



Frosty & Cathy **HANSEN**

Bolivia

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Equipping God's People to Serve

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On November 13 we received an email from the US Embassy in La Paz stating, "Given the current unrest and an evolving security situation...U.S. citizens should depart from Bolivia as soon as they safely can." Though the situation in Santa Cruz was peaceful in comparison to other parts of the country, the GMI Board and Home Office encouraged us to follow the Embassy directive, returning to the States as soon as possible. We will be spending the holidays with family and praying things will normalize so we may be able to resume our ministries in early January.

Turmoil spawns a prayer movement

You may have seen news reports of unrest in Bolivia since the national elections on October 20. Voting irregularities which favored the president and his party produced cries of fraud, which were later confirmed through an audit by the Organization of American States (OAS).

While things were mostly calm in Santa Cruz during the 21-day national strike calling for new elections, in other regions of the country supporters of the president turned to violence with an attempt to end the strike. Though the strike came to an end with the resignation of the president and a new transitional government setting up new elections, violence continued.

However, what is not widely reported was the massive prayer movement which emerged during the strike. Literally hundreds of thousands knelt in prayer at public "town hall" meetings near the center of Santa Cruz. Major highway intersections, now quiet from the strike, became places where groups of Christians daily joined hands and sought God's healing for their country.

Never before in our years in Bolivia have we witnessed such a humbling of hearts before the Lord. Our prayer is that the new spiritual fervor within our churches, the freedom to talk about prayer and God's working with those outside the church, and the awareness of needing the Lord's guidance will result in great eternal fruit.

Building blocks to ministry

How awesome it is to see God use an event to produce spiritual fruit in a country, a church, or an individual life. The



Massive town hall gatherings brought thousands to the Cristo in Santa Cruz each night of the strike.



Members of Emanuel Church prayed for Bolivia in the deserted intersection near the church.



We were blessed to spend time with retired GMI missionary Arnie Selfors, who helped build this ministry.



Fernando Ojeda has recently made a commitment to dedicate his life to the service of Christ.



Cathy is thankful to maintain internet contact with these girls she is discipling.



Students who are finishing up the first semester of classes in the Centro Bíblico de la Gracia.

event may be a national strike, a single ministry opportunity which gives birth to another, or even the life testimony of an elderly man of God.

The work of our mission in Bolivia has a rich history which we were able to celebrate in September with the visit of former missionary Arnie Selfors, a man used by God to establish churches and train Bolivian leaders from 1957-82. People touched by his ministry shed tears of joy as they embraced him and shared memories.

During a special gathering of all our churches, Arnie shared his call to missions many years ago and gave a challenge to serve Christ. As the service ended, four young people indicated a desire to dedicate their lives in service for Christ. In the days that followed, two more contacted Frosty and asked for prayer. They, too, had a passion to be used by God.

One of these was Fernando Ojeda, a young man who has been growing in his faith over the past two years. Approaching his final year of a computer engineering degree, Fernando expressed a passion to be totally committed to Christ. Next year he will begin studying for ministry at our Centro Bíblico de la Gracia while he finishes his degree.

Cathy saw ministry opportunities sprout from a young adult class Frosty was teaching. She was approached by four young women from that church who asked to be mentored, and until the strike they were meeting twice a month on Monday evenings. Shortly after they began, another young woman asked if Cathy would also mentor her on Thursday afternoons. Ministry continues to give fruit to ministry.

Centro Bíblico de la Gracia

Our purpose for coming to Bolivia was to establish a center for theological education designed to prepare a new generation of Bolivian pastors, leaders, and missionaries.

We are thankful for the good first semester of classes this year, which were interrupted by the strike and will now run until mid-December. Thankfully we have a sharp young Bolivian pastor, Eddine Zurita, teaching the current module on Paul's letters.

Next year we will move to a trimester system with four subjects per week beginning the first week of February. Please pray with us that we will be able to return to Bolivia in January and be prepared for the new school year.

Please pray for:

1. Peace in Bolivia and God's leading in new elections.
2. Continued spiritual sensitivity in the hearts of Bolivians.
3. Young people who are radically committed to Christ.
4. Future teachers as we expand the teaching load at the CBG.

Serving for His glory,
Frosty and Cathy Hansen