

Bill and Janice

No Training Wheels



Update: October 2018

Do you remember learning how to ride a bike? I think I do. I remember a little red bike with training wheels. The training wheels were a great help but would also get stuck in the gravel if I turned too sharply. I also remember someone holding onto the back of a bike for me, letting go, and without really realizing it, I was on my own. In a way our time in Bolivia has been like riding with training wheels, speaking for myself anyway.

Training Wheels

About a year ago I (Bill) was one of the key note speakers at a theological consultation on reformed theology. I did it but had to rely on translators (training wheels) for pretty much everything. When they asked the pastors how the conference could have been improved on, someone actually suggested getting a speaker who spoke Spanish. Throughout the last year I have done some presentations, preaching, teaching, in Spanish but always very conscious of my shortcomings. Two weeks ago, it was as though someone let go, without realizing it I was on my own, and actually enjoying the ride. I



spoke three times that week and felt good

about how it had gone, every time. Like learning to ride without training wheels.

On Our Own

Two people whom we have really relied on are our Team Leaders, Bruno and Kathleen Soucy. They helped get us to Bolivia and get settled in, protected us from over-involvement so we could focus on language learning, and were our constant cheerleaders. After their current home



assignment, they will be relocating to Guatemala, and performing their role from

there. So, we're losing our training wheels, our constant supports.

Riding Along

In our last update we reported on Janice's ministry of building self-esteem through music,



with vulnerable children from the "red light" district. That ministry is moving right along.

She continues to teach two days a week. As she is inevitably drawn into the lives and

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struggles of children and staff, they are becoming friends and family.

The expectations around pastoral support groups have been exceeded. Groups have now been started in La Paz, Santa Cruz, Oruro, and Yacuiba. A retreat, that will bring all these groups together for a time of celebration



and further training, is being planned for November 12-13, to which we're going to invite potential leaders from three additional cities.

Bill continues to be involved in the seminary, teaching his first classes in July, taking part in Board meetings and an evaluation of the curriculum along with David Nacho, and has plans to teach again at the end of October. So, Janice and I a riding right along in our ministry involvements.

Riding Off? No. Riding together.

Of course the goal is never to be riding entirely alone. That would be a bit like helping someone learning to ride, only to have them ride off never to return. We're looking forward to cycling as a team. Bruno and Kathleen will be back at key times. We're looking forward to Tim and Kallie Hutton's return from home assignment and all that they contribute to integral mission



initiatives and current programs. We're very happy to have Patty Nacho on our CBM team, with her unique knowledge of the culture, depth of relations, and organizational skills. We're looking forward to how we're going to do God's work together, here in Bolivia.

Praise and Prayer:

Things are moving along well but we really are still just getting going. The training wheels are off and we are starting to ride.

1) Six pastoral support groups are beginning at the same time. They need to learn confidentiality, transparency, accountability, trust...no small tasks. Pray that the groups gel quickly and function. Pray for Bill as he prepares for a retreat for the groups for November 12-13.

2) Pray for Janice as she continues to teach her music students and inevitably gets drawn into their lives. Pray for Goretty, the director of the foundation where Janice is teaching, as she battles cancer.

Thank you to those who let us know how we can pray for you. Peace be with you!

Bill and Janice

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Note: Please send support to the CBM address below or visit the website to support us online.

<https://www.cbmin.org/bill-janice-dyck/>

P.S. Our support to this point in the year is just short of our expenses. ☺

P.S.S. Follow us on Facebook, on Twitter, or on our blog site: <https://billandjanice.wordpress.com/>

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