Final Training:

The last few months coming up on our furlough, we have purposefully focused on spending extra time with both the pastors and people that we work with here in the ministry. Both Beth and I have had multiple meetings each week giving counsel and making preparations for our absence. Each Thursday for the last few weeks I have been meeting with the men here to have a special time of training to try and help them be as prepared as possible. Although in the past, we have been reading ministry books, the last few weeks I spent sharing a few things that I thought would be helpful as they do the ministry on their own. The first week I shared with them about the importance of character in the ministry and that if we are not careful that we can outwardly begin doing what we should but be empty inside. I also shared with them about the importance of the preaching the Word correctly to see its full power. Then in our last meeting, I shared with them how to work as a team with it's challenges and advantages that come from working together; challenging them to stay faithful and focused on serving the Lord and trusting Him to do a greater work than ever before. Please pray for the work in Bolivia that the Lord will protect and prosper during this time.

Final Service:

Our last service before traveling was a very special one with several activities. We celebrated Mother's day because in Bolivia the date a little later than in the US; we had a special day planned for that last Sunday with a gift for the mothers and a meal with everyone at church. I gave examples from 1 Sam 1 where Ana cried out to the Lord to have a child and then promised to dedicate him (Samuel) to the Lord before he was born. We had a great group with close to fifty adults, 20 children, and 17 mothers that we were able to celebrate. At the end of the service we had our first baptism at the church. Mike, they guy that I was able to lead to the Lord a few weeks ago was excited about taking the next step in his Christian life. Please pray for the church and for Mike as he continues to grow in the Lord.

Final Meetings:

I have always noticed that the Bolivian culture puts a lot of emphasis on family, friendships, and being close. Each time that we have traveled for our furlough the last few weeks are filled with special meals, get togethers, going away services, and people coming by to say goodbye. It ends up being a busy time but also means a lot to see everyone's love for us. With each one, we try and encourage them to continue faithful, not to get sidetracked in their spiritual lives and to keep growing in the Lord.

Prayer Requests:

- 1. Pray for Dennis and Jonathan as they take over at our new church in Chiquicollo.
- 2. Pray for new believers like Mike and for their spiritual growth.
- 3. Pray for Gary that is taking over the ministry in Quillacollo at the new church property.
- 4. Pray for Pastor Pablo as he will now be heading up our first church since they have been without a pastor.



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