



### Forging Ahead

The months have slipped by as we continue to adapt to life in an ongoing pandemic. While pushing forward and remaining flexible has been demanding, we're constantly encouraged and inspired by the innovation of our Bolivian partners as they seek to serve the most vulnerable through Christlike love.

### Living in a Digital World

Education has suffered throughout the pandemic. Schools have struggled to adjust, and classes have bounced between a hybrid of online and in-person. "Online" however, doesn't entail an organized platform but rather texting back and forth and the occasional zoom meeting. For families with multiple children and one or no phone, attending school has become a significant obstacle.



Our children's projects have been able to creatively adapt to this new challenge. Casa de la Amistad has accommodated it's children and youth by offering access to the internet, computers, and instructional help. They're also undertaking a used cellphones campaign by donation, as means of ensuring that all are able to connect to their classes as needed.

Jireh has come up with equally inventive solutions. Members of Jireh's partner church have collected funds and donations to equip a computer room. It has been encouraging to watch people come together to support these families during a stressful season.

### Leadership Transition

While the National Baptist Convention was cancelled in 2020, this year it went online. This gave the denomination the opportunity to debrief the past year's unexpected experience, bringing about 200 participants into dialog.



The convention also marked the end of the president's five-year term with the Baptist Union. Leading the denomination through times of political unrest and a pandemic has been a huge responsibility. Pastor Alberto Coarite felt this was an appropriate time to facilitate a transition and renew leadership. Please pray for the Coarite family during this time, particularly as Alberto, his wife and daughter continue to recover from Covid.

The Bolivian Baptist Union is currently in the process of filling key leadership positions while an interim board assumes responsibilities. Unfortunately, as covid cases rise, the Interim president, administrator, and secretary have all tested positive. Please keep this leadership in your prayers as they discern the future of the



denomination and offer direction for the safety of congregants, all while seeking to tend to the health and ministry of their churches.

### Sweet Medicine

Another exciting endeavour in our programming promoting beekeeping. Last year we were unable to access some of the most remote communities we serve due to lockdown restrictions. A need for economic stability was apparent and we saw the opportunity in the second half of the year to expand an existing agricultural project to include local beekeeping.



Together with a local church, we've focused on providing training and support in five communities and this past month we had our first honey harvest. The honey has been branded "Misk'i Jampi" in the native Quechua, meaning "Sweet Medicine." By connecting with urban markets, sales directly support these families as well as providing broader holistic care for a growing number of communities.

### Covid Update

Bolivia is in the midst of its third wave of Covid and Cochabamba is facing their highest stats yet. Restrictions relaxed after the first wave, but mandatory masks and an evening curfew have remained consistent. With this new spike in numbers, lockdown measures are tightening.

Currently Sundays have strict quarantine rules prohibiting people from leaving their home or using a vehicle.

The vaccine roll out has been delayed but there has been access to Sputnik V and Sinopharm. Cochabamba's first attempt was initially called off so that the ministry of health could regrouped with a more organized distribution. For now, the pandemic continues much like in the previous year, and we all do our best to be patient, protect ourselves and those around us.

### Prayer Requests

- Pray for our continued health and safety as we endure restrictions and await vaccines.
- Pray for our project staff as they continue to be flexible and creative in their passion to holistically serve and care for some of Bolivia's most vulnerable.
- Pray for the Bolivian Baptist Union as they move through a time of transition and seek to be salt and light as a family of churches.

## Blessings,

*Tim & Kallie*

### Connect with Us

You can learn more about us and our ministry by visiting our website at [timandkallie.com](http://timandkallie.com)

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### Become a Partner in Mission with us:

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