

MARIE FAMILY UPDATE

Oct/Nov/Dec
2018

"Only one life, 'twill soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last." CT Studd

We hope you had a very blessed Christmas and New Year. Even though we had a very busy Christmas season we were certainly blessed ourselves.

October was a normal ministry month for us. Attendance for church has been up and down especially now that the rainy season is in full swing. One particularly rainy Sunday Pastor Rodolfo was the only person to show up besides us. He said he walked the usual distance out to a main road to catch a bus and had to wade through water about a foot deep, which his wet pants attested to. He then stood in water on the road for over an hour till a bus finally passed by. You see, when it rains a lot very few buses run, especially in the outskirts of the city where there are dirt roads, which just happens to be where a number of our deaf members come from. It sure made us thankful for owning our own vehicle.

At the end of October Jessica got to speak at a ladies' conference outside of the city. Over 300 ladies attended the conference. Jessica taught one of the small group sessions in the morning and then taught a craft in one of the afternoon sessions. She really enjoyed getting to be a part of this conference.

November was an extra special month. In the very beginning of the month during the celebration of All Saints Day, a day where people believe they can commune with dead relatives, we held a large Bible distribution at the big downtown cemetery. We had a great turnout from our ministry and we passed out 420 Bibles, 650 tracts, and 128 church flyers. That was an exciting day!

Prayer Requests

- **Spiritual Growth for Juan Carlos and salvation of his wife Anna**
- **Bible translation Project**
- **Continued Growth for our Ministry**





In the middle of November I received an invitation from a deaf couple in our ministry to come do lunch with them and a few of their family members who were going through some strange and perhaps demonic attacks involving their young daughter. I went and spent several hours talking to Juan Carlos and Anna about the Gospel. At the end of our time together Juan Carlos put his faith in Christ as his Savior!! Please pray for his wife Anna to get saved and pray that God will convict them both about attending a good church.

December was a very busy month. At the beginning of the month we held a Christmas craft activity that was a lot of fun. Shortly after that I flew to La Paz with 5 deaf from the Santa Cruz area to attend a meeting regarding translating the Bible into Bolivian Sign Language. I had just, within the last few months, rejected an offer to work on this same project with a different group. The Bible society that organized this meeting with deaf and interpreters from all over Bolivia also flew in a Christian linguistics specialist from Colombia. I was very impressed with her testimony and her professionalism. To make a long story short, out of all these deaf and interpreters from around the country, 3 deaf were selected to head up the translation team as well as 1 hearing person to act as facilitator. Pastor Rodolfo and one other man in our ministry (and also seminary class) were selected, along with a young deaf woman from Cochabamba. I was asked to act as the facilitator. Needless to say I felt God was opening a unique door for this translation project. The other deaf person that was selected will be moving to Santa Cruz to work with us and she has already expressed an interest in

attending my seminary class and perhaps even our deaf ministry. My current ministry obligations will take first priority. With the approval of my director from BIMI and my pastor from my sending church I will be working on the Bible translation part time. I covet your prayers for this project. Most deaf in Bolivia cannot read, and those that can read at a basic level find the Bible far too complicated to understand. Having the Bible in video format done in Bolivian Sign Language might be the only Gospel they ever "see." In the end of December we held our very first deaf Christmas party in Santa Cruz. Remember last year we were still preaching on the plaza. The party was a huge success with 55 people in attendance. We had a few new deaf attending and I was able to give a short Gospel challenge. We also held a special Christmas service.

Looking back we have so much to be thankful for during the year of 2018 and we have hopes for an even better 2019! If you would like to see photos from our various activities please check out our new Facebook page: (Luke & Jessica Marie-4thegospelssake-Bolivia). We recently did away with our old and outdated website for the ease and simplicity of using FB. We would love to have you check us out and 'follow' us.

As always we want to express our heartfelt gratitude to all of our financial and prayer supporters. We also want to give an extra big thanks to all of the churches/people who gave us something extra for Christmas! Our hearts are overwhelmed by your love!

For the Gospels' Sake,

Luke & Jessica Marie

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Jess Teaching



Bible Distribution



Christmas Family Photo

