



# KROEKERS IN BOLIVIA

MISSIONARIES TO THE MENNONITES OF BOLIVIA

March 2023

Dear Praying Friends,

Thank you so much for your faithful prayer and financial support. May God richly bless you and supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. God be with you and bless you as you celebrate this special resurrection Sunday!

A lot has taken place since our last prayer letter and we give God all the glory and praise! We want to thank each and every one of you that specifically prayed for the lengthy prayer list we sent out in the last letter.

## Travel

At the end of February we were able to be part of the annual Missions Conference at Pembina Valley Baptist Church in Winkler, MB and the next weekend we were privileged to be part of the annual Missions Conference at Calvary Baptist Church in Taber, AB. Both conferences were preached by missionary Bill Wall of Rubio, Chihuahua, Mexico. We saw God stir the hearts of many young people for missions and saw some young couples surrender to go to Bible college and full time ministry. We were privileged to stop in at Ardrie Baptist Church of Airdrie, AB where I was able to give an update and fill in for Pastor Friesen for Wednesday night preaching. We were also privileged to stop in at Vision Baptist Church of Leduc, AB. On the way to Yellowknife we also had the opportunity to stop in La Crête, AB and visit with friends we met at the previous mentioned missions conferences.

## Set apart

Our family had a very special time as we spent most of March in Yellowknife, NT, Canada, specifically with our church family, Central Arctic Baptist Church. It was a time of mixed emotions. We said hi, we had great fellowship; but then we had to say goodbye. I learnt to love and appreciate them all the more and their love and support for us was overwhelming. We had a very special communion service where Jesus was lifted up and the church family was knit closer together and the presence of God was there. While there we had a Bible Conference with guest preacher, Dr. Dave Cook. The last service of the conference was dedicated to set us apart for the Gospel ministry and I was officially ordained and sent off to do the work of the ministry. This was a very special time as I had my family, church family, mentors and friends around me to support me. We also had close friends of ours that surprised us with a visit and came to support us. What a great day this was and one we will remember forever! I am a debtor, first to my Saviour Jesus Christ, to the lost of the world, and to all my supporting friends! May we bare fruit to your account and may God be praised.

## **Outreach**

We had many opportunities to share the Gospel in our 7,000 kilometre round trip that took place from the end of February to the beginning of April. Yesterday evening (April 6, 2023), our five year old son, Shane approached me after evening devotions and said he wanted to get saved. I was able to go through passages in Romans and in John and lead him to Jesus for salvation. He went to his mother and told her what happened as well as his sisters. I asked if there was anyone else he wanted to tell. He said yes and said people at church. I asked who? He said whoever he could find. He is excited and asked about baptism right away.

## **Blessings**

It has been a great blessing to be in communication with two individuals that are saved and attending a Spanish Baptist Church in Pailón, Santa Cruz, Bolivia. Both are ex-mennonites and have been saved for a number of years. One individual has monthly Bible studies he cycles through in different villages. He was able to lead four people to the Lord recently. They are excited about us coming and are helping us find a home. One of the individuals said he owns a home we could rent in Santa Cruz city if we could not find one in Pailón. Jake and Sharon Wiebe, missionaries to Bolivia for over 30 years, are also helping us find a home.

We were blessed to be able to view the Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis/Polar Lights) several nights while in Yellowknife, NT. These were also visible Canada wide as well as in the U.S. We were told of a pilot that flew from Texas one particular night and was able to see them from there.

## **Support**

We are excited to announce that we had two more churches take us on for support. We also had one church double their financial support. This brings us to 98.4% of the needed support. We are so excited to have almost completed this chapter in our life! Please pray that we would get the remainder of our support by June 2023.

## **Shipping**

While in La Crête, AB we stopped in at a Christian book store. The owners were familiar with shipping items to Bolivia and gave us contacts to help us with this process. We have found two companies that fly cargo from Miami, Florida to Bolivia. In May we will be looking at packing our belongings that are in storage and getting them flown to Miami, Florida. Please pray for this process to go well and for timing to work out in sync with our arrival.

## **Logistics**

We were given contact information for an expat lawyer from a man we met during soul-winning many years ago. This contact has helped us a lot in preparation for our big move. This lady is fluent in English and I am able to communicate with her via E-mail. She has given us a detailed list of all the requirements for a three year Visa, price per adult and per child and, what we can do ahead of time in Canada to speed up the process. The fact that we can go from a 30 day visiting Visa to a three year Visa is a great blessing.

This does away with the original one year and then a two year process. We are able to go directly to a three year Visa and once expired, we have the option for a five year Visa or permanent residence. Please pray for all the paper work to be processed in time. There is a four-fold process for the documents that we are preparing in Canada. They need to be translated, notarized, authenticated by Global Affairs, and then legalized by the Bolivian Consulate. I had a pastor contact me for the appraisal of the entire process. I gave him the total cost that I was given and he let me know that they were going to take care of the total cost.

The plan is still to move to Bolivia on June 13, 2023. We are planning to move to Pailón which is in the department of Santa Cruz. This is a strategic location as the Mennonite colonies lie to the east, Santa Cruz city to the west, with the Rio Grande O Guapay (River system) running vertically in between, with Pailón as the town everyone has to go by to get to the bridge that crosses the river east to west. This will also be better than the original plan to move to Santa Cruz city as we won't have to make two big moves in our first term in Bolivia. Jake and Sharon Wiebe have great insight and were able to direct us with this wisdom. Here is a link to Google Maps to get a better understanding. <https://www.google.com/maps/@-17.706665,-62.1060047,9.7z>

### **Set-up and Passage Funds**

We are excited to announce that 23% of our Set-up and Passage Fund has been raised. 7% of our vehicle fund is raised, 15% of our home furnishing fund is raised, 90% of our airfare fund is raised, and 100% of our visa application process is raised. Thank you to all who have given so generously!

### **Answers to prayer**

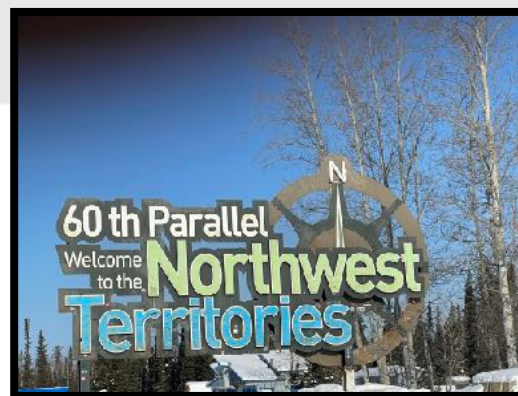
Here is a list of specific answers to prayer.

- Shane got saved.
- Ember's passport was processed and received.
- Set-up and Passage Funds came in.
- Good health and safety in travel.
- Opportunities to serve in our sending church.
- God to begin preparing hearts for a church plant in Bolivia.
- The Lord's direction and wisdom.
- Increase in financial support came in.
- Help in housing, logistics, and Visa application.

Thank you for your faithful, intercessory prayer on our behalf. God hears and God answers! Please continue to pray! Thank you!

Love, labourers together,  
The Kroeker Family





John & Brenda Kroeker

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