



April 2015

Greetings from Cochabamba, Bolivia

where winter (I use this term loosely) is beginning as your summer is hopefully unfolding. Since our last newsletter we have seen significant changes in the leadership of our Bolivian partners, with new project managers and an all new Bolivian Baptist Union (UBB) executive, as well as in CBM staff.

CBM Bolivia Team

Our newest global field staff Tim and Kallie Hutton on the right <http://cbmin.org/cbm-appoints-tim-kallie-hutton-as-global-field-staff/> Patty Nacho - STM coordinator sitting beside Bruno, Anna Laura Nacho (sitting in for Kathleen) between parents David and Suzannah Nacho and Jennifer Fernandes in the foreground - CBM's new Latin America project manager who will be with us for a few months before relocating to CBM's office in Mississauga. We are very excited about working together and engaging with projects and pastors and other leaders.



Short Term Missions

Many of us are aware of the ongoing discussion around short term mission teams (STM) in various media and Christian circles, their effects on participants, host churches and communities, and receiving missionaries. Why would you not go on a trip like this? Why would you go? We recently hosted 12 people from NB who chose to travel to Bolivia in February to be a part of an STM.

Mizque is a quaint town of about 27,000 people located 4 hours from Cochabamba, in a region where adobe homes are the norm and the devastating effects of the Vinchuga beetle (Chagas) are commonplace. As CBM works with our partner to stucco walls and ceilings and cement floors to eliminate the Chagas beetle, we engage short term mission teams to reach the neediest homes. Our church partner works with the local community to identify families unable to do the physical work themselves. We then have the opportunity to invite Canadian teams to work alongside community and church members to do the construction work. This partnership in turn supports the local church in Mizque to be a Christian witness. Patty Nacho, CBM's new STM coordinator for Bolivia, was asked by a mother receiving this help, "How do I know that God loves me and wants good things for my life?" Certainly the presence of Canadian Christians brings curiosity and questions but it is the testimony of the local church that will ultimately impact those in the community.



Juana, a 78 year old member of the local church, worked alongside volunteers mixing and applying stucco. We were inspired by her faithful witness in the community. Canadian volunteers were taken out of their comfort zone, accompanying Juana and other church members as a part of their regular evangelism work, "visiting" businesses in town and homes in the villages to share the gospel. It was





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a first for many of our Canadian visitors to be on our knees in the middle of a hardware store as the young owner committed his life to Christ! Will he seek fellowship in the local church and grow in his faith?

As Canadians, what choices do we make as we return to our churches and communities? CBM is committed to facilitating short term mission trips to take us out of our comfort zones, to connect us to the realities of life, to make us uncomfortable, to bring us alongside the integral mission work of local churches in contexts very different from ours and to provoke us to consider how we are using the gifts that God has given each one of us.

Food Security in Nicaragua

As a part of our exploration of possible partners and projects in other areas of Latin America, CBM is privileged to participate with World Renew (formerly CRWRC) and Church World Services in a food security project in the Rio Coco region of Nicaragua. Our on-the-ground partner is Accion Cristiana Medica, an incredibly competent and dedicated group of Christians practicing Integral Mission with Miskito people. We had the privilege of visiting some of the project area – not a vacation! But rather a 5-day, 500 km hard-core travel adventure in boats, sleeping in hammocks, eating beans and rice 3 times a day, AND seeing some awesome geography and people largely inaccessible to anyone except those who live there. The project has been re-introducing sustainable agricultural practices (replacing slash & burn agriculture) to people who were displaced by the Contra Wars in one of the poorest areas of Latin America.

For the next several months we are focussed on our partnership, programs and staff in Bolivia. Concurrently we are exploring possibilities in El Salvador, Cuba, Nicaragua and other places so that in the next year or two we can expand our connections in Latin America.



Prayer Requests

- Our CBM Bolivia team, that we would be a support and encouragement to one another.
- Our partners UBB and OBADES as they work with new leadership
- Our family in Canada – Ben completing exams and heading into his final year at Carleton University and summer job at the Royal Canadian Mint in Ottawa. Laura and her family moving to Portage La Prairie, Manitoba as her husband Jonathan completes his final training as an Air Force pilot. Caroline and her family as they begin new work in Saint John NB and welcome a new baby in August (our 6th grandchild). For Bruno's Dad as he lives life with cancer.

Bendiciones

Bruno soucy.bruno@gmail.com

Kathleen soucy.kathleen@gmail.com

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