



CBM

embracing a broken world
through word & deed

MINISTRY UPDATE

The Soucys in Latin America

August 2016

"If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be that person....let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth" 1 John 3:17-18

Reflections on Brokenness

Broken foot, broken systems, broken people, and broken communities - this is where we live.

Our work, through CBM partnerships takes us into places where a person like me can break their foot just walking in the streets of Cochabamba. A city where a Canadian, supported by Canadian churches and individuals can access a good hospital and pay for well-trained doctors and get back on her feet within a month! While we are so thankful, we are also very aware that for many of our Bolivian friends and others living where CBM works, life is not quite so simple.

For people living in the margins, whose daily work barely meets the basic cost of food and housing and access to quality health care is nonexistent, options are limited and people who need health care are discriminated against due to their poverty. One friend refuses to seek further treatment for her cancer because of the shame she feels when her doctor "treats her like a dog" whenever she is unable to pay. Many adults suffering from the effects of Chagas' disease do not seek treatment that while free, is often located in communities distant from their rural homes. Leaving their subsistence farms and families to seek treatment that usually spans one year, is just not practical. Life for these people is neither fair nor just. We also see examples of churches with an inward focus, of church leaders who are poorly trained to lead others to be present and active in their communities, all of which can prevent Christian communities from being God's agents of change.

We are painfully aware of our failings as individuals, organizations and communities.

A good and wise friend shared recently, "God's rule will prevail ultimately over egos, lies, power plays, cruelty and corruption. Our task is to nurture good hearts so

that we can bear fruit though our relationships and commitments."

In Bolivia, church leaders are receiving discipleship training, taking steps towards understanding and working out God's mission for the church. Local churches are engaging with their community in areas of need in their context - to serve the elderly, to care for children of prostitutes, to accompany those suffering from the pain of domestic violence, or to reach out to urban youth caught in drugs and helping their parents learn how to support them.

In El Salvador, CBM has recently signed a project agreement with an organization aptly called ENLACE, which means laced or interconnected. We are supporting church and community programs which identify, equip and resource local churches to transform people and communities through engagement and serving holistically. The program provides church leader's training, coaching and consulting in Biblical reflection on the mission of the church, leadership development, community engagement, community mobilization and organization, project design and management, and networking with other stakeholders to transform their communities.

While there is no one magic method, plan or process to work towards a just and fair society, we see people living out their lives as Christ followers, nurturing good hearts and bearing fruit. As brokenness is a part of that process, we can all be encouraged to persevere through the challenges of "being" together with God as He heals what is broken!

The Good Samaritan

Jesus, speaking with an expert in the Law repeats the Great Commandment...***Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and, Love your neighbour as yourself....and who is my neighbour....The one who had mercy on him. Go and do likewise.***

Latin America Team



In mid-August CBM staff Tim and Kallie Hutton, David and Suzannah Nacho and Patricia Nacho introduced CBM's new field staff (and former CBM missionaries), Bill and Janice Dyck to life and work in Bolivia as they prepare to join us early in 2017. Bill and Janice will work with the Bolivia team to provide pastoral care and leadership through pastor mentoring. Bill will also have the opportunity to support the work of the Baptist seminary and the development of pastors while supporting CBM's partnership and programs in Bolivia. Continue to pray for the Dycks and support them as they have committed to serve God in Bolivia.

Family



Thankfulness, Gratitude and Prayer Requests

- For Benjamin's wedding in September and the addition of Elissa Stoddart to our family
- For time to be with our families to celebrate this special occasion
- For developing relationships as we become part of a community of believers in Bolivia
- For improving language ability
- For meaningful work where we have opportunity to serve the Church in Canada and Latin America
- For time to visit churches and our supporters in ON, Quebec, NB, NS from Sept. 8- Nov. 13. Our agenda is fairly set at this point but please contact Barb Keys, bkeys@cbmin.org for details of our itinerary so that we can connect

Thank you for being with us through your prayers, your presence and your commitment to financially support us. Through you, we have been encouraged and comforted by God's love.

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united in Christ, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Philippians 2:1-2.

Bendiciones

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If you are not currently supporting us, please consider participating financially in this work.

On line:

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