

September 20, 2010

NEWS FROM THE SKIPPERS!



THE SANTA CRUZ CHURCH IS OFF AND RUNNING!

On April 11, we held our first monthly service with 150 people in attendance. We began weekly services on July 11. We are believing for great things in the coming months!

Hello and greetings from Bolivia! It's hard to believe that a year has passed since I (*Jason*) was there with you, preparing to begin this new chapter in the ministry that God has given us in Santa Cruz. What was a dream a year ago is now becoming a reality, as we are beginning to see God's powerful hand working here!

After months of construction (*roofing, flooring & electrical*), logistical and spiritual preparations, we held our first service on April 11. What a service it was! With the help of a team of 29 young people who traveled from our Sucre church; we did street evangelism, house to house invitations, and we contracted buses from three different sectors of the city to bring those people to the service and take them home. Altogether, 150 people attended that first day. God is so good!

We held monthly services again in May and June, then began weekly services on July 11th. It is quite a transition from holding monthly evangelistic events to weekly services, not only reaching new people, but leading them to become faithful followers of Jesus. We held our first weekend retreat for new believers in early August. The next week we began the "School of Leaders." The 17 currently enrolled in that school are preparing to become the first small group leaders in the church. It is of utmost importance that we raise up as many leaders as possible during the next few months. They will need to consolidate and disciple the 250+ people that have visited the church so far, as well as the new visitors that we expect in the upcoming months. That is one of our main tasks now.



This team from our Sucre Church traveled to help us with street evangelism, house to house invitations, and with much of the logistics in the April service.

GOD IS MOVING!



Our Team in Santa Cruz

Over the past several months, we have chosen five of the regular attendees to work closely with us; preparing for services and other events, follow-up of new believers, etc. What a blessing it is to have people who are willing to dream with us at our side!

The First Signs of Personal Growth

Of course, not all of those people attend regularly. Currently between 50 and 100 people attend our normal services. The exciting part of doing God's work is not in the numbers, but in seeing so many different lives and families being transformed by His power.

We've had the opportunity to work with several couples whose marriages were in shambles. It's been awesome seeing how God has been bringing them together again, restoring the love that they believed lost forever after so much hurt. For example, about a month ago a couple who lives several blocks from the church came to one of our services. At the end, Carolina (*the wife*) came up to us and told us that she had dreamed about us and she had specifically seen Norah praying and ministering to the congregation like she had done that evening. She was sure that God had led her to the church. She came right out and said... *"Our marriage is a wreck. I cheated on my husband, and he won't forgive me for it."* That was quite a shocker, since most people aren't that forward about their personal problems. :-). Since then, we have worked a lot with them, and have seen much progress in the restoration of their marriage. Carolina is tremendously excited about her new life in Christ. She's one of the first ones to arrive in all of our meetings. She helps out with the work at the church, and we believe that God is going to use both of them in a great way in the next several years!

We've had the opportunity to work closely with many types of people; drug addicts who

are determined to beat their addiction with the power of Christ, young couples who have decided to marry... building their relationship on the Rock, backslidden Christians who realize that only in Jesus is where they will find the life that they truly desire.

Financial Stability is a Reality!

One of our goals with the Santa Cruz church is that it NOT BE dependent on us or on foreign funding for its monthly existence. That has been one of our big problems with the Sucre church. We felt that the best way to begin was to buy the basic things that the church would need to start, but then it would have to sustain itself from then on. Much to our delight, that has already happened!

Since beginning weekly services in July, the church has covered the rent of \$350 a month, all utility bills, and even the free ice cream and coffee that we serve to those who arrive before the service! Last Sunday we had an offering of \$220! We have been teaching the importance of depending on God in every aspect of our lives, including our finances, and we are seeing that happen. This is so important for the future growth and expansion of the church. We will still have to pitch in to pay for advertising for upcoming events, buy some more chairs and a few other things, but it's exciting to see the quick growth in this area already.



LIVES ARE BEING CHANGED!



Our Sucre Church

Below is a photo from MCC Sucre. In May they moved to a larger place in the main square of the city. Joel & Veronica Cuellar are doing very well as the main pastors now. Last weekend twenty-nine people were baptized! Glory to God!



Upcoming Events

Our goal continues to be to reach as many people as possible in as short a time as possible during the first year of the life of the church. From Monday, September 27 to Sunday, October 3, we will conduct daily services in the church. We are calling it "The Week of the Impossibles." We are inviting people to come and lay their "impossible" situations before God. We believe that God will do some amazing things in the lives of those who are willing to trust in Him!

In October we will hold another Encounter retreat and will have our first baptism in the Santa Cruz church. Also during the second weekend in November, we will hold an International Cell Church Leadership Conference. Pastors Gustavo & Susanna Rossi

from Buenos Aires, Argentina will travel to Santa Cruz for the conference. We continue to work with other pastors and leaders throughout Bolivia, helping them lead their churches to growth in a healthy way... in quality and quantity.

"The Week of the Impossibles"
Sept. 27 - Oct. 3

Family

All has been well in the family. Erynn's now in 5th grade, and she is enjoying it tremendously. She is on the JV Girls Soccer Team, which has been really good for her. She's growing up a lot. She's only ten, but she sure seems like a teenager to me. Jordan is speaking so much better. He is now in kindergar-



THE KIDS!



KEEP US IN YOUR PRAYERS

Many things are happening here, and we desperately need your prayers as we continue forward.

ten, and loving it. Derrick is a big bunch of fun, in every way. He enjoys life, loves his family, and is a genuinely happy child. We used to call him "Baby D", but he now demands that we call him only "D". :-)

Norah's been pretty good. She's been having back problems for at least a year. An x-ray showed that she has a herniated disk. She hasn't done anything about it yet. Fortunately, as long as she doesn't lift anything heavy, it doesn't bother her much. I've had a lower abdominal pain that I've been fighting with for a while. After ruling out another kidney stone, last week I had some laboratory tests done. It looks as if there are some type of weird parasites and bacteria in my system (something to do with typhoid fever... although I don't actually have it). I went to the doctor yesterday. I'm now taking antibiotics and other medicines to get rid of them. Hopefully that will help with the pain. Could all of this be because we are getting older? Nah... that can't be the problem!

We've been traveling a good bit over the past month. Norah and I went to Buenos Aires, Argentina for a leadership conference in August, and two weeks ago we traveled to La Paz for Norah's youngest sister's wedding.

Don't Forget to Pray!

We ask that you would ALWAYS, PLEASE remember to pray for us. We don't just ask because it sounds good, we believe in the power of prayer. Pray for us in the way that Paul

prayed for the church in Colosse! In Colossians 1:9-11 we read... "9 *For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness.*"

Thank You...

We want to once again let you know how grateful we are to you who have given so much financially. We pray that God would bless you and open the gates of heaven over your lives and churches. Without you, NONE of this could happen. God is using you and your gifts to further His Kingdom in a great way.

We also ask that you continue to faithfully support us. Support starts to fade about a year after we travel to the states. We understand the principle... "Out of sight, out of mind", and that happens a lot in our case. Please remember us, and know that every cent is necessary and needed. If you don't support us yet, please do. Even \$5 or \$10 a month is a help and a blessing. Thank you!

Shooting For The Moon!

We want make one need known before we close this letter. Santa Cruz is so much larger than Sucre. It has been difficult getting around - getting the kids to and from school, visiting, working at the church - with just one vehicle. Norah now knows how to drive, so we have been praying for another vehicle... a pickup truck. With the retreats that we do, moving sound equipment and chairs, possible future construction plans, and the need to travel to the



Jason,
Norah, Derrick,
Norah's sister
Susanna & her husband
at Lake Titicaca in La Paz

countryside, we feel that a truck would be the best option. We don't have the money to buy one, and we really don't want to take out a loan. We can get credit here on a new vehicle, but interest is 14%, and I am not comfortable with that. That being said... if anyone has some type of overwhelming urge (from God of course!) to help us with this... well please don't resist!

Conclusion

Although these snail-mail letters are few and far between, we TRY to keep up to date through the Internet. Our web page is listed below and we are on facebook too.

<http://www.facebook.com/jasonskipper>
<http://www.facebook.com/norahskipper>

We also have a stateside phone number through Vonage. It's local for you, but we pick it up here! Isn't technology wonderful?! Call us!

May God bless you greatly, and thanks for taking the time to read this letter and keeping up to date with all that is happening here. Pass the word... God is moving in Bolivia!

Lots of Love,

Jason, Norah, Erynn,

Jordan & Derrick

**JASON, NORAH, ERYNN,
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