



# KROEKERS IN BOLIVIA

## MISSIONARIES TO THE MENNONITES OF BOLIVIA

September—October 2023

Dear Praying friends,

Thank you for your faithful prayer and financial support! We are excited about being in Bolivia and seeing God at work! We are excited about God answering prayer and seeing Him come through when things seem impossible! We know that this is because of prayer and God hearing! Thank you for praying for us! Every move forward in the past two months have come with challenges!

### **We Moved!**

We moved out of the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra into a village called Villa Nueva. The home was finally available and we moved on September 26, 2023. This was after two agreements with two moving companies fell through. One because of mechanical failure of their truck and another one that did not show up. Finally we had help from a taxi driver that organized a shipping truck for us and we made the move. We are at a beautiful location with a beautiful park and soccer field across the street, a bakery, ice cream shop, and restaurant within a two minutes walk away. We are next door neighbours to a 10 room country style hotel. So, if you choose to come and visit you will also be our neighbours! We have a convenience store, hardware store, pizza shop, clothing store, Hospital with emergency service, metal fabrication shop and more in our village.

### **My Visa!**

I was granted a three year work visa on October 23, 2023. I am now in the process of obtaining a Bolivian identification card. Once I have obtained this card the door will be open to obtain all other privileges and rights. The rest of the family's visas are still on hold as recent changes in procedure have come into affect. We were hoping to get that done last week but could not due to political road blockades. Then we planned for this week but could not because a system error with SEGIP, the company that provides the identification cards. My meeting was at 9:30 then the system crashed. I was told to come at 12:00 but still nothing. "Come at 2:00," so I came at 2:00 and still nothing. Please pray that I could finish this on Friday. The lawyers said I should come in again on Friday as offices are closed tomorrow because of the holiday, Day of the Dead. To make things even more interesting, Brenda is due for Saturday! Please pray for perfect timing! We know that God will orchestrate all things well! He always does!

### **Our Shipment**

Our shipment is in Arica, Chile at the moment. I need to submit certain documents and register the shipment for the next part of transportation to take place. Please pray for the documents mentioned above to come in so that I will be able to get our shipment through customs as soon as possible. With the approach that we took we are looking at potentially getting our shipment in tax free.

## **Spanish!**

We started our Spanish classes as a family! We will all be doing two hours of Spanish a week with a one hour session on Tuesday, as well as Thursday. Shane and Avery share a one hour lesson, then Renee and Leanne, and then Brenda and I. On top of this we are going through Spanish on DuoLingo.

## **Birthdays!**

Avery turned 4 on September 17, Leanne turned 9 on October 10 and Renee turned 11 on October 25. They enjoyed a special day of going to the local bakery for a sweet treat, a supper meal of their choice, cake and gifts! Avery is busy on her bike, Leanne is enjoying a new watercolour art hobby and Renee a new chocolatier hobby.

## **Garden**

We were able to hire a local that had a small tractor and tiller and have him till some land for us. We put in a small garden and are excited to enjoy the fruit of our labour. We also planted some fruit trees including mango, mandarin, lime, and passionfruit. We also built a tier out of scrap rebar to hang baskets on to grow herbs to have fresh on hand.

## **Outreach**

Being across the street from a park has opened up the opportunity to share the Gospel with the youth in our village. I have also been able to sit down and chat with some of the local store owners and build relationships. We are attending Iglesia Bautista Luz y Vida at the moment. It is in a village that has a lot of outcast Mennonite families in it. I had the privilege of preaching in Low German. There are several Low German speaking families attending the church. I have changed the contact information on our Gospel tract and added a QR code that directs people to a word for word audio of the tract on our website. These will be in print for use shortly. I am also working on the discipleship course. A gentleman from the church just mentioned, and I, will be looking at outreach and discipling in a village about two hours from our home. I am hoping to stay for 3 days at a time to work with them throughout the day and win their trust and disciple them in the evening. These folks are Bible illiterate and can not read and write. I will be looking at training them in reading and writing their mother tongue. There is so much work to do. Please pray for balance in ministry and family life. It is too easy to dive in and help others and neglect family. Please pray for travel safety in and out of these communities. Please pray for protection from the people that will not welcome us. I will be working with an individual that knows these people well and has navigated through much with these people. I am hoping to share a video testimony of this individual one day. It is absolutely amazing! We also need a nice off-road vehicle for this endeavour. Please pray that God would provide exactly what we need!

## **Family**

Our family is doing well. We are excited, determined and serious. We want to give our all! Our family is eager to see a church started! Please pray for all the planning! We are ready to show these people the love of God through our lives and testimony! We want them to know we love them and that we came to stay! Please pray that they would see this and that we would be liked and accepted. It is hard to explain—

they are our people, yet there are still so many “walls” to overcome. Are you for real? Can you actually help us? Can I trust you? Are you here for yourself or for us? Brenda had her first prenatal visit in Bolivia and everything is well. Please pray for a healthy delivery and healthy child. The children are excited to soon all be done with their school and have a break. Their school break is from December through to February which is our summer.

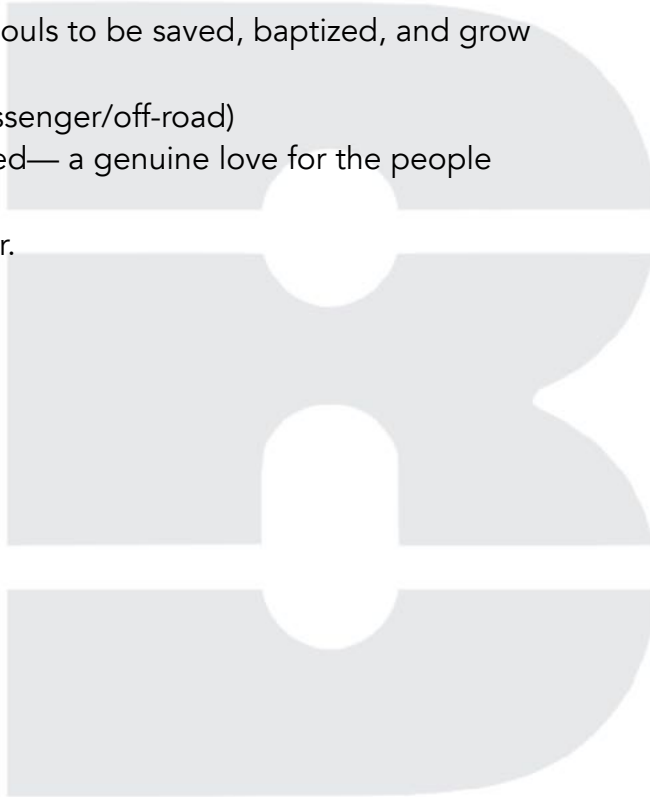
### **Prayer**

- My Bolivian identification card to be completed soon
- The Lord’s perfect timing of the birth of our baby
- Family’s visa application to be processed soon
- Documents for and the customs clearance of our shipment
- Spanish classes
- Outreach and discipleship—souls to be saved, baptized, and grow
- Church plant
- A vehicle for our family (8 passenger/off-road)
- Relationships to be established— a genuine love for the people

Thank you for reading our letter.

Love, labourers together,

The Kroeker Family





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