

# Bentleys' Update – Sept '21

*Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Colossians 3:12*

Dear Friends,

Lucinda and I were able to travel to Bolivia in August, after our travels to NM and FL. We spent our brief period of quarantine cleaning, as a window had blown open in our very prolonged absence and there was a layer of the typical black, fine, oily Cochabamba dust on every exposed surface.

Not long after our arrival Lucio Condori, a man we had taught and discipled at a small Quechua Bible school for three years when he was young, stopped by at the Quechua radio station. He had traveled through the day before and then overnight to meet with me. Lucio lives with his family in the town of Uyuni, at 3,668 meters (12,034 ft) on the edge of the famous salt flats. He works evangelizing and pastoring six groups of believers in that area of the highlands. We were able to meet for a couple of hours before he had to turn around and head back. It was super encouraging to hear of how God has been planting His church through the efforts of Lucio and many other Quechua leaders like him.



I was also able to meet with the new Director of Mosoj Chaski – the Quechua radio station - and also a local Bolivian radio engineer and our volunteer engineer/technician, Irineo Lopez, to discuss and plan needed repairs to the antenna system of the radio station. I've been communicating with the two engineers from the US and Canada who help with the radio station. The work is planned for repairs and updating the antenna system, and aspects of that will start in these weeks. Please do pray for Irineo in particular. He had a case of long Covid, quite severe. He has recovered, but is still weakened by the virus. The engineers from the US and Canada are planning on traveling to Cochabamba in the coming months to engage the updating of the antenna system.

Lucinda and Goretty, the Director of Emmanuel Foundation, were able to spend time together and converse about the past months and coming period. Goretty finally received the green light from her doctor, after a negative PCR test, to leave quarantine. She was quite ill for over two weeks, but is now on the mend. That's a tremendous answer to prayer. Goretty's entire family and many others at Emanuel Foundation have been impacted by Covid.

The third wave of Covid is waning here, but not before wreaking a lot of harm. Among our many Bolivian friends, coworkers and beyond, there are few it has not impacted. Literally everyone we meet with either has had Covid, or someone in their family has had it. Many have passed away, often leaving the family with substantial debt from the medical bills. The economic impact of the virus is significant. Local income and giving to the Quechua radio station, for example, is off 75% this year. Pray there will be no fourth wave of the virus here, and for the long term climb out of the multiple adverse consequences of the pandemic.



In His harvest fields with you,

*Paul & Lucinda*

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