

# Marie Family update



February/March/April/May 2020

*Dear friends and family,*

We apologize for sending out our update a month later than we normally do. There has not been a lot to report on with the quarantine requiring us to stay in our houses since mid-March. We will describe to you Bolivia's Covid-19 situation, but first let's review the last few months.

Looking back on February, one big highlight of the month was my trip to the southern city of Tarija. I traveled to Tarija specifically to have a reunion with a Swiss deaf man named Andreas who works for the national deaf association, FEBOS. In case you don't remember, Andreas was the one to first stir up problems between FEBOS and our Bible translation project. After several hours of talking and correcting a lot of false ideas Andreas had against me and also against our project we ended on good terms, much thanks to the Holy Spirit working to soften his hard heart. About a month later Andreas and his wife came up to our city to visit their son in college and, at our invitation, they both spent a day and a half with my translation team and me. This second meeting was even more productive and beneficial than the first meeting in working towards a more friendly relationship with them and FEBOS. This deaf organization has the most influence with deaf people and interpreters around the country, and it is our hope and desire that they will support the translation project instead of tear it down as they have been doing thus far.

March 8th, one of our last services at the church before the quarantine, Pastor Rodolfo and I had the privilege of leading a young lady named Mishell to the Lord. She has

come off and on to our church for some time now and has struggled with a lot of personal bad choices. That morning she told us that God had been convicting her and she knew she needed to get saved!

Bolivia reacted early to the Covid-19 threat and shutdown the country after only 2 or 3 people tested positive. So the whole country has been quarantined to their houses since mid-March. One person per family is allowed out once a week in the morning to go shopping and do banking. That day is determined by the last number of your Bolivian ID. All public and private transportation has been prohibited except those with permission for emergencies or those transporting food to sell. This means most people have to walk or ride bikes to the nearest open stores. Most of the markets in our city were shutdown, forcing people to travel greater distances to go shopping. Fortunately for us, I have been able to get to the stores near our house without any problems for the last couple of months. This complete economy shutdown has been terribly hard on everyone financially. Thanks to a gift from one of our supporting churches and the online banking help of one of our neighbors, we have been able to transfer some money to different families in our church who are struggling. Unfortunately, we are not allowed to leave our house to deliver this aid in person. Thankfully, starting yesterday in Santa Cruz

our quarantine lightened up just a little. A few people were able to return to certain types of jobs and this Saturday morning families will be allowed to take their children outside for a brief while to get some exercise. So this will be the first time my wife and girls will get to leave the house since mid-March. Little blessings!

In light of the lockdown, Pastor Rodolfo and I started posting all of our preaching and teaching on our ministry facebook page. We have had great success in not only reaching the deaf from our church here in Santa Cruz, but also in reconnecting with different deaf people from our previous ministry in Sucre that we had lost touch with over the last 4 years since we moved. We have also connected with deaf people from all over Bolivia who watch our services, as well as with deaf people from around the world. Just last week a deaf man named Juan Carlos from Guatemala expressed interest in salvation on our FB page. Rodolfo and I were able to connect with him and during a video call with Rodolfo, Juan Carlos got saved!

Thank you for praying for us and our ministry. Please keep our oldest daughter Keira in your prayers. She has not been feeling well since about February. We ran a few tests before everything shut down and we have been waiting for things to open up again so we can continue running tests.

If you haven't already, please check out our ministry facebook page where you can see our photos and get more frequent updates on what is happening here in Bolivia. <https://www.facebook.com/lukejessicamarie/> We appreciate you all.

#### Prayer Requests:

- **Mishell's spiritual growth**
- **Juan Carlos's spiritual growth**
- **Growth of our ministry's online presence and outreach**
- **Our quarantine in Santa Cruz**
- **Our daughter Keira's health**
- **Spiritual growth and encouragement for our family while still being quarantined to our house**

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For the Gospel's Sake,

*Luke & Jessica Marie*