
The La Paz Project...

1 message

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To: cheryl@cityviewcc.net

Tue, Aug 13, 2024 at 7:20 AM

What does it look like?

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Our vision: To mobilize Bolivian churches in La Paz to plant Gospel-focused, disciple-making, missional churches who glorify God in their city, country, and world (Acts 1:8).

The La Paz Project







Hello friends! Our updates always begin with our vision in Bolivia: *To mobilize Bolivian congregations to plant Gospel-focused, disciple-making, missional churches who glorify God in their city, country and world (Acts 1:8).* To carry out this vision, with the Lord's help, we have developed The La Paz Project, a five-year strategic plan that seeks Gospel transformation in Bolivia's capital city through a collaborative church-planting movement. The upcoming prayer letters will share in more detail about this project and how to pray for the 4.7 million inhabitants living in this urban center.

The La Paz Project leadership has begun to meet monthly, each serving on one of the four below teams with a singular focus on reaching our city:



GOSPEL- FOCUSED

The Gospel changes everything (Rm 1:16). For this reason, The La Paz Project focuses on how God transforms us into Christ's likeness (Rm 8:29) by connecting the Gospel to our hearts through discipleship.

By prayer, our strategy asks God to ignite discipleship movements among congregations to produce mature and equipped Christ followers, some who are being sent out to plant new churches.



DISCIPLE- MAKING



MISSIONAL

God transforms us into His likeness and sends us out to live on mission with Him, reflecting Christ's heart and life where we "live, work and play" (Jn 20:21; Acts 1:8).

Gospel-focused, disciple-making, missional churches are planted, and God's people are sent out, fueled by the Holy Spirit, to impact their city for His glory and the good of their community (Jer 29:7).



**CHURCH
PLANTING**



[CLICK HERE](#) for a closer look at The La Project Team (1 minute video)

What Does it Look Like in ONE church?



Standing-room only last Sunday at the Mallasilla Bible Church. Currently, we are training and sending out two church-planting teams.

Our passion is to train disciplers and church planters. We are so grateful that through our training events twenty churches have been walking together with a shared vision of Gospel transformation in our personal lives, churches and city.

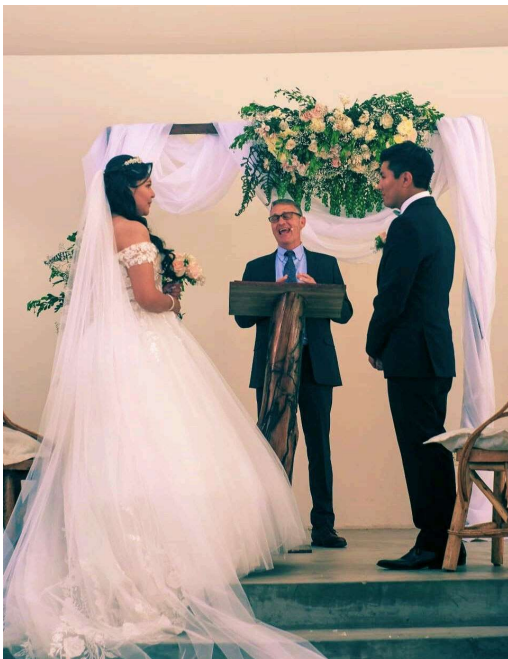
To give you a glimpse of what the La Paz Project looks like in real life, we want to "zoom in" to ONE of these congregations, the Mallasilla Bible Church. In particular, the stories of two men, Daniel and Max, vividly show God's power and grace through discipleship and church planting

The Story of Daniel: Disciples who Make Disciples

One of the core values we desired to instill in the Mallasilla Bible Church, from the earliest days of its planting, was the high call of family discipleship. To that end, we have continued to equip parents for their God-given task. When we started the church, our pastor's son, Daniel was an adolescent. We saw how the Lord used his own parents, as well as others, to pour into him in a way that the fruit in Daniel's life was similar to how Luke 2:52 describes Christ's growth as an adolescent: "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man."

When Daniel started in my discipleship group several years ago, he was specializing in urology. God has gifted Daniel with both intelligence and a passion for God's Word. Each week, I listen to him wrestle with the different ways God is calling him to live out the beauty of the Gospel in the challenging arena of the hospital where he is one of its surgeons. Yet, despite his busy schedule, Daniel remembers how critical his adolescent years were for him and has made a commitment to start a discipleship group in September for some of the adolescent boys at our church.

Perhaps, one of the greatest joys I had this past January was officiating at Daniel's wedding to his lovely bride, Yara. Faith has also been able to speak into Yara's life as Yara develops her gifts as a Sunday school teacher.



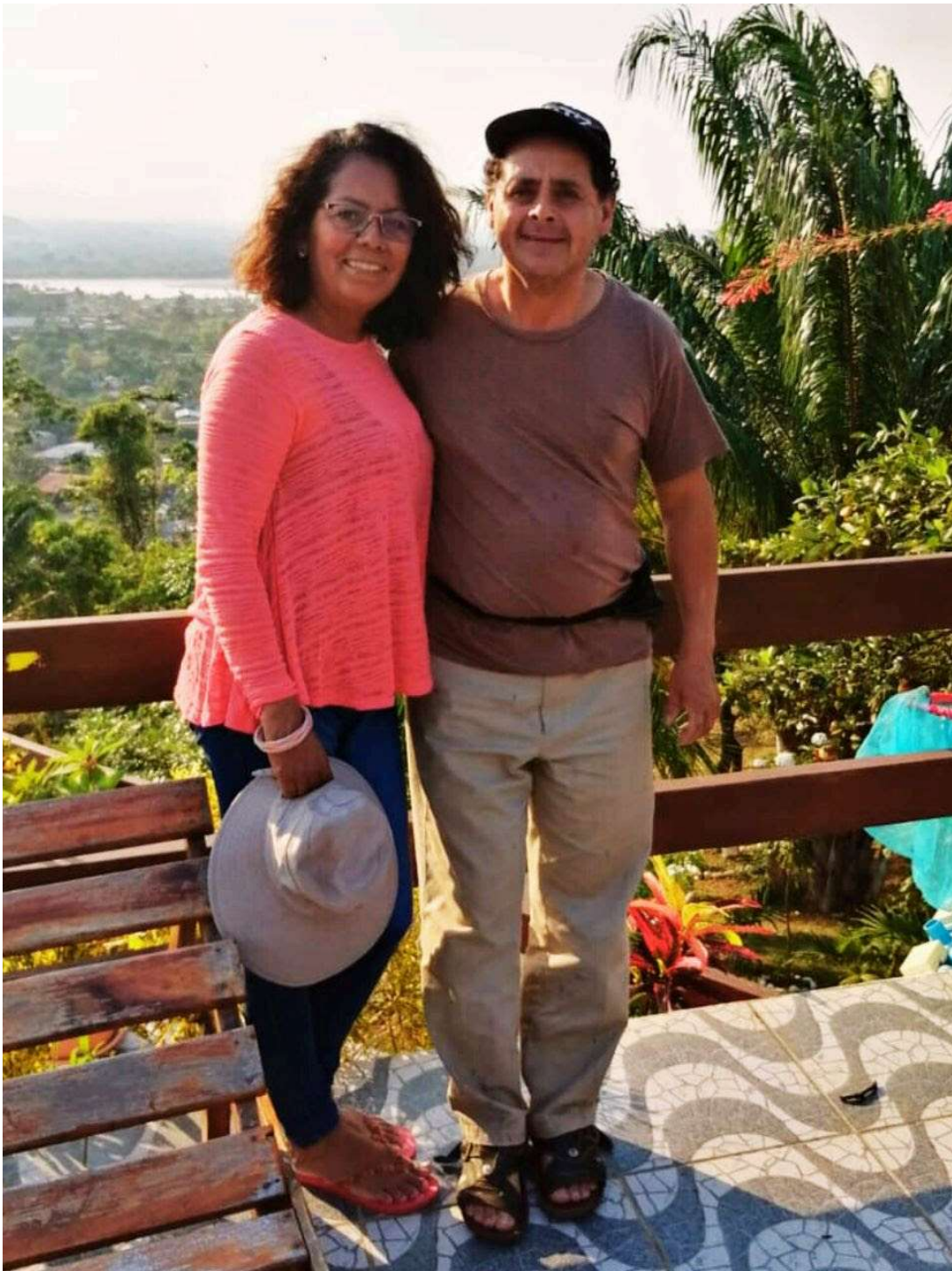
Preaching regularly at our church, Daniel in his last sermon had an uncharacteristic emotional moment (normally a stoic introvert); he talked about a growing awareness of his own sin and personal need for God's grace to change his life: repenting of his sins, trusting in God's promises in Christ and walking in obedience. He shared how God has helped him to become more like Christ through the "Gospel Waltz", a tool used in our weekly discipleship times to connect the Gospel to our hearts. Powerful preaching. Daniel will serve on our church's two church-planting teams as an itinerate preacher.



As we walk alongside of young Bolivians, we marvel at God, and how He works in the lives of people like Daniel. We anxiously await the rest of God's story and how He will mature and equip the next generation of adolescents through Daniel's discipleship group.

The Story of Max: A Church Plant who Plants Churches

Max and his family moved into a house one block away from our young church plant in Mallasilla ten years ago. Max's marriage had fallen apart, and he was hopeless until he found hope in Christ. God by His grace has transformed Max's life, marriage and family.



Max and Lita, sent out by the Mallasilla Bible Church as church planters.

Max's deep love for God's Word has led him to seek every opportunity to grow: my discipleship group and church-planting training, a three-year theological education program with our pastor, a mission's course and short-term mission trips to the jungle.

SENT "ACROSS THE STREET"

Last year, he was commissioned and sent out with a church planting team to start a new church in Palomar, a rural community on the outskirts of La Paz, where there was no church.



Last month, we celebrated the first-year anniversary of the "Palomar Bible Church". Above all, we worshiped God for what He had done to establish a small, growing congregation through Max and his church-planting team.



SENT "ACROSS THE WORLD"

For Bolivians living in La Paz, it feels like a 15 hour bus trip into the Rurrenbaque Jungle is "across the world"; it certainly crosses into the cultures of 5 unreached indigenous groups. Last month, Max helped organize a conference with our pastor and another elder who together taught God's redemptive history in the Bible (creation, fall, redemption and restoration) to indigenous Christian leaders living deep in the amazon jungle.



Max's wife Lita, teaching the wives of the pastors from various indigenous communities.

Faith shares a special friendship with Lita. Often, Lita meets with Faith to ask questions and discuss the common fears related to missions and church planting. Lita is one of the Bolivian women who has benefited from the ministry of Parakaleo that Faith is praying will take root and grow in Bolivia, as it is doing throughout Latin America. Parakaleo is a ministry that “helps women around the world build gospel-rooted resilience and feel less alone in church planting” (<https://www.facebook.com/Parakaleolatam/>)



Our prayer is that God will prosper The La Paz Project as a collaborative church planting movement in La Paz that will eventually become a coalition of churches who send out church-planting missionaries to 5 of the 36 unreached indigenous groups in Bolivia.

We anxiously await to hear the rest of God's story written through the lives of Max and Lita.

Ways to Pray

- **CITY CATALYSTS CONFERENCE:** 55 city catalysts from 36 Latin American cities have travelled this week (August 13-17) to Bogota, Colombia to

continue a two-year training process on how to participate with God in a process of Gospel transformation in our cities. Vladimir Requena, a La Paz Project leader, has joined Greg for this training. Please pray that they will return to La Paz with hearts depending on God's grace to grow a collaborative movement of Gospel-focused discipleship, church planting and missional outreach in La Paz.

(<https://redeemercitytocity.com/about>)

- o **FAITH AND WORK CONFERENCE:** Greg will also travel on August 25-29 to Buenos, Aires for a City to City Latin America "Faith and Work" Conference. Another La Paz Project leader, Boris Arancibia, will participate with Greg in this training to learn how to better disciple and equip Bolivian Christians to live out their faith in the work place. Please pray for God raise up more Bolivians like Boris to call and equip Christians in La Paz to glorify God through their vocations. (<https://redeemercitytocity.com/ctc-training>)

PARAKALEO TRAINING: Faith meets regularly with church planting wives throughout Latin America. Please pray for the training session that she and two other pastor's wives will lead on Sept. 9th. Faith is especially excited that our pastor's wife, Becky, who is being formed as one of the Parakaleo leaders in Bolivia. <https://www.parakaleo.us/>



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The La Paz Project

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SIM USA
14830 Choate Circle
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Phone: 800/521-6449
Website: www.sim.org

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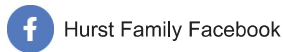
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2. Choose one of the following two gift designations: (1) "... for their Monthly Support Account" or (2) "... designated to Project # 91177 (The La Paz Project)".

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