....so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts" – Isaiah 55:9

# Entering a new phase of life

One of our pastors has often told Frosty, "I know you have a heart for Bolivia and love our people, but I also know the day will come when you will leave us to return to your family. We will miss you."

His sentiment has touched our hearts, especially now as that time has come for us to once again "retire" and return to the States. God has poured out an extra measure of His grace over the past five years, allowing us the unthinkable privilege of serving Him again in this country.

### Centro Bíblico de la Gracia

The past three months have been exciting with nearly 60 students taking Bible and theology classes!

You may recall that we returned to Bolivia in 2017 to help train a new generation of pastors and lay workers with a vision to strengthen our churches and take the gospel of God's grace to other regions of Bolivia and Latin America.

To have this many students in such a short time is definitely a work of the Lord! God has strengthened this ministry with the arrival of GMI missionary Talo Vergara along with dedicated Bolivian leaders.

Covid restrictions have also been a blessing in disguise, forcing us to implement a virtual learning platform. Though not ideal, the online format brought students from outside the area and allowed some with limited evening schedules to choose a night and get their first taste of in-depth study.



The Centro Biblico de la Gracia building



Frosty teaching, pre-Covid restrictions

# **Leaving Bolivia**

We will leave Bolivia in early January with mixed emotions. More than 17 years of our married life has been dedicated to this ministry which we love and will truly miss, and there is still much to be done.

With that in mind, our official retirement from GMI will be delayed until April so we can participate in missions conferences. Our desire is to share how God is at work and recruit new missionaries for Bolivia.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support. For now, here are some of the things God is doing.

The vast majority of our students are young adults with a desire to grow in their knowledge of Scripture and be more equipped.

But the job is far from being finished, and a new year will present new challenges for this ministry.



Pastor Guillermo Choquebarra and his wife, Dina

# **New Challenges for This Ministry**

Please pray for Talo and the CBG leadership as they look to balance in-person and virtual learning when the new trimester opens in February.

Please pray for teachers. Frosty will be gone, as will a couple other current profs. We desperately need a couple more missionaries to teach and disciple.

Please pray and consider helping with Bolivia Theological Education Scholarships for students. A gift of \$9 will cover one class for one student. You can find more information at www. gracem.org and searching under the "projects" heading for "2021 Christmas catalog."

As we mentioned earlier, the education ministry received a tremendous shot in the arm with the arrival of the Vergaras in 2019

In 2003, Talo did his 6-month college internship with us in Bolivia and we were looking forward to working together when he graduated, but that was interrupted by our change of ministry in 2004.

What a joy to finally work together! Talo brought energy, fresh ideas, and a good rapport with young adults. Patty's creative talents also produced attractive promotional material which has attracted new students.

## **Our GMI Ministry Partners**

Now Talo and Patty will have a heavy load as the lone GMI missionaries in Bolivia. Please pray for one or two more families to partner with Talo and Patty.

Since our initial arrival here in 1993, one of our ministry goals has been encouraging and building up men and women. The bonds of friendship and shared ministry over the years are experiences we will always treasure. Often it was these men and women who encouraged and built us up as we have served together. We will miss them!

Some of these pastors did not have the advantage of education at the level of our current program, so Frosty made it a priority these past few years to offer pastoral, ongoing education with refresher courses.

Please pray for future missionaries with a heart to teach, encourage, and be blessed by these precious men of God.



Patty, Matias, Lucas, and Talo Vergara

Frosty and Cathy

# Pray for us ...

As we mentioned, our departure for the States will be with mixed emotions. We look forward to time with family and being able to invest in the lives of our grandchildren, but we are leaving behind a ministry which is dear to our hearts.

**Please pray** for the next few months representing the ministry in Bolivia through missions conferences.

**Please pray** for individuals and couples to respond to the need for missionaries in Bolivia.

**Please pray** about how God might use you to support existing and future missionaries.

**Please pray** for God's direction as we seek new avenues to serve Him as volunteer "retirees."

Thank you for your prayers through the years, Frosty and Cathy Hansen