of bible videos before the end of the year. We got really close to finishing and then the city and department(state) of Santa Cruz started striking and shut everything down the end of the month. Stores, schools, and everything were forced to close during the strike, so our translation project was put on hold. The people were demanding the government take a national census after the government skipped doing it this year and put it off indefinitely. This mostly affects Santa Cruz since they have had a population boom in the last ten years and a new census will guarantee them more seats in the senate and will for sure affect the next presidential elections, which the leftist government is trying to stop. Santa Cruz was shutdown for 36 days, after which the government conceded and set a new date for the census. During the month of November we were forced to do online services. The first Sunday after the strike was lifted we had exactly 36 people attend that service. We thought that was pretty neat! Since then, thankfully our attendance has been back to normal.

In the beginning of December my translation team worked extra hard and we finished all our videos for the year. We were all excited to get it done before the summer/Christmas break. The translation project will start back up in February after the normal extended break. Mid-December, literally the day after we finished our project for the year, I came down with covid. Of course my wife and daughters caught it as well, and sadly we were forced to miss different Christmas parties and our special Christmas service while we quarantined. Thankfully, Pastor Rodolfo was able to lead in my absence, and our church members kindly moved our church Christmas party to the New Years Sunday so we could attend. It was fun like it is every year. Also, thankfully God graciously allowed our covid to be very light and quick to overcome. The day our quarantine ended, Santa Cruz's conservative governor was snatched up in a military tactical strike and rushed off to La Paz and put in maximum security prison where he will remain, guilty until proven innocent, with a slew of questionable charges against him. Our city is up in arms again, but this time they are only blocking major roads instead the whole city, so thankfully we can function mostly normal. Pray for our city though because the police have been brutal against protesters, taking the government's side. The people of Santa Cruz fear that if the government gets away with this, then Bolivia will have truly fallen into socialism. There is no threat to us currently, so please don't worry.

We would like to bring to your attention a need for Pastor Rodolfo. He bought a used motorcycle a few years back. It is his family's only mode of transportation outside of buses. Owning a motorcycle allows him to cut his travel time down by more than half. The motorcycle has had a lot of problems recently and he is praying that God would help provide the finances to buy a new one. Rodolfo did not ask us to help, and we don't typically do this sort of thing, but we feel God is impressing it on our hearts to share the need with all of you. If you are interested in making a donation, please email us privately for more specific information. Pastor Rodolfo has been such a big blessing to our little deaf church and to our family, we want to be a blessing to him in return. We send you all big heart felt wishes for God to bless you this new year!



36 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE AFTER 36 DAYS OF STRIKES AND CITYWIDE SHUTDOWN!



LUKE & PASTOR RODOLFO



LILY, JESSICA, ALISON, &ADELA AT CHURCH



PASTOR RODOLFO WITH CHURCH MEMBERS AND VISITORS

For the Gospel's Sake,
Luke & Jessica Marie