



KROEKERS IN BOLIVIA

MISSIONARIES TO THE MENNONITES OF BOLIVIA

November-December 2023

Dear Praying Friends,

Thank you very much for your faithful prayer and financial support throughout 2023! We are excited about being in Bolivia and are looking forward to our first church plant!

It's a boy!

We are excited to announce the birth of our son, Jairett Owen born on November 21, 2023, weighing 8lbs, 3oz and is 20" long. He is doing very well and is growing. Brenda is doing good as well, and our two oldest, Renee and Leanne, were a huge help in allowing mom to have a great recovery time. Baby Jay has brought great joy to all. Renee and Leanne fighting over holding time, Shane proud as can be and ready to train a rascal prospect to join him, Avery being little mommy, and Ember aggressive with forceful touches and kisses many. We were blessed to have many meals provided for our family from the community.

Hungry souls!

In November, two gentlemen received Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour. Both of the men work for Cornelius Unger who owns a large ranch. Cornelius was able to lead them to the Lord at different times. One of the men is John, a 35 year old who is married and has seven children. They live about three hours away from where we are located. They are planning on moving out of the colony and moving closer to Pailón where we are looking at planting a church. The other man is Isaac. He is a young youth and had a rough upbringing but is rejoicing in his salvation. I also had another gentlemen contact me who was asking about when we are planning to start having church services. They are hungry and searching for a place for their family to grow. They also have seven children. We are so excited!

Literature

Praise the Lord! I have finished the first copy of the first discipleship book that is part of a discipleship series called *Wausent en de Wuat* (Growing in the Word). The first book is on Salvation and Security. It is currently in the proofing stage. I am now working on the second book that deals with Baptism and Obedience. I also completed the first copy of our Statement of Faith which is now in the second stage of proofing. After this I will be working on completing our Church Constitution and Church Covenant. We are also working on Sunday School literature and other translation works. Pray for us! There is so much to do! People are hungry and waiting for a church plant. We feel the pressure, but we want to do things properly and be ready and organized.

Church plant

Please pray as we are looking for a location to meet. Facilities for rent are not easily found here as they are in North America with hotels, storefronts, community centres and more available for rent. We are considering a location that has a large, vacant room. Please pray as I plan on speaking to this gentleman that owns the place. I have been able to chat with him a few times and he gladly received a Gospel tract the first time I met him. Once we have a place secure we are looking at updating our Gospel tracts to have a meeting place address added to it. We are also looking at getting flyers printed to promote our first services and canvassing the nearby communities with these flyers. I have contacted the copyright holders of the Bibles we are planning on getting for pew Bibles. Praise the Lord, these Bibles are shipped in mass quantities from Germany to a bookstore in the city of Santa Cruz. I have also contacted the copyright holder of the Hymnals we are planning to purchase for the church plant. Please pray that they would reply and that we would be able to find a source.

Visas

Praise the Lord! All the paperwork was submitted to immigration before their expiration and I received my Bolivian identification card! There was a glitch in the immigration system and it has delayed the process of two of the children's visas. Please pray that this will be resolved soon. Once the visas are all complete the family will have to get their Bolivian identification cards processed. A huge answer to prayer during this visa process was the timing of the arrival of our son. Not only did we do the process with no complications, Brenda has been able to have a relaxing healing time with not having to travel the rough roads and go into the city. The glitch in the immigration offices has been a good thing because upon receiving the visas the family only has twenty days to process the identification cards. God knew! God is good all the time! I was also able to get the necessary paperwork submitted in order for our shipment to clear customs. Please pray for this process as well as there is also a delay due to recent changes in government.

Life

Pray for rain! We are experiencing a drought that is coupled with record high heat. Last year farmers had their fields seeded for the summer crop mid-October to the end of October. So far, a summer crop does not look too promising this year with some farmers at a loss of investment due to seeding in hopes of rain. I am thankful that we have experienced this extreme heat this early in our move and done very well health wise. Before moving here, we trained our children to stay hydrated and taught them that dehydration hits hard and fast, and that the recovery is not as easy as making up for the water you did not drink.

The children are in the middle of their school break and will be back at it in February. We have been enjoying a family project of building a playground with a sand box. This will be a great place for the children to play and be protected from the heat as we are looking to put up a shade canvas. We had a great time celebrating the birth of our Saviour and enjoyed our first Christmas in Bolivia. It was hard to be convinced that it was Christmas time, but we were persuaded nevertheless by the calendar. We are excited about the new year and seeing God do great and mighty things!

Love, labourers together,
The Kroeker Family

John & Brenda Kroeker
Renee
Leanne
SHANE

Prayer

- Salvation of souls
- Church plant
 - Meeting location
 - Bibles and hymnals
 - Pulpit and piano
 - Literature (Discipleship course, tracts, flyers, Sunday School curriculum)
- Visas/Identification cards
- Rain
- Vehicle (4x4, 8 passenger)

Answers to prayer

- Timing and safe arrival of our son
- I received my Bolivian identification card
- Family visas were submitted in timely fashion
- Customs documents in order and submitted
- Souls saved



Isaac in a church service

Lunch at immigration office

John & Brenda Kroeker

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