



August 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings from the Southwest! We trust you are doing well and that the Lord is blessing you and yours as you navigate life in what has become a very interesting day and age. We are praying for you, and we want you to know that we love and appreciate your care, friendship, and support of our work.

Why are we sending greetings from the Southwest? Because, for the last month we have been on an extended road trip reporting to some of our supporting partners and introducing our work in Latin America to new Churches. This trip has covered over 5000 miles and seen us in 9 different states. We have visited Churches in 6 of those states, and we are scheduled to be back in Tennessee the 4th week of August.

As we have traveled, we have been blessed by the opportunity to encourage people as they serve the Lord. Each church has been different, and we have seen that they are doing a variety of things to minister to their people through in person services and online outreaches. Yet, in each case God is blessing His people. We have also seen that some states have stricter guidelines than others when it comes to COVID-19. Therefore, we are being as careful as we possibly can, and we are taking as many precautions as possible with our health.

Additionally, we have reached out to various aspects of our ministry in Bolivia in an effort to encourage the people in our works. Bolivians are currently on month 5 of a severe lockdown. However, as you will read below there are "complications" in the country related to political divisions and the buckling healthcare system. Yet, even in the middle of these unprecedented times, God is still at work.

Below, you will find a few short reports on various aspects of life in Bolivia. Please keep your Bolivian Brothers and Sisters in your prayers as you read.



COVID is Wreaking Havoc among the Bolivian People.



Here is a recent video report (in English) that talks about how the COVID-19 virus is decimating various aspects of Bolivian life. It is a sad situation. A co-laborer on a recent trip to a local hospital in Tarija had this to say: "The hospital Obberos was dead quiet, hardly anybody could be seen, when asked: a nurse said only 10% of the staff is working, the rest are sick." As the video relates, many are turned away from medical facilities only to die in the streets. As you pray for your own families, ministries, and communities; please pray for the people of Bolivia.

Over 100 Pastor have died in Bolivia due to COVID-19

In July, we learned that over 100 Pastors from many different groups have lost their lives due to working during the COVID-19 crisis in Bolivia. We do not have a current update, but you can imagine how this might affect the many churches that these pastors worked with. Please, pray for their families, congregations, and the work of their Churches.

It's true that we don't know when the health crisis will be over. However, from what we can see it doing to the churches in the region, we can surmise that there will be a tremendous need for workers. This is undoubtedly true in most if not all of the other countries in Latin America as well.

Please pray that God will call upon Christians to take up the mantle of ministry to reach their own people. Additionally, please pray that God will call people to serve as Missionaries in Bolivia and Latin America at large. Further, please pray that these Churches will be encouraged in the face of the loss of their pastors.

Once again, Bolivia is a political powder keg.

Recently, the US State Department raised the Travel Advisory in Bolivia to a Level 4. Level 4 is the classification used to advise Americans not to travel to a specific country. It is also an advisory for people who can safely leave a country to do so. The advisory in Bolivia is due to COVID-19. However, it is further compounded by "Civil Unrest". As you may remember, Bolivia went through a real revolution last October and November. New elections were scheduled for May but have been postponed twice due to the ravages of the virus. In the midst of this, the former president's political party (Movement To Socialism) has blockaded over 80 points of transit in the country and effectively isolated many important cities. Violence is once again in the news, and there is a real possibility of it escalating in the coming days. The Military and the Police are involved, and shots have been fired. These blockades have cut off the supply of oxygen to many hospitals, and as a result people have died. This is in part due to the extreme altitude of many of the Bolivian cities. Due to the blockades, there have already been reports of food shortages in some of the cities. In some of the conflicts, people have lost their lives in the fighting. As you can see, there are several things to pray about in this regard.

Some Continuing Opportunities...

We were scheduled to return to Bolivia at the end of August. However, due to the Travel Advisory, Health Advisories, and Political complications we will be forced to delay our return until travel is feasible and advisable. As you know, we have been invited into other countries in Latin America to help Missionaries and Churches with various aspects of Leadership Training, Church ministries, and Church planting. Unfortunately, travel is as limited to other countries in Latin America as it is to Bolivia. However, as soon as possible, we will embark on these new ministry opportunities. We might be able to travel to some of these other areas before we can actually travel back to Bolivia!

A matter of prayer in this regard, both of us have a few health issues that require caution as we travel. Please pray for wisdom for us as we make travel and ministry plans. We are excited about what lays ahead for us, and we are looking forward to reporting to you what God does as we engage ourselves in the work He has for us.

Until next time...

Please know that we are grateful for your interest, faithfulness, and prayers for us. We love you and are honored to represent you among the people God places in our paths. Please remember that while we are in the States, we would welcome an opportunity to report to you on our work in person, by video, or through some aspect of Social Media. In the meantime, please know that we are praying for you as you serve the Risen Savior.

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