



*Blessed to be a  
Blessing in  
La Paz, Bolivia*

June 2021



Greetings from La Paz!

While in the USA you would hardly notice that there was a virus lurking, it was not the daily conversation. Of course, there were the mask and limited gatherings. Not so in Bolivia, we are now in the third wave, and it is wreaking havoc. Just last week one of the worship leaders was discharged from the clinic after a complicated bout, his infected wife got over it at home. They lost two close relatives over the last month. One of the guitarists is positive treating it at home. A couple from the child ministry team have been hard hit and are still hospitalized now over a week. Another member of the team is positive, getting over it at home. A 12-year-old girl who faithfully attends the VBS is hospitalized and in serious condition. This is just our congregation, that has not met physically since the start of the pandemic. Many other members have been infected; most have gotten over it at home. Everyone we know has either lost relatives or friends. Social gatherings continue to be extremely limited. The numbers of infected and deaths are at their highest. The slow vaccination process is being met with resistance by those who do not trust it. Social distancing is practiced by few, and new restrictions have been put in place by the authorities this week.

Sunday morning teachings have been my responsibility during this time. I have felt the need to go back over Biblical Worldview to help the church be the church seven days a week, intentionally focused on God's purposes for every aspect of life. Darrow Miller, who brought this teaching to Food for the Hungry has been a great inspiration. He started an organization geared to serve the church in this area. [disciplenations.org](https://disciplenations.org)

Our friend Arturo Cuba here in Bolivia has embraced this and is now one of the most influential teachers in this ministry. <https://disciplenations.org/resources/31-days-of-worldview-wisdom-with-arturo-cuba/>. I find this especially useful to help get back to the motivation that moved me to serve in Bolivia thirty-six years ago.

Pastor Raul has been making a push toward helping church members who are not yet part of a weekly home study group to get started. He mentioned eleven new groups starting this month which will be limited mostly to those who are part of a household. Conditions do not yet exist for having others come in and out of our homes. In a way this helps reduce the church's use of public transportation which is good for everyone's health.

We are grateful to the Lord for the opportunity to serve in Bolivia Together with Samuel we declare, "Thus far the LORD has helped us." At the same time, we can say, "thus far many of you have helped us as well" and we are thankful.

May the Lord bless you richly!

*Bruce & Miriam*



Dan and Cait's deck before and after many days of stripping, sanding, and staining. Had I known how many hours it would take, I may have reconsidered.