

Bentleys' Update – Mar '23

"The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing." Zephaniah 3:17

Dear Friends,

I used to travel one day a week out to the mountains to the north of town with a Quechua friend, Julio Mamani. We'd hold meetings in different villages to teach and disciple. On one trip he introduced me to some relatives who lived in a few huts on a knoll nestled back against the cliffs – don Basilio and his wife and kids. In the following years I'd brought them a solar powered radio so they could listen to Mosoj Chaski, the



Quechua radio station. A couple of weeks ago on a Tuesday I was out in that area of the hills, fishing a lake with son James on our day off. On the way down the mountain, a group of men came up the hillside to greet us. They were from a Quechua church about 15 miles on the other side of the mountains. They'd come to hold a service with the family I know, simply to encourage them. Basilio had suffered an accident and was just recently back from the hospital in town.

"We've prepared food, Pablo. You have to come over and have some with us!" It was raining and cold,

and they'd set up a 24' x 24' tarp on some poles within the rustic rock wall surrounding the family's adobe huts. It made for a makeshift shelter from the rain and wind. There was a group of about 25 from the church, crouched under the tarp with guitar, charangos and an accordion, and lots of food. And I mean LOTS of food – typical Quechua hospitality. They'd brought it with them to share with the family, and now with us. It was a joy to be invited to share, and more so to see this Quechua church expressing Jesus' love to an isolated family of believers on a little knoll way out in the Andes. Jesus continues to plant and grow his church among the Quechua people.

At "La Fundi" (The Emanuel Foundation) outreach for Christ continues unabated through homework help and encouragement and age-appropriate engagement in the local church children and youth programs, on the invitation of the church leadership, plus the transportation to and from church each time. Also, the director of the ministry, Goretty Jora, accompanies our child battling leukemia (Laurita) back and forth to the hospital, and while in the hospital, and to every doctor appointment. Laurita's liver enzymes were not going down to

within normal range, so she has had to start on another kind of chemotherapy, which is given into her spinal cord two times a week. Please continue to pray for Laurita's healing.

We have several new children in La Fundi and, with the beginning of the Bolivian school year, mostly on Saturdays we've enjoyed and learned from, together, three happy excursions away from the inner city/south side/red quarter where La Fundi Center is located - one outing to a former tin baron's City Palace and



Grounds/Museum, one outing to the former tin baron's country house and gardens/museum, and one day trip/picnic to a set of swimming pools and soccer fields outside the town of Quillacollo. What great and special times these outings were! Also, we praise and thank God for the wonderful Bible learning the middle-sized group of our kids are getting these two months through a special Bible discipleship training course our son James is going through with them every day.

Some of you knew my mom. She passed away back in early October. At that time, we determined to delay the Celebration of Her Life service till this springtime, to give more family and friends opportunity to attend. The service is planned for April 1st

at 11:00 AM, and will take place at the Stockbridge Funeral Home, 141 Epping Road, Exeter, NH. All are invited for the service and a time fellowship.

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

Paul & Lucinda

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