



Dear Friends and Supporters,

In Philippians 4 Paul sent a deep-felt thank you to the church in Philippi for meeting his needs, or we could say, for supporting his work as a missionary. This portion of Scripture always holds a special meaning for my family and me, since we rely on the generosity and support from all of you. Although we may not be as eloquent as the apostle Paul, we would still like to express our own gratitude for your gifts and sacrifices you make to support our ministry here in Bolivia. We desire for you what Paul desired for the Philippians. *"Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account."* Phil. 4:17 Each one of you is important to us. Thank you for your care of us and for your burden to see souls around the world come to know Christ and grow in spiritual maturity.

Last year was a busy year with a large portion of our time spent on furlough in the US. We returned to Bolivia in the latter part of October. As is typical after a long period of time away from our home and ministry, it took quite awhile to get settled back into our regular routine. We had workers coming to our house for a few weeks making different repairs: water damage/roof work, painting, tile repair, etc. Jessica had to organize school material and get our girls started on school again. I spent many hours with Bible translation team getting caught up on all they had done while I was on furlough. A few days after returning to Bolivia one of my team members and I flew to another city in Bolivia to present portions of our sign language Bible that we had completed over 2024. We then proceeded to fly to different cities around the country each weekend for the falling few weeks, meeting with the deaf community in each of these places. The purpose behind these trips was to get feedback from deaf around Bolivia. It is our desire that they understand what is being said. Bolivian Sign Language is extremely underdeveloped and there are slight variations to the signs used all around Bolivia. Our main goal is to get a clear presentation of God's Word into their hands without sacrificing Scriptural integrity. Not an easy task with such limited language, but such a tremendously worthy cause. I'm so glad God finds each one of these people worthy to receive God's truths and God's love!

To add to the busyness, I took a block class towards my Master's degree from mid-October to mid-December. And I am halfway through another block class now. After this class I will only lack one more class to receive my Master's in Ministry (with a concentration in biblical counseling) through Veritas Baptist College. Although it is hard for me to get back into school mode and paper writing mode, I consider it a privilege to be able to further my studies. Lord willing, by the end of this year I will be able to graduate.

God knew I would need the extra training in the area of counseling. While we were on furlough last year a couple from our church that were dating succumbed to temptation and got pregnant outside of wedlock. Thankfully they were not hardened against the Holy Spirit's work. They got married before we returned in October and immediately after our return, they went before our church to seek forgiveness and restitution.



Church Christmas Party
Pastor Rodolfo, Luke,
Vladimir, & Erland



Church Christmas Party
Ilanna, Gwyneth,
Maite, & Yoselin



Pray for baby Lucas to fully
recover from pneumonia and
neonatal sepsis



Pray for Luke and Hayley's
short term mission trip to
Colombia in June

I spent many hours counseling this couple and others in our church that were hurt and bitter by this couple's actions. Times like these make me feel inadequate as a pastor and counselor, but they highlight God's sufficiency in any circumstance. Peace was reached within our church thanks to God and His tremendous mercy. Please pray for this couple. Their names are Ulises and Jimena. Pray for their new marriage and pray for their new baby Lucas. I am completely honored to say that their baby was named after me. Lucas was born 7 weeks prematurely on January 13th due to complications. His lungs were underdeveloped so he was intubated until a couple days ago. Because the healthcare in Bolivia is not very good, he was in a general ICU area with older children because the NICU was full and could not accommodate him. The day after he was born Lucas got pneumonia and we worried he would not make it. Two days ago they found that he has neonatal sepsis. Despite both of those, he is doing really well. We are praying that he will be able to go home in another week or two. Please pray for him to fully recover.

The end of the year is always a special time for us. Our church always hosts a big Christmas party after the service that Sunday, and we always have a lot of visitors. We did not have any salvation decisions, but since that time we have had one new family and several new deaf attending church pretty faithfully. We have also had several new teens attending church for the last few months. We have had some really good teen activities. Our hearts are burdened to see these new teens and their families reached with the Gospel. Please pray specifically for Sebastian-15yrs old, Yoselin-13 yrs old, Rosimar-12 yrs old, and their deaf family members to be saved. Please also pray for Simani-16 yrs old and her younger 12 yr old sister Sarina. Both made a profession of faith in the end of 2023, but their dad has been prohibiting them from coming to church and more recently youth group as well.

We were blessed to have our oldest daughter Keira come back to Bolivia over her college Christmas break. She did really well her first semester at PCC, although she struggled at times. It was really good for her and us to be able to spend that special time together. As her parents, we are really glad to see her learn how to be independent and learn how to trust God more through this college experience. She asked us to pray that God would bring more godly friends into her path to help her mature spiritually. So we ask you to remember Keira in prayer during this very influential time in her life.

In January, my wife and I celebrated 21 years of marriage, and this month we celebrate 17 years on the mission field here in Bolivia. It has been a long interesting journey. We can't say it has been easy as full-time missionaries, but we can say that we wouldn't change anything. God has blessed us in so many ways and shown us an immeasurable amount of mercy. All we can say is to God be the glory.

This week our two youngest girls started the new Bolivian school year at a local Christian school named Trinity. Jessica is teaching 6th and 7th grades' Bible classes 6 times a week there, and I have been invited to occasionally be their chapel speaker. Because the "christian" school is nondenominational, we prayed a lot before deciding to be involved. In the end, we decided this school was a big ministry opportunity, and we felt it was God who had clearly opened the doors for us to be involved. Please pray that God will give us wisdom and bless our efforts to present the truth of God's Word to these students. Also our 16 yr old daughter Hayley will be helping work a couple times a week as the art teacher's assistant. She is so excited, because for the last couple of years she has been feeling more and more sure God is leading her into missions, and she hopes to be able to minister in the area of teaching and in the area of art.

As God has been moving in Hayley's heart, she prayed about and decided to apply to go on a missions trip through our mission board, BIMI. Since she is a minor I applied to go on the mission trip with her. Our board hosts Connect Trips all around the world, and specifically Amazon Connect Trips in South America. We will be assisting as Spanish interpreters on a medical mission trip to the Amazon jungle in Colombia on June 10-19th. Hayley wants to experience foreign missions outside of Bolivia as she prays about her future. She is hoping to attend PCC in the fall of next year and major in art with a minor in missions. We want to encourage this desire of hers and see her follow God's will for her life. Please pray for both Hayley and me to finish raising the financial support we need by the beginning of April. You can click on these following links if you would like to support our mission trip, and you can read Hayley's personal letter she wrote that is attached in this email. Thank you for all of your Christian love and prayers for us.

<https://bimiconnect.managedmissions.com/MyTrip/hayleymarie1>

<https://bimiconnect.managedmissions.com/MyTrip/lukemarie1>

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

For the Gospel's Sake,

Luke & Jessica Marie

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