



Integral Mission 101

One of the core values of Canadian Baptist Ministries is mission both in and through the local church. What this means for much of our work is the process of engagement with local pastors and church leaders in the area of capacity building, developing a deep understanding of holistic ministry from within the context of the local congregation.

We have mentioned in previous ministry updates that one of the areas we are currently developing is the area of Business as Mission, Helping business owners and entrepreneurs to see their work as participation in God's mission to the world, not solely through their support of church activities, but in their direct involvement in the day-to-day life of our communities are large.

One of the things that we discovered as we began working with business people was how much they felt that Sunday and Monday were disconnected. Conversation after conversation with Christians working in the marketplace revealed that their local churches were doing little to develop them as marketplace missionaries and in many cases were doing much to support the Sunday/Monday divide.



Pastor Bernadino receiving his certificate of participation.

As a result of these conversations we began to invite groups of local pastors to our office for coffee and conversation in order to hear firsthand their own thoughts on how the church should be involved in the lives of their members throughout the other six days. What has developed from these conversations is a 10 week program where five or six local pastors explore together what it means to be the church on Monday, thinking through and reflecting together how our local congregations can become catalysts for change, holistic change, wherever we are connected. Our first group just recently finished and the initial results are quite exciting. Many of the pastors have invited us to share with their local leadership, to help them think through how best to proceed.

This is a wonderful development, one we hope will allow us to connect to business people and professionals directly from within their local church, allowing the development of Business as Mission to be incubated from within the local context.

PEPE – El Alto

Shortly after our initial arrival to Bolivia we came across a church-based preschool program called PEPE. Started in Brazil by a British Missionary, Programa Educativa PreEscolar has managed to plant itself beyond Latin America to several continents around the world.

It is a first-class example of the church engaged in local, grassroots, Integral Mission activities that exemplify the gospel. Ever since our initial meeting with local coordinators we have desired greatly to have such a project be part of the work in the Integral Mission Centre (CMI) in El Alto.

It is incredibly exciting to be able to report that this dream has been finally realized. What makes this project so much more exciting is that it is a partnership between the Bolivian Baptist Union, Canadian Baptist Ministries, and our European partners EBM-MASA. MASA has been involved for some time in PEPE projects throughout the world and when we first discussed with them the idea they jumped at the opportunity.



PEPE - El Alto
Centro de Misión Integral

From the beginning it made sense for this particular PEPE project to act as a model for local churches to follow in order to allow for expansion of the project throughout the city. As we mentioned earlier, a core value for CBM is the local church.

With this in mind we invited Iglesia Josué, the local Baptist Church, to not only join the partnership, but to take the lead position in the operation of the program. The long-term vision is that once PEPE is established throughout El Alto the program at CMI will become solely owned by the local church. It is one more small step in our larger toward church-based integral mission outreach.

Chagas Update

Another partnership that has recently formed between CBM, MASA and the UBB centres on our Chagas project. Chagas is a disease that impacts the internal organs and is caused by a parasite that is introduced into the bloodstream through the faeces of triatomine bugs known locally as the Vinchuca.

CBM and the Bolivian Baptist Union have been engaged in a disease prevention program for the past five years in both the southern zone of the city of Cochabamba as well as the area centred around the community of Mizque.

Last year we expanded the project into Chuquisaca, the next department south, specifically in the area surrounding the community of Yotala (45 minutes east of the city of Sucre). Unlike Mizque, Yotala does not have a local Baptist church within the community through which the project can work.



Chagas Chuquisaca

For this reason we have been working for the past two years to establish a joint venture that includes the Chuquisaca Association of Baptist churches that will act not only in the area of disease prevention but also combine as a church planting initiative. MASA has recently agreed to support a Bolivian pastor who will work alongside the technical team as it moves through the different communities in the region.

It is our hope that long-term relationships can be both forged and maintained in this cooperative venture and that holistic ministry can be maintained far beyond the care provided by the Chagas project. It is another example of the innovative ways organizations, including the local church, are able to engage in God's mission to the world.

New Team Leaders

One of the changes that has been taking place in CBM's Latin America team is the transition of Bruno and Kathleen Soucy as our new field team leaders.

Currently studying Spanish in Costa Rica, Bruno and Kathleen recently had the opportunity to spend time with the staff in Bolivia to get better acquainted both with their new colleagues as well as with the varied ministries in which we are all involved. During their week in Cochabamba they prove themselves to be troopers as they endured what can only be expressed as a gruelling schedule.



Bruno and Kathleen Soucy

Welcome to the team Bruno and Kathleen!

Thank you so much for your continued support, both Prayer and Financial.

If you wish to become a Partner in Mission please contact Barbara Keys at bkeys@cbmin.org or you can use the address and phone number listed below.

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