

September 2017

*“..... and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

**Acts 1:8b**

### Bolivia STM News

We have just finished an intense season of hosting Canadian churches and supporting their journey of understanding and experiencing faith through the lens of life in Bolivia. I recently accompanied Blythwood/Weston Park Churches to support the rehabilitation of adobe homes for the prevention of Chagas disease. This work extends beyond the cement and stucco used to seal homes and destroy the habitat of the Vichuga beetle that carries the parasite causing Chagas. Families hear the gospel message through stories, prayer and through the presence of the Canadian and Bolivian church members spending the week at their homes. Most importantly, our partners are in the communities throughout the year, facilitating medical testing and treatment, workshops around agricultural best practices and proper hygiene. Our partners are also committed to providing ongoing spiritual connections, through local church leaders. Helbert is a deacon of the Aiquile Baptist Church and is one of several dedicated professional *albanils* (masons) who ensure the proper construction of homes of people unable to complete the work themselves (widows, elderly, ill, etc.).



**Felicidades**, mother of 9 and home owner, is curious about Christianity and asked **Helbert** if she could host the next meeting of the church in her newly repaired home! We continue to be inspired by the people we serve and motivated by these opportunities to share a bit in the life of people in the countryside.

### Bolivia Team

It bears repeating, Bruno and I are privileged to be working with dedicated and gifted CBM staff in Bolivia, who are walking alongside our partners;

**Patricia** Nacho facilitating Canadian and Bolivian church short term teams to consider how their experience can impact their lives and that of their churches, while supporting Bolivian churches.

Working to support the understanding and practice of Integral Mission by local Bolivian churches, literally throughout all of Bolivia, **Tim** and **Kallie** Hutton. Follow them through their monthly blog

<http://www.timandkallie.com/>

And fast tracking language learning and cultural understanding while investing in the work and life of the Bolivian Baptist seminary and the pastors it serves, **Bill** and **Janice** Dyck.

<https://billandjanice.wordpress.com/>



Helbert & Kathleen

## UBLA & COMIBAM

In Iguazu, Brazil we recently were privileged to attend the Convention of the Union of Latin American Baptists (UBLA), an annual gathering of Baptist denominational leaders from most Latin American countries. This was an opportunity for reflection and teaching around the theme of *Transforming Cities, Impacting New Generations*. As in many parts of the world, Latin America is rapidly urbanizing and our churches need to shift to remain relevant in their communities. COMIBAM (Cooperación Misionera Iberoamericana) is a larger gathering, held every 10 years, of 1800+ people working throughout the Spanish & Portuguese speaking world. Traditionally, most Latin American churches thought of themselves as receivers of missionary efforts. In 1976, 98% of missionaries throughout the world were from North America and Europe. Today, 78% of missionaries **come from outside of NA and Europe**; 15,000 from Latin America. In the last decade the Latin American churches have mobilized to become senders, with many Latinos having very effective ministries in all parts of the world. Perhaps because they already share cultural, linguistic, and worldview commonalities, Latin American Christians are especially effective in the Muslim world.

## Travel to Canada

We will be participating in CBM Team Leader Meetings in ON Oct. 2-6. We will be speaking on Oct 1 at *Stanley Park Baptist*, Kitchener ON, Oct. 8, *Bromley Road Baptist*, Ottawa ON, and Oct. 14-15, *The Journey Church*, Moncton, NB. Please join us if nearby!

We will be on home assignment in October - November 2018 and look forward to connecting to more of the churches and friends that support us and the work of CBM.

## Family News

Ben and Elissa celebrated their first wedding anniversary (Sept. 3) and are moving to Guatemala (October 28) to work with an organization providing education and working to combat human trafficking

[www.godschild.org](http://www.godschild.org) Pray for their language learning, living arrangements, cultural adjustment, and good church connections.

Caroline and Jonathan Selig- Our 7<sup>th</sup> grandchild (their 4<sup>th</sup>) is arriving late October!

Laura and Jonathan Vokey - Jonathan (pilot Canadian Armed Forces) recently returned home from a 7-month deployment to Bagdad, much to the delight of our daughter Laura and their 3 children. We are thankful that he is safe and the family is together again.

## Prayer Requests, Thankfulness and Gratitude

Pray for Latin American Church leaders and those supporting them in the equipping and sending of missionaries.

Bolivia Staff retreat (Sept 18-20). Pray that this will be a time of encouragement to our team as we spend time on strategic planning, prayer and team building.

Travel to Canada and CBM Team Leaders meeting

***"Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in humility that comes from wisdom."* James 3:13**

Bendiciones

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For other information, please email Barb Keys, Partners in Mission Coordinator at [bkeys@cbmin.org](mailto:bkeys@cbmin.org)