



Dear Friends and Supporters,

Furlough has kept us very busy. Thank you to everyone who has been praying for us. We have almost hit 20,000 miles in a few short months of travel and around 1,200 gallons of gas! We are tremendously thankful for safe travels and for the financial provision for all that gas, as well as other costs living on the road. We have visited many of our supporting churches and have made many special memories along the way. Our furlough is almost at an end. We leave for Bolivia in just one short month. While we have enjoyed so many parts of our travel, we are all looking forward to going home and being with our church family again in Santa Cruz.

Thank you for praying for me back in the end of May when we sent out an update letting you know of my health problems. I had a followup endoscopy a couple weeks ago and was happy to find that my esophagus had completely healed. The doctor did, unfortunately, find a couple spots of Barretts Syndrome. Thankfully, the biopsies the doctor ordered came back negative for esophagus cancer. I have certainly felt your prayers through this whole experience, and I covet your continued prayers.

Our church in Bolivia is doing well. Pastor Rodolfo has kept in contact with me and we have seen photos of many visitors. We were really excited to hear about a deaf visitor from another area in Bolivia get saved back in July. Her name is Claudia. She has already returned home where we don't believe she has a church to attend. She can, at least, watch our online church services. So please pray for her to grow spiritually despite this. In the end of July and beginning of August I flew to Ecuador and met up with my Bible translation team for a our yearly two week training seminar. This was our fifth and last year of training and all of us who went all five years received a special certificate of completion. These seminars have been instrumental to all the deaf Bible translation teams across Latin and South America in helping us better understand different aspects of Bible translating. I don't have enough space in this letter to explain it all, but just know that this was valuable training that my team and I were blessed to be able to participate in.

Please specifically keep Pastor Rodolfo in your prayers. He was sideswiped by a drunk driver last week while he and another man from our church were going home on a motorcycle. Thankfully it was not a bad accident. The other man Ullis just had a few scrapes, but Pastor Rodolfo's leg was hit by the car and his tibia was fractured. He had to wait 4 days before having surgery on his leg because hospitals in Bolivia won't do surgeries until they are paid up front. We praise God that Pastor Rodolfo is doing well and in good spirits. However, this poses a problem for our Bible project. Pastor Rodolfo was supposed to be in a bunch of our videos that we are about ready to record, but having his leg in a cast will make it difficult, since signing requires a lot of movement and walking around. He has dedicated so much time to practicing for these portions of the video Bible. Pray for his leg to heal quickly.



Pray for Luke's health and Keira at college



Graduation from Bible Translation Training



Pray for Pastor Rodolfo's leg to heal and for the Bible Translation Project

Even though we are back in the US on furlough, we follow the news in Bolivia and keep current with what is happening. As we near our return, there are a few things we'd like you to pray for. First of all, Bolivia has used the US dollar as a secondary currency for a very long time, but over the last two years the current administration has been trying to phase out dollars. Many businesses across the country need to use the dollar as payment to import and export their products. Things are starting to get desperate and businesses have been affected by the shortage. Recently in the news we noted, on more than one occasion, thefts and even a few murders have happened as people try to get their hands on dollars. The exchange rate has almost doubled this last year. Please pray that we are not targeted when we return next month. Also, Bolivia recently took a national census. The results of the census are very important because they affect how many seats in government each department(state) can hold. Our department is mostly conservative and not on good terms with the leftist government. Unfortunately, the census showed Santa Cruz as having only a small percentage of growth compared to some of the other big cities. The mayor and civic committee have rejected those results saying that it did not match their data. This is all important because Bolivia has their presidential election this November like the in states. Santa Cruz has declared a day of closure and peaceful protests today in rejection of the census. If they can prove Santa Cruz has a larger population they will have more sway in the upcoming election. We anticipate more unrest for the next few months leading up to the election and after, if the left wins again. We don't believe we will have any problems returning or ministering there, but we ask you to pray for the future of Bolivia.

We dropped our oldest daughter Keira off at Pensacola Christian College in June to work over the summer. Last week was her first week of freshmen classes, and we were able to be with her one last time this furlough. She is a Biology major and has a very busy first semester. As parents, we'd like to ask you to keep her in your prayers. She's already experienced some loneliness, and she is a bit overwhelmed with all of her classes. Thank you to those of you who have already reached out to her and been a blessing to her.

We mentioned this our last update, and we want to mention it again. God has been working in our hearts and we have been praying about purchasing land and building a church building(or remodeling a building) when we return to Bolivia for our next term. Land outside the cities in Bolivia is very cheap, but within the cities it is very expensive. We have looked at property that ranged between \$140,000 to over \$400,000. The closer to city center we get the higher the prices are. Most places sell for more than 2 million in the very center of the city. Because our people group, the deaf, come from all sides of the city our goal is to find a place that is as close to the center as possible. That way our church is as accessible as possible no matter which side of the city people live on. Please pray that God would provide the perfect place and all of the finances needed to buy a property.

Thank you for the many prayers that have sustained us and kept us safe throughout our furlough. Your prayers are so valuable to us. We have had a very busy schedule and visited almost half of our supporting churches so far. We wish there was time to visit you all. We truly enjoyed all of the many special visits we've had with our churches and the friends we were able to see. Thank you for being a tremendous blessing to us. We covet your prayers for this last month of travel. Pray we would be mentally and spiritually refreshed and motivated to jump back into our ministry. We love serving God in Bolivia. It is a privilege for us to be there.

Thank you for your prayers and support.

"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you," Philippians 1:3

For the Gospel's Sake,

Luke & Jessica Marie