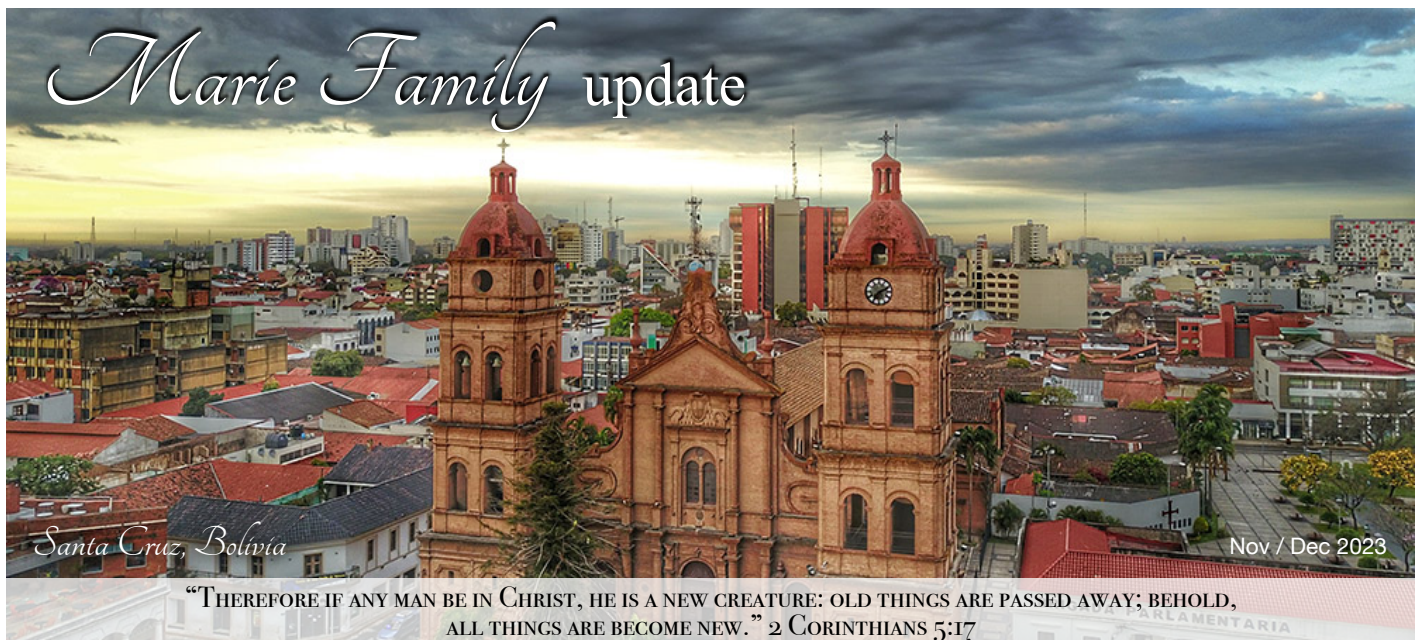


# Marie Family update



Santa Cruz, Bolivia

Nov / Dec 2023

“THEREFORE IF ANY MAN BE IN CHRIST, HE IS A NEW CREATURE: OLD THINGS ARE PASSED AWAY; BEHOLD, ALL THINGS ARE BECOME NEW.” 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Happy 2024! We trust you all had a blessed Christmas and New Years and are ready to face a brand new year. Our holidays were filled fun church Christmas parties and get togethers with friends who are like family to us here in Bolivia. We experienced so much love and affection from so many, including from a number of you who sent Christmas love offerings to us. Thank you for doting on us and giving us an extra measure of blessing!

2023 was an important year for us in regards to our ministry. After years of faithfully teaching and preaching God’s Word to the deaf community here in Santa Cruz we were able to reap a beautiful bountiful harvest. You may remember in our last several updates that we have seen a number of people put their faith in Christ in 2023. The last two months were no different. In the beginning of November a deaf lady named Maida whose two daughters got saved earlier this year approached Pastor Rodolfo and myself wanting to get saved. That same Sunday Pastor Rodolfo’s nine year old daughter Gladys also approached Jessica asking how to be saved. Later both put their faith in Christ as Savior! But the Holy Spirit did not stop His work there. The following Sunday our youngest daughter Gwyneth who is seven also got saved! We greatly rejoice in all these decisions for Christ. Now, we ask that you pray for each one of these people to grow spiritually and remain faithful to our faithful God.

The same Sunday that our daughter got saved we had a special baptismal church service and picnic. Since the place our church rents does not have a baptismal, we found a neighborhood that had a private pool and park that we were able to rent for the day. A few people from our church that had gotten saved a few years ago, but had not been baptized, decided to get baptized with those who had gotten saved this year. We were able to baptize thirteen people that Sunday!

December is always a busy month. We had a special Christmas service and then a big church Christmas party afterwards. We always have great attendance for this service, and this year was no exception. Although some people came because we were having a party, we are thankful anyway, because it was an opportunity to give them the Gospel.

Our oldest daughter Keira turned eighteen in the end of December. We are very proud a the lovely young lady she has become. She will be graduating from high school this March and she plans on attending Pensacola Christian College this coming Fall. Please pray for her as she finishes up all her high school requirements and seeks to follow God’s plan for her life through this next step.



The Sunday Maida (middle left) and Gladys (middle right) got saved.



Luke & Gwyneth



From left to right:  
Keira (18), Gwyneth(7),  
Ilanna(11), & Hayley(15)



Baptism Sunday

A few days ago my wife Jessica and I just celebrated twenty years of marriage together. It has been a wonderful journey, with sixteen of those twenty years spent serving the Lord here in Bolivia. We are so thankful for all the years God has given us and we are, Lord willing, looking forward to another wonderful twenty years and more!

With all the things that we are thankful for, there are still things we need to ask you to pray for. We know that when God is moving and working Satan is seeking ways to destroy. Please pray for a couple in our church named Alberto and Yoselin. They both made a profession of faith a couple years ago and have been coming to our church very faithfully for a number of years. Sadly, we just found out that Yoselin has been cheating on her husband. Pastor Rodolfo and I spent a good deal of time counseling them both, but Yoselin has remained hard-hearted and unrepentant. Please pray that God would do a work in her heart and pray for her repentance. They also have a seven year old son Carlos. This situation is hard on their whole family. Also pray for our friends Alison and CJ. We have asked prayer for them many times over the years. Both their daughters made professions of faith in 2023. About two months ago Alison had a falling out with Pastor Rodolfo and both she and CJ decided to leave our church. It is a big misunderstanding on Alison's side, but no matter what Pastor Rodolfo or I say, she refuses to listen. Their kids are sad they can no longer attend church. Please pray that Alison's heart would change. She said she got saved as a teenager. Of course only the Lord knows, so pray that if she isn't, that she would get saved. Also keep praying for CJ to get saved. He has come a long way over the last five or six years in his believe and understanding of God and the Bible, but he continues to reject salvation. In addition to the problems with those two families, we recently had a dirty attack against our church. An unknown person stole our church logo and name and put devil pictures on it and put it as the picture of a new WhatsApp group. They then proceeded to make a group of over two hundred people (mostly deaf people from Santa Cruz), and they texted x-rated videos to the group, as well as photoshopped pictures of people from our church implying that different people from our church are having affairs and are involved in dirty things. Quite a few people from our church had been added to this group, myself included. After much denouncing of the author of the group, I was glad to see our church people quickly exiting it. We discussed it at church this last week, but nobody seems to know who started the group. Whoever did it, they clearly made it to smear our church. Please pray that this attack would not keep people from coming to church and pray that God would give us the victory.

We have one other prayer request that is very important to us. Our eleven year old daughter Ilanna has been diagnosed with an rare early onset of glaucoma. She still has the majority of her eyesight and thankfully, her doctor said if she faithfully takes eye drops twice a day for the rest of her life she can control the glaucoma and not go blind. She has an appointment in a week to see how her current eyedrops are working. Please pray that God would protect her eyes.

Lastly, we want to let you know that we are coming back to the US on furlough from April through August this year. We have already begun scheduling meetings. Although there won't be enough time to visit all of our supporting churches, we are looking forward seeing as many of you as possible. Please pray that the details of our furlough come together smoothly.

It is your Christian love, prayers, and support that strengthen and protect us personally and also help our ministry here in Bolivia. Your prayers are valuable to us! As always, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

*“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,” Ephesians 6:18-19*

For the Gospel's Sake,

*Luke & Jessica Marie*