

Dear jeff

We have returned from Bolivia and have exciting news for you. God moved mightily during our month stay there and we want to share some highlights with you in this newsletter. Also, Pastor Mawussi from Togo will be arriving next Tuesday and will be in the states until the end of October, visiting churches and attending conferences. Karen and I just returned from Bolivia on Tuesday and we have already left for another three weeks of traveling here in the states.

As you read, keep us in your prayers please as we continue to Invade the Darkness.

Blessings and love,

Your Missionaries,  
Paul & Karen



## Bolivia Report

On July 5, we left the hot, hot, hot climate of Georgia and arrived the next day in the Bolivian winter. While we were there, temperatures dropped into the low 30's and even though we returned this week to hot weather in Georgia, it actually felt good!

Even though the weather was cold in Bolivia, the spiritual climate was hot! We had not been in Tarija more than 24 hours before our good friend Peggy Lester arrived and began the first night of the Awake Women's Conference. Astra Adams from Full Turn Church arrived the next day with her team and continued the conference where God moved tremendously in teaching and ministry.

After a full weekend of ministry, the team traveled on to Bermejo where they witnessed some pretty fantastic miracles including healings and deliverances. One young girl who had had part of her tongue removed was healed and began to talk as clearly as you or I.



**Peggy Lester**

Peggy stayed in Tarija with us to continue to minister to cell groups and churches. She brought a wonderful teaching on spiritual gifts and we received many comments about how meaningful and needed this teaching was.



Full Turn Team

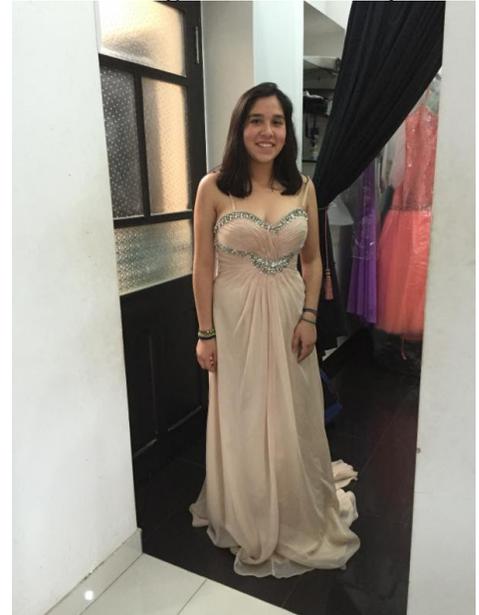
to the states, we were able to travel to Guarayos in another state to minister in a young church set in a Mennonite area. A couple of years ago we got to know Pastor Gerhard Fehr, a church planter and former Mennonite, who moved from southern Bolivia into the middle of the country and had planted a church. The church has not only outgrown its building, but is also planting churches in nearby small towns and villages.



Leadership Training

Churches there don't receive these kinds of teachings and they became life changers for many.

After the team returned home, Karen and I continued to minister to the church there in Tarija, bringing a much needed teaching on Spiritual Maturity, Witnessing and other teachings. We also were privileged to participate in some very special and important social gatherings: a Silver Wedding Anniversary and a Quincenera which all young ladies turning 15 look forward to for, well, 15 years! Pastor Elias' daughter was beautiful in her gown that we helped buy. You can see her in the picture.



Anna Belen

Karen and I had been invited to come and meet the church and minister to them. I preached one night and did a leader's meeting the next day. Karen ministered to the women the next afternoon. Each month, we share teachings with these leaders which are designed to assist them in their discipleship programs as well as leadership training.

I realize that preaching and teaching may not sound as exciting as testimonies such as healings, miracles and deliverances, but God tells us that His word shall not return void and accomplishes His will. Over the five years that we have been working in Bolivia, we have had multiple testimonies and seen drastic changes in people's lives to whom we have ministered. People have been set free from addictions, marriages have been restored, Christians have stepped into their callings and churches have been planted. We make no apologies for our giftings and callings.

Aquiles and his sister Matilde live in Santa Cruz and are pursuing God in the area of human sex trafficking. In many of the small towns and villages throughout the country there are severe economic situations and people move from those towns to the larger towns such as LaPaz and Santa Cruz.

Around many of the bus stations bringing villagers from the smaller towns hotels and temporary service offices have sprung up. Young girls needing a place to stay and looking for jobs are lured into these hotels and offices. They actually are fronts for human trafficking groups

preying on young girls. It is from many of these that these girls disappear into both the streets of that city and others where they are exported.

Aquiles and Matilde work with a local organization to rescue these young girls, and some boys as well, from a fate worse than death. Please pray for them as they actually risk their lives trying to rescue these victims of abuse and kidnapping. If you would like to contribute to their cause, you may do so by sending a tax-deductible donation to Invading the Darkness and designating: sex trafficking-Bolivia. Thank you.



Aquiles \_ Matilde

## Bolivia Testimonies

I asked the team to send us testimonies of highlight of their trip and I would like to share them with you here. Keep in mind that in 2017, we will return to Bolivia with teams and invite you to be on one of them.

### **Peggy Lester:**

My highlight: There is not many times you get to pray with eight people at once to accept the Lord. What an honor and privilege it was to pray with them on a cold night in a little village church. It was the first time five of them were visiting the little church. God is good.

### **Astra Adams (team leader):**



So many! Who can pick just one?

This was my 3rd Mission to Bolivia. Returning as a team leader was filled with lots of expectations. God being the awesome God He is, showed up & showed out! Watching people come in bound & without hope & walk out filled to overflow & with purpose is a beautiful thing. My favorite has to be getting to meet & hold a miracle in my arms. Meeting sweet little Emmanuel was beyond words. I came on my 2nd year as a team member and 5 months pregnant. I wasn't completely certain of why I was there other than I knew I was called to pray or interceded for people. With faith I prayed for & declared what I felt the Holy Spirit had placed in my heart. For a young woman & her husband to have a child they longed for & were told wasn't a possibility.

He is now a year old & just a beautiful testimony to the faithfulness of God. For each person, missions is an experience they will never forget. For me, it was life changing as this moment took my faith to a different & much stronger level then ever before. I can say I no longer pray from a place of uncertainty hoping God chooses to do something awesome. I pray from a place of agreement with heaven to see what God has said come to pass. No doubt, no fear! I will forever treasure that sweet little boy! I hope he & I have a sweet relationship as the years come & go to always remind each other how great our God is!

### **Natalie Burns:**

Every moment in Bolivia this year was my favorite moment. However, if I have to pick only one moment, I choose this one. It was our last night in Burmejo with Pastor Abel's wonderful church and we had seen two deliverances that day. We walked straight into the church service after witnessing a young girl in Berredero speak for the first time. Our whole team, in unity, had prayed over her for almost two hours and together, on one accord, drove out the spirit that was holding her down. Her first words were "Jesus me ama." Jesus loves me. After witnessing such a powerful move of the Holy Spirit, we saw another deliverance that night during





service. My favorite moment was the beautiful moment after she was set free. I felt a weight come off of the atmosphere, and the air was filled with victory. We reigned victorious over the enemy through the Holy Spirit. It was in that moment that it was not about two different churches coming together to pray, it was about the body of Christ coming together on one accord to reign victorious together with Jesus. That night we sang and rejoiced together, as the true body of believers. That is a moment I will never forget. It changed my life forever.

### **Cheryl Petracca-Stickley:**

So one of the very special moments was actually a collection of moments... it was from the very first step off of the plane to the send off when we were headed home. To see all of their smiling faces touched my heart! Their generosity and love without even knowing us was immeasurable! They opened their homes to us, they opened their hearts to us, they opened their entire lives to us. I will never forget them!



### **Kathy Crouch:**



My favorite memory, so many!, giving the Jesus Love Me bracelets to the children. Seeing their bright happy faces, it was as if I'd handed them a million dollars. The little girl at Pastor Abel house that had her missionary treasures wrapped up in a blanket Cheryl had given her, brings a smile to my face when I think about it. My prayer is that when they look down on their bracelets they will see His hope. His salvation, His kindness.

## **Togo Report**



As you know, another ministry that we assist in their vision is Pastor Mawussi in Togo. Pastor Mawussi has struggled with powers of darkness a lot this year. He has had to go to court twice (won both times) in order to keep his churches open. He has had to deal with extreme sicknesses and one of his sons has just been released from the hospital after almost dying from snakebite.

Pastor Mawussi shared with us just last week that after four injections that cost over \$800, his son was still struggling for his life. Then one morning he was visited by three witchdoctors (one male and two females). They told him that they had tried to kill him many times but he was just too

strong for them. The man then confessed to him that he was the cause of his daughter's death from snakebite last year and he was also the cause for his son's illness presently. He said that in every case, he (the witchdoctor) had turned himself into a poisonous snake and attacked Mawussi's children. Pastor Mawussi himself has been bit numerous times by poisonous snakes as well.

Now, to our western mindset this sounds entirely not plausible, the truth is, this is a reality in the spiritual realm. A missionary I visited in Panama this year shared the same kinds of stories with me.

After confessing that he had been instrumental in the death of Pastor Mawussi's daughter and the ongoing battle with death that his son was going through, the man asked Pastor Mawussi for forgiveness

and for prayer for salvation. I can only imagine having to forgive someone who killed my daughter, but Pastor Mawussi forgave the man, prayed for him and all three prayed to receive Christ!

The man then informed Pastor Mawussi that he would need to give his son another round of injections in order for him to survive because of the powerful venom from the snake that bit him. We sent money for another round of injections and his son was released last week from the hospital.

We want to thank two people especially for their contributions that took care of those injections and I am not mentioning your names because most people want to remain anonymous. But just know that because of your obedience and love for Pastor Mawussi, his son lives today!

Pastor Mawussi arrives in the states this week and will be traveling for three months raising funds for the churches. He is available to speak if you would want. Just contact us here at Invading the Darkness and we will work to coordinate his schedule. You will definitely be challenged and blessed. Call [678-371-1452](tel:678-371-1452) or email [itd7773@aol.com](mailto:itd7773@aol.com) and we will work with you.

## Short Term Mission Teams 2017

### Dates

Tentative dates for Short Term Mission Trips for 2017 will be in June. Those dates are June 2-10 and June 8-16.

### Ministry Opportunities

Both teams will have several ministry options to choose from; jungle and inner city evangelism, youth ministry, children's ministry, construction, leadership training, altar ministry, women's ministry, intercession and Public School evangelism.

We work closely with churches and ministries in and around Tarija, helping them to plant churches through evangelism, raise up leaders in ministries on all levels and even, you guessed it, hugging babies and children!

### Costs (\$950)\*

The cost of an individual member has been reduced to an affordable \$950.

The \$950 trip cost will cover: Tarija lodging expenses, transportation, food, administrative costs, translators for ministry (not for materials) and offerings. Lodging in Santa Cruz is no longer covered and costs approximately \$35/person.

Teams stay at Hotel Martinez in Tarija. Hotel Martinez is an upscale, modern hotel which supplies a buffet breakfast each morning, daily fresh linen, friendly concierge service and is close to shops and restaurants. For teams traveling to Bermejo (a 3 hour trip) on the Argentine border, we will house teams in the new hotel in town.

Transportation is provided by Invading the Darkness and the church La Casa. Due to our working mostly inside the city we utilize city busses and taxis along with church supplied vehicles. Out of town transportation will be reputable, modern 7 passenger vans.

Invading the Darkness also provides clean, healthy meals at some of the finest restaurants in the city. From the local breakfast empanadas to juicy Argentinian steaks, each member is given a wide culinary experience in the city, and for outreaches outside the city we are treated to local dishes prepared and served with love by local chefs.



**\*Pay close attention to what has changed.**

Invading the Darkness will no longer charge for or provide Bolivian visas. Each member must obtain and pay for his own visa in the future. Visas cost presently \$153 for 10 years.

Team members will now be responsible for round trip airfare from Santa Cruz to Tarija, however, we will assist each member in obtaining this airfare. Airfare costs about \$150 round trip. Airfare to Bolivia is not part of the trip cost of \$950.

If you are interested in coming with us next year, contact us by email at: [itd7773@aol.com](mailto:itd7773@aol.com) or call at: [678-371-1452](tel:678-371-1452).

## Address for Contributions

If you desire to contribute to our ministry, you may do so by making checks payable to Invading the Darkness and sending to:

Invading the Darkness  
PO box 4663  
Alpharetta GA 30023

If your offering is intended for Pastor Mawussi and Togo, please address to Invading the Darkness-Togo

Our office telephone number is: [770-497-1425](tel:770-497-1425). Ask to speak to Maria.

## Parting Comments

Karen and I want to thank you for your faithfulness to the Lord and to our ministry. I was meditating the other day on the things that God has done over the last 32 years and of all the places that He has sent us. Truthfully, I can not believe what He has done using a farm girl and a country boy like me.

I look on Facebook at many pages of past team members, of foreign nationals that have called us Mom and Dad, and not Granddad and Grandma and I feel so honored to have known them and to have been able to speak into their lives.

I also consider that none of this would have been possible except for faithful partners that have stood with us all these years. You have accomplished great things in the name of the Lord. Perhaps some day when we are all spending eternity in heaven, we will have the privilege to hear the stories of those whose lives we have touched. I believe we will have time to hear all of them, don't you?

We pray God's blessing on you and your family. Thanks for your love.

Blessings,  
Paul & Karen

