

December 2009

# Ministry Update

## Duane & Carin Guthrie

### Christmas Greetings from Bolivia

It feels a little odd for our family, this first Christmas away from Canada. Setting up our tree in 30 degree weather simply does not feel like the holidays are nearly upon us. This is all part of the process of laying down new traditions while seeking to maintain some of the old to remind us of family and friends.

One of these new traditions is set around the BBQ. Our recent Christmas gathering with our Bolivian partners had the traditional turkey and desserts that we would find at any table in Canada with the added smell of burning wood. BBQs here use real charcoal and we can say with all sincerity that we are hooked. No one can cook meat like CBM's own Ivan Gutierrez and Paige Guthrie! It was a great time to see old friends and make some new ones as well.

It has been just over seven months since we arrived here in Cochabamba and it really does seem hard to believe. Language training has been going well and we have begun to work more closely with our Bolivian colleagues as we prepare for our move next year to La Paz. There is a real feeling of



Ivan and Paige hard at work

excitement as we get closer to that day. For now, we continue to practice this new language of ours so we can communicate without the hand gestures.

As we last reported, CBM's team here in Bolivia has changed considerably this past year. Along with us and Rebecca Alward, Jim & Diane McBeth arrived newly to this field. I am very pleased to report that all is well. The McBeths have dazzled us with their frightening ability to learn language...but we're not jealous! It is truly wonderful to be part of this team.

So...on that note we wish you, our Canadian team, a very Merry Christmas!

## New friends - Not so new challenges



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*“Churches struggling to be the salt and light of the world in which God has placed them.”*

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Recently we had an opportunity to travel to the highlands of Potosi and the lowlands of the Chapare region with a Canadian STM team. Our task was to connect with Pastors and leaders of these two very different areas of Bolivia. Chapare is located at 300 ft above sea level in the jungle with high humidity. Potosi in contrast is a city that sits at 13,000 ft where the air is very crisp and thin. Dizzying

heights and dizzying heat all in one country. In as much as they are different, there was one striking similarity. Their challenges were exactly the same. Churches struggling to be the salt and light to the world in which God has placed them. As we talked, together, Bolivian Baptists and Canadian Baptists, we discovered our challenges in Canada are in many ways not

so different. Our churches too struggle to reach the communities in which God has placed them. As a team of Canadians and Bolivians discovered, we are not alone. We can share ideas, pray for one another, and learn together how to reach out to those around us in need of the Gospel. That is mission. Whether we live in Potosi or Prince Edward Island, we are all part of God's plan.

## A Different Kind of Christmas



Every year CBM publishes a gift catalogue to raise both awareness and support for the many projects we are involved in around the globe. This year among the many deserving proposals,

two have been put forward that are close to our hearts. The first is the Chagas project and the second is the Micro Enterprise project. Both of these projects are impacting entire families in regions

where there is deep poverty. Perhaps this could be a different kind of gift and a different kind of Christmas. Check out these and other projects if you're interested at [www.cbmin.org](http://www.cbmin.org)...



To our *Partners in Mission* we wish to send out our very heartfelt appreciation for your prayers and most generous support of our family here in Bolivia. Simply put... **We could not do this without you!**

If you are interested in becoming our *Partner in Mission*, please feel free to contact Eileen Moore-Crispin at Canadian Baptist Ministries. 905.821.3533

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