

"I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all the marvelous things you have done." Psalm 9:1

## Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We are now over halfway through the year, and as the end of the year draws ever closer, we give thanks to God for His blessings and for each of you whose support sustains us financially and strengthens us spiritually through your prayers. In our previous letter, we shared that we were expecting our third child, and we would like to update you a bit on what we have experienced over the past six months:

## Family - Talo, Patty, Lucas and Matias ... and Tiziana

We are very happy to have our little Tiziana with us. The pregnancy was very difficult for Patty, but Tiziana's birth has undoubtedly been a tremendous blessing for our family. Lucas and Matías are delighted with her, and as parents, we feel the favor of our Lord when we see the beautiful family He has allowed us to have. While life has definitely changed now that we are a family of five, we continue to homeschool Lucas, who is in second grade, and Matías, who is in kindergarten. They are active boys who both enjoy playing soccer and their swimming lessons.

# Centro Biblico de la Gracia (CBG) - Grace Bible Center

We thank the Lord for CBG and the tremendous blessing it is to us and to the students who are enrolled in Biblical and theological training there. This is our primary ministry role in Bolivia and it plays a pivotal role in meeting the need for solid theological training in our Grace Ministries International (GMI) affiliated churches here, while also fostering spiritual growth in the lives of the students. CBG teaches theology from a mid-Acts dispensational perspective, equipping church leaders and pastors to share sound doctrinal teaching with the members of their churches, who many times have very little theological understanding of the Scriptures.

As we have mentioned many times before, the lack of qualified teachers remains an obstacle to expanding our curriculum and course offerings. But God remains faithful, and we have been blessed with a few dedicated instructors who have diligently collaborated with us to teach foundational courses in Bible and theology. We praise the Lord that our fellow GMI team member Brian Abranovich has joined Talo and the other instructors in sharing the load of teaching courses at CBG. He has undoubtedly been a great blessing to us, and with Brian joining the teaching staff, this allows Talo to dedicate more time to preparing courses and working with the more advanced students.

Talo continues to advocate for the future leadership of CBG to be entrusted to Bolivian brothers. This is a long-term process, but we hope and believe that leaders will emerge in due time to take the helm. The board of Misión Evangélica Bethesda (MEB), the national organization of GMI-affiliated churches in Bolivia, remains committed to providing scholarships so that financial concerns do not prevent students from receiving theological training. In the past five trimesters, we have had an average of 40 students each trimester.





Lucas and Matias made a history video together with other homeschoolers and won 1st place



66th Anniversary of La Gracia Church



#### Other ministries

Talo continues to serve in the dual roles of both director and instructor at CBG, as well as the coordinator of various other areas of related ministry. He also serves as the spiritual counselor for the MEB national board and, together with Brian Abranovich, attends each of their monthly meetings. Serving in these various roles is not always an easy task, but God is good, and Talo and the CBG staff have been able to meet the objectives set for this ministry as they rely on God's wisdom and grace.

In addition to Talo's work at CBG, our family, along with our GMI team members, the Abranoviches, have decided to focus on collaborating with one of our GMI-affiliated churches, Casa de Misericordia (House of Mercy), located on the outskirts of the city. Last year, we visited this church often, and through various meetings with the leaders, we noticed a profound need to come alongside them and spiritually mentor them. Since then, both of our families, in collaboration with the leadership of the church, have agreed to partner with the church to help it become more firmly established and prepare its leaders for more effective ministry.

Talo and Brian are meeting weekly with Jorge Paniagua (the church's lay leader) to pray, discuss church-related matters, and plan studies and sermons. Talo is intentionally building a strong mentoring relationship with Jorge, who feels called to pastoral ministry. Through regular meetings, he provides guidance and support, encouraging Jorge to develop the spiritual and leadership qualities necessary for effective ministry.

Talo also taught a two-month Bible study titled RADICAL with the youth of Casa de Misericordia. It was encouraging to see the students complete the assignments and tests throughout the study, and it was a wonderful time to get to know the young people better, understand their needs, and strengthen relationships with them.

In February, Talo participated in a three-day youth camp hosted by the MEB and delivered the final message focusing on how a spiritually wise person authentically lives out the gospel. It was a powerful moment to challenge young believers and share the gospel with those who have not yet accepted Christ.



## We thank God for:

- The life of Tiziana, who was born weighing 9 pounds and measuring 20 inches, and Patty, who is recovering well from the natural birth.
- Each person who supports us as they are a great blessing to our family and ministry.
- Those who continue studying at CBG, and for their desire to learn God's Word.
- The unity and friendship we share as we serve in ministry with the Abranovich family.

## **Prayer requests:**

- For wisdom for Talo in all his work with CBG, the churches, and the MEB.
- For Patty, her health, her work at home, her studies, and homeschooling the boys.
- For our missionary team, as we continue working together for the advancement of God's ministry in Bolivia.
- For the leadership of the MEB churches, and for men with hearts for pastoral ministry.

God Bless you all,

Talo, Patty, Lucas, Matías, and Tiziana



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