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## One Heart at a Time

1 message

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...[How to Change a City](#)

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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).





## How to Change a City

How does God change a city? One heart at a time. There is hope for lasting change when God connects the Gospel to the heart of individuals, and then through discipleship, helps the Gospel to take root. God also connects the Gospel to the heart of a city through church planting and then to the heart of the unreached through missions. One heart at a time.

**THROUGH DISCIPLESHIP:** The vision of starting a movement of [life-on-life missional discipleship](#) in 2022 was to see God, by His grace, produce mature and

equipped Christ followers on a congregational level, some who will be sent out to plant new churches.

After three years of leading discipleship groups in his church, Pastor "Raul" said, "Before this, I never realized how the Old Testament applies to us today. I did not preach out of the Old Testament. Now, I see how every page of Scripture points us to Christ".



Recently, "Fernando" shared with tears in his eyes, "God used my discipleship group to save my marriage. The Gospel has changed our lives. My wife and I are so excited to now lead our own discipleship groups to help others understand and live the Gospel." Pastor "Raul" and "Fernando" both participated in the graduation of the first generation of discipleship training: 7 churches, 19 discipleship groups, and 56 participants completing the three-year process.



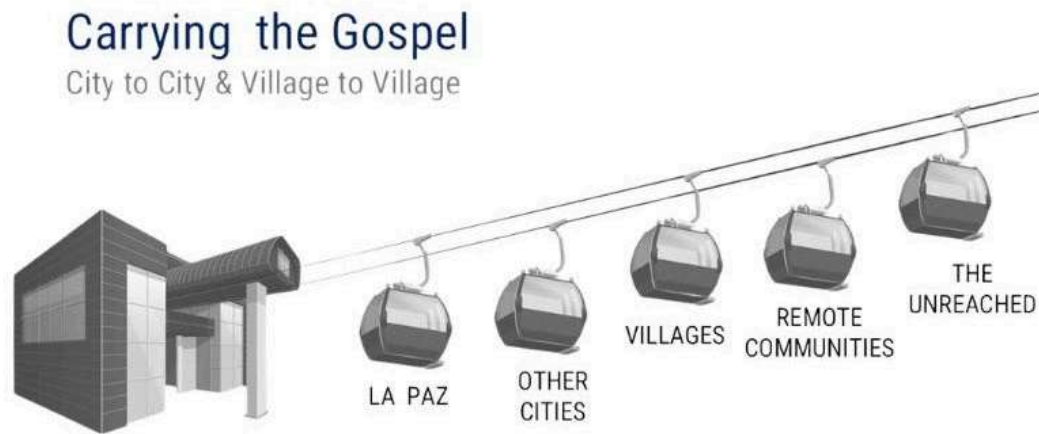
God has now birthed a second generation of life-on-life missional discipleship training in La Paz and in another large Bolivian city.

**THROUGH CHURCH PLANTING:** Five of these disciple-making churches are now

committed to church planting and are participating in the Incubator La Paz. With the help of church-planting trainers from [City to City Latin America](#), we organized 4 [Incubator La Paz sessions](#), equipping 25 participants representing 10 church plants across 4 Bolivian cities; this marks the completion of the first half of a two-year church-planting training process. In September, Faith led a [Parakaleo](#) retreat with twenty Bolivian church-planting wives to help them connect the Gospel to their hearts and calling.



**THROUGH MISSIONS:** By prayer, we ask that God will use discipleship and church-planting training to cultivate a coalition of missional churches who share a vision of carrying the Gospel from “city to city” and “village to village.”



## A City in Crisis

For the past 22 days, La Paz has become an epicenter of blockades. Over 5000 trucks have been stranded along the roads arriving to Bolivia's capital city, preventing basic goods from entering into the city: food for families, gas for vehicles, oxygen for hospitals, and products for commerce. Thousands of anti-government, socialist protestors walked to La Paz last Friday from rural communities to demand the resignation of Bolivia's recently-elected president.



Despite the blockades, over 60 women gathered last Saturday at our church as Faith taught on God's unchanging character during these volatile times. While Faith was teaching, I decided to go for a jog. Just to be safe, I googled "blockades near me" along my regular running route to a community called Lipari. To my surprise, there was live coverage of a conflict along my running route.



*On the route of my regular Saturday jog were burning tires on the Lipari Bridge and a nationally televised confrontation just down the road.*

Also, the guest preacher for Sunday could no longer make it past Lipari; so, I began preparing a sermon to preach on Sunday. Without a doubt, it was last Saturday when I realized how serious and severe this conflict was becoming, especially since blockades had reached within 4 miles of both sides of the church.

The conflicts continued this week with protesters descending into downtown La Paz to storm the Plaza Murrillo, encircled by police, where the government buildings preserve democracy. Miners hurl small sticks of dynamite while others throw stones at the police. In return, the police shoot canisters of tear gas to push back the mobs leaving many Bolivians feeling hopeless.



Yesterday, pro-democratic citizens expressed their frustration over the blockades and riots that make it virtually impossible for parents to work, children to study, and families to eat. Humanitarian flights are now arriving to the La Paz airport from other cities and countries to bring food and supplies into the city.



## City Change: One Heart at a Time

Regardless whether tensions intensify or dissipate, Bolivia needs a lasting peace that only the Gospel has the power to achieve. We know that hope has a name, Jesus Christ.

There is true hope for lasting change when God connects the Gospel to the heart of individuals through discipleship, to the heart of a city through church planting, and to the heart of the unreached through missions. One heart at a time.

Thank you for praying for La Paz and for your ongoing financial support for our family and ministry through the years.

In Christ,

Greg and Faith



## Ways to Pray

**PRAY FOR BOLIVIA:** Pray for wisdom for those in authority (Rm 13:1-7), protection and provision for all families (Numbers 6:24-26), repentance and turning to the Lord (2 Chronicles 7:14), and a humble people who do justice and seek mercy (Micah 6:8).

**GOSPEL-FOCUSED:** Romans 1:16 describes the Gospel as "the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes". Please pray that the Gospel powerfully transforms hearts in La Paz, among both unbelievers and believers to bring a lasting peace. One heart at a time.

**DISCIPLE-MAKING:** Please pray for the multiplication of new discipleship groups in both the first and second generation of churches.



*Faith's new discipleship group with friendships focused on the Gospel.*

**MISSIONAL:** Please pray that a consortium of congregations in our training network will make a biblical and financial commitment together to send out Gospel-focused, disciple-making, missional church-planters to the five unreached indigenous communities living in the jungles outside of La Paz.

**CHURCH-PLANTING:** Today, we met with church planters from the Incubator La Paz to help them develop church-planting strategies contextualized to their communities. Please pray for wisdom as they execute their church-planting strategies.

**FAMILY UPDATE:** Faith's dad turns 93 on Monday and is doing well. We are grateful for his health and stamina. Greg's mom's health is fragile and yet she remains resilient and joyful. We love connecting with family via Zoom and look forward to being together in August to celebrate AJ and Mariah's wedding.





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1. "Greg and Faith Hurst- #70105..."
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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