

# the WHITE family

Missionaries to

**BOLIVIA**

January 2024

## **White Christmas:**

One of the things that I always desired as a kid was to have a white Christmas. Growing up in southern Virginia I can only remember one time it snowed on Christmas, and that was in 2010 while we were on our first furlough. It was truly a magical time, and very special for our children because they had barley even seen snow before. Where we live in Bolivia I don't think it has ever snowed, except for on the mountains. Since we are in the southern hemisphere we are in summer, so for our Christmas we usually have 80-90 degree weather. While the weather does not put you in a Christmas mood, we still try to make it as special as possible, both at home and in our churches. My wife and the ladies were able to get together with all the churches for a special Ladies Tea, then on the Sunday before we had our kids program. On Sunday night we had our Chocolatada, which is a tradition here where we have Hot Chocolate and Fruit Cake. Believe it or not, the fruit cake here is actually pretty good and doesn't have the bad rep it does in the US. We were also able to give a special gift to several families of the children that attend our church that don't have much. In all it was a wonderful time celebrating the birth of our Savior and teaching why He came.

## **Special Blessings:**

We would like to thank all those who gave a special offering to us, and the ministry here, for Christmas. This is not only a great blessing for us but allows us to be a blessing to the people we work with here. With our current economic situation, it has put many in the place of not being able to really have much of a Christmas. The cost of basic necessities has gone up so much that many can't afford even the food they need for their families. We praise the Lord for your generosity, and for allowing us to be generous to others, and be a blessing to them.

## **New Beginnings:**

With this new year before us, we are praying the Lord does even greater things than before, here in Bolivia. We praise the Lord for how He has blessed our churches here and are praying that He continues to bless in this coming year. Also with our furlough coming up later this year, we are currently working on getting everything in order, for while we are gone. While I am sure that this year will bring it's specific challenges, I know that it will be a growing time and that the Lord will do a special work. I often think of it like raising children. As they begin to take on certain responsibilities, they inevitably make mistakes, but with our guidance they get better and better prepared, until one day they don't need us, and are living their lives as they should. That is our desire for the men that we train, that one day they will no longer "need" us and will be able to do the ministry successfully, on their own.

## **Prayer Requests:**

1. Pray for the churches and all the plans for this coming year.
2. Pray for our upcoming youth camp in January.
3. Pray for our government and the economic situation in Bolivia.
4. Pray for the upcoming elections we will have in August of this year.



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