

MISSION POSSIBLE!



...ALL things are possible with God



Bolivia Update from Dan and Mary Sue Reed

Dear Family and Friends,

A few months ago as Dan and I sat across the table from brother Felix Mamani in one of our mission churches, he shared these words: "These children need love, kindness and attention. They come from difficult home situations. The barrio [neighborhood] has broken families and drunkards. We must be patient with them, sharing the love of Christ." This man of indigenous background and small of stature displayed a compassionate heart. Col. 3:12b "...clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." Later we were to discover why he identified with these children. His own mother died when he was five years old and his father often drank to escape the reality of his life. Life was anything but easy for Felix growing up. As we have been working alongside our Bolivian leaders at the Carlos Laborde church plant we have seen the wisdom and truth in Felix's words he had shared with us. For now it is an afternoon kids' club similar to AWANA. We have been getting to know the kids and building relationships with them. We are finding out that not only are these kids coming from unchurched

families, but some of them come from very rough backgrounds. Carlos Laborde is located a little over a mile from Palmasola prison, Bolivia's largest prison. The prison has a definite effect on the surrounding area. I'm sure you can imagine that some of these kids can be challenging from time to time. It is interesting that they choose to come back week after week. We hope it is because they feel accepted and loved by the leaders. Our prayer is that they will see God's love shining through us and that it will ultimately draw them one step closer to accepting the Lord as their personal Savior. We hope that our ministry to these kids will lead to an open door to sharing the gospel with their parents and relatives in the neighborhood. Although it has its challenges it has been a real joy to be part of this ministry. Just this past Sunday there were a few kids already there playing soccer on the property when we arrived. Antony who is probably about five years old saw us pull up and came running to give us each a hug. We couldn't ask for a sweeter welcome!



Carlos Laborde kids' club

Please pray:

- for our Bolivian pastors and their families ministering in Santa Cruz, Cochabamba, and La Paz.
- for patience and love as our leadership team ministers to the kids at Carlos Laborde.
- for our kids and their spouses living in Seattle, Los Angeles, and Grand Rapids.



Peña de Horeb church anniversary

Praise:

- for the adults who joined us at the Carlos Laborde movie night.
- for our faithful supporters who have been a real encouragement to us.
- for the wonderful fellowship we have been having with Jeff and Sally Roth, GMI missionaries to Nicaragua.

"I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible" 1 Corinthians 9:19

We recently had our second movie night for the kids at the Carlos Laborde church plant. After our regular class time, Lea—a university student who is one of our leaders—started out by showing a PowerPoint video she had made of pictures that had been taken of the kids. They absolutely loved seeing themselves on the big white sheet that served as our screen. After that we watched two Bible story videos and the kids really enjoyed them. It was so special to have some adults there also who really seemed to enjoy the videos and time together. At our last movie night the temperature dropped and the winds kicked up. In the middle of the presentation the kids asked Lea to stop the video for just a few minutes. The majority of them ran home and came back with blankets. After they got settled, covered in their warm blankets, the video was started again and they enjoyed the rest of the presentation.

On June 24 we had the privilege of attending the anniversary celebration of our mission church Peña de Horeb. The special service was held outside in their new building they have been working on. The roof had been put on a few years ago and they have slowly continued to move forward with the construction. They had built the platform and the latest addition was pouring the cement for the floor just in time for their anniversary. Dan and I, along with other leaders, were given special seats on the sides right in front of the platform. There was drizzly rain as the service started and when the wind blew just right we could feel the rain on our backs. I guess that is all part of an outdoor service in a building that isn't completed. Thankfully as the morning went on the rain cleared up. It was such a special celebration! As part of the service leaders from the mission and the church were asked to share words. Dan and I were both asked to come up front and share briefly as representatives of our missionary team. Near the end of the service Dan along with three other pastors were asked to pray for the church in different languages. It was very special as prayers were lifted up for the church in Spanish, English, and Aymara (an indigenous language). After the service a wonderful lunch was served to everyone there and then the much anticipated torta (cake) was cut and served.

At the end of July Dan had the opportunity to travel to La Paz with our mission president Pepe Yucra and Pastor Ramon Lima-chi. They met with our pastors from our six churches in the Altiplano region. On September 9 Dan, along with Pastor Santos Ortega from Santa Cruz, will be back in La Paz at the Viacha church for the church anniversary and teaching sessions with the pastors.



Sisters making cheese empanadas at Carlos Laborde



Leading in prayer



Praying in three languages

We serve as Grace Ministries International missionaries in Bolivia to encourage and empower our leaders to do the work of the ministries that God has given them. Thank you for your faithful partnership with us! We would not be able to serve the Lord here in Bolivia without your prayers and financial giving.

Serving through Christ,
Dan and Mary Sue Reed

If you do not receive our e-mail updates but would like to, please let us know by emailing us at reeds2plus3@yahoo.com