

# Bentleys' Update – Nov '22

*Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." Matt 9:37,38*

Dear Friends,

We trust this note finds each of you well and enjoying the fall season. Thanksgiving day is only a couple of days away, bringing with it the opportunity to focus once again on God's provision throughout the year. Lucinda and I are grateful to Him for all that He has given us – faith in His Son, abundant and joyful life in His family, eternal relationship and hope in Him, and work in His harvest fields.

We had good travels and meetings over the past weeks in FL, AZ, NM and TX. There were travel glitches and a lost laptop (which holds literally everything), but we still managed to arrive well to our multiple destinations and the computer was found and held for us. We have a backup, but a non-recovery of the laptop would have still implied many days of extra work. I'm abundantly thankful it didn't end that way. As well as meeting with two of the five Area Leaders of the Americas Region we work with, I had the opportunity to head to a ranch almost 4 hours out into the NM dessert, and meet with a new family working with the Apache people. It's amazing to see how God moves people to share His Good News with those in need of Jesus.

A couple of nights ago I received a WhatsApp call from a leader of the Nueva Vida (New Life) church in Sucre, Bolivia. A good number of years ago, Lucinda and I worked with a Bolivia co-worker (a mason/builder) named Bernardo Choque, and with others, to plant a church in the Alto Mesa Verde (High Green Plain) neighborhood of Sucre. It was a plain on the outskirts of Sucre, sparsely populated by Quechuas migrating to the city from the countryside. God opened a lot of hearts to the Gospel over the following years, and the church grew and also established multiple daughter churches in the countryside.

The church and the neighborhood have continued to grow. What was a neighborhood of small, rudimentary adobe houses spread out on the plain, has become a part of the city – filled in with 2 and 3 story brick and concrete buildings. The church has grown and built likewise. There are now almost 300 in attendance at the church itself. I've been following their meetings and activities on Facebook. When the pandemic started and in-person meetings were prohibited by law, they pivoted immediately to continue everything virtually.

I've been amazed at their work over the years of restrictions, and now they are back to in-person meetings. They are getting ready to celebrate a special anniversary of the church, and want to know what the early days of the church plant were like. It seems that few of the original people involved are around any more. Bernardo Choque was killed in a vehicle accident several years ago. The present leaders wanted to record an interview, so we could share the story of the early days. Remembering how things were – to be able to share the early years of the church plant – and seeing how God has opened so many doors and hearts over the subsequent years, gives us opportunity to praise Him for fulfilling His promises. He promised to plant His church among people groups around the globe. And He has and is.

May we praise the Father for His promises and provision, and may He strengthen our vision for the fields that are still "white unto the harvest".

With love and gratitude to you for your interest,  
prayer and partnership,

*Paul & Lucinda*

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