

KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESES

December 2007



I WILL GIVE YOU A NEW HEART AND PUT A NEW SPIRIT IN YOU; I WILL REMOVE FROM YOU YOUR HEART OF STONE AND GIVE YOU A HEART OF FLESH.
~EZEKIEL 36:26

Hello From Bolivia

Hello, friends and family. This is our first hard-copy publication since we've been in Bolivia. The past four months have been wonderful. We have settled in very well, and have been enjoying getting to know Bolivia, its people, their culture, the food, our students, and everything else that is new to us. There is a lot that is different, but the one thing that is the same is the God that we serve.

We do miss family and friends, but our SIM Bolivia team is a real family to us. We also miss smaller things like



football games, but there's football here, too (soccer). Bolivians love their soccer, and going to a game was a great experience.

This is an interesting time to be in Bolivia. You can find more information on the political situation on the internet; news.google.com is a good site. Please pray for God's blessings on Bolivia, and that the leaders of the government and the opposition will seek God's direction for their actions.



SIM

SIM USA
P.O. Box 7900
Charlotte, NC 28241-7900
1-800-521-6449
www.simusa.org

When giving to our ministry, remember to include our STA account # **012557** on your check or when you give online

Prayer Requests

- Praise God for a successfully completed semester and good relationships with students
- Pray for journey mercies for Brandon's family as they travel to Bolivia over Christmas
- Pray for the country and leaders of Bolivia

Remember to check out our website!

www.brandonandjamiejones.com

We've enjoyed corresponding with some of you by email, but some of our email addresses have turned up bad. So, if you haven't received any emails from us since we've been in Bolivia, please go to our website and re-enter your email address. We want to hear from you!



Christmas in Bolivia



Christmas time is approaching. Here in Cochabamba, the weather outside is not frightful, it's wonderful. Decorations are starting to appear, and palm trees are being strung with lights.

This Christmas we are blessed to have Brandon's family visit us in

Bolivia. They are arriving here on Dec 22. We will be showing them around the city, where we work, where we eat out. We'll also take a trip to La Paz, the capital, to see Lake Titicaca and some nearby Inca ruins. Please pray for a safe airplane trip, and safety traveling around Bolivia.

Educating for Eternity

We came to Bolivia to teach, yet were unsure about our ability to do it effectively. Brandon had never taught high school before, and Jamie was to teach English and Social Studies, two of her least favorite subjects. But God knew what he was doing. After one semester, we are so very pleased with the way things have gone at school. Brandon loves his calculus class, and is quickly getting the hang of teaching in a high school setting. He is also enjoying teaching physics and geometry.



Some of Brandon's hard-working Geometry students. Left to right: Carla, Josefin, Vanessa in the foreground. Guillermo and Alejandro in the background.



Some of Jamie's students (left to right: Jenny, Daniela, Grace, and Sarah) relaxing during recess.

Jamie has discovered that she really enjoys teaching Social Studies after all, and is learning about Ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia in that class. She has also enjoyed coaching a cheer-leading squad.

We thank God that he called us here to be used for His purposes. It's a privilege and a challenge to be Christian role-models to the students. Pray that God would work through us and in spite of us.

Camp Week with 7th through 12th Grade

Sounds like fun, doesn't it? Well, a week at Palabra de Vida (Word of Life) Camp was fun, and it was tiring. We had a good time with the students playing games during the afternoons. We spent the mornings working at an orphanage, where Jamie organized and ran a children's ministry, and Brandon supervised a painting team.



Here's Jamie, clowning around with some of the kids that came to her children's ministry.



Brandon up on a scaffolding, supervising (in the middle).

In the evenings we had a time of praise and worship, followed by small group devotions. Jamie and Brandon each led a small group, where they had good discussions with the students. Brandon also got to use some of his musical experience by coordinating the Praise Band; picking music and leading the practice times. He really enjoyed that.

The students really experienced the joy of serving the Lord. It's our prayer that their experience serving at camp will stay with them, and that they will incorporate service into their lives. Hopefully, some of them will heed the Lord's call to full-time Christian service.

The staff at the camp also ran a special time of spiritual challenge for the students. Many of the students rededicated their lives. We even had a few make first-time commitments to the Lord. We pray that the decisions made will be followed through with.



Brandon playing Tug-of-War with the students during Camp Week. Below, he talks to Kirk Andrews, a senior, about the sound system



One of Jamie's adorable listeners.