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Becoming a "little Christ"...

1 message

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... living on mission with God

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

This vision continues to capture our hearts and guide our daily footsteps in Bolivia. These footsteps have led us on a journey where we have marvelled at who God is

and what He does. We will share in more detail over this home assignment some of the ways we have seen God at work. However, we would like to dedicate this first furlough update as a "Family Edition". In different ways, so many of you have joined our family on this journey. And, we are grateful beyond what words can express for your partnership, friendship, prayers and support.



Every Christian a "Little Christ"

I (Greg) meditate through Christ's life every other year by reading a gospel harmony, a book that places the events of Christ's life in chronological order. Recently, I found myself scribbling new notes in the margins of my old harmony, as if I were the first person to discover certain insights about Christ.

The gospel harmony tells the story of the life and work of Christ, who glorified His Father as He carried out a mission (Jn 17:4): To make disciples who will glorify God in their city, country, and world (Mt 28:18-20; Acts 1:8). Christ invested in a few to reach the many. When Christ sends out his twelve disciples on a short-term mission trip, they return to give Him a report of what they had done (Lk 9:10).

Then Christ sends out 72 disciples in pairs, and they return with joy to give Him another report of God's marvelous work (Lk 10:17). After Christ's ascension, the

church is born, and Christ's followers were first called "Christians" at Antioch (Acts 11:26). Christ's early followers were becoming like Christ and were seen as "little Christs." This young church in Antioch sends out Paul and Barnabus as "little Christs", and they return from their missionary journeys to give a report, this time to the body of Christ, the church (Acts 14:26-27). In the same way, Faith and I return from Bolivia every 3 or 4 years to give a report to you in person of what God has done by His grace.

**EVERY CHRISTIAN IS TO BECOME A LITTLE
CHRIST. THE WHOLE PURPOSE OF
BECOMING A CHRISTIAN IS SIMPLY
NOTHING ELSE.**

- C. S. LEWIS -

How incredible that Christ's followers today, people like you and me, are becoming "little Christs" by God's amazing grace. And then, God sends us out to live on mission with Him across the street and around the world until that day when the whole earth will be full of His glory (Habakkuk 2:14).

Celebrating What God is Doing

Over this furlough, we look forward to celebrating together what God is doing here and around the world. We would love to share with you about our mission work in Bolivia. Also, we want to hear how God also has been at work in you and through your lives. To this end, we hope to visit with many of you over a cup of coffee or at one of our church visits:

- September 17** (Christ Church of Oakbrook)
- September 24** (Faith Presbyterian Church - West LaFayette, IN)
- October 8** (Cityview Church)
- October 15-19** (Wheaton Bible Church MissionsFest)
- October 20-24** (College Church Mission Conference)

On a more personal note, we will share in this update what has been happening in our family.

Family Milestones



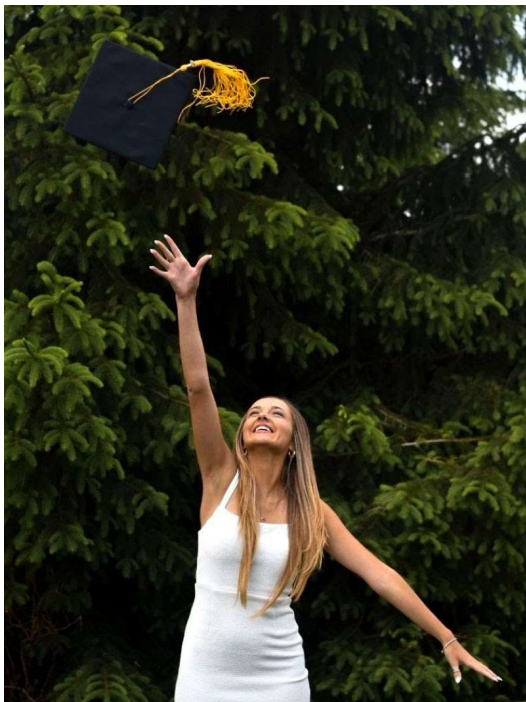
Kayla

" After graduating from Wheaton College in 2020, I worked at World Relief, an organization that offers support for refugee and immigrant families. It was a wonderful season of growth and friendship. Navigating some health challenges and a season of healing and rest, I am now back at Wheaton College in the alumni office. I call Wellspring Alliance my church home and am grateful to be part of a multigenerational and multicultural faith family. I've seen God's goodness and guidance in these different areas of life and am excited to see how He continues to lead me. Thank you for your prayers and support of our family over the years. "

Hannah

" I graduated nursing school in May with a master's in clinical nurse leadership from Elmhurst University. After taking my board exams, I started my first job as a nurse on a neuroscience unit in a hospital in the Chicagoland area. Please pray for me as I continue to learn how to care for my patients — body, mind, and spirit...and how to do it as I work nightshifts! Thank you so much for the role you have played in my nursing journey. "





Mariah

" I am incredibly thankful to have graduated in May with a degree in graphic design from Taylor University. After God's generous provision & prayerful consideration, I am excited to have started a new job in August as the Creative Coordinator at Lifegate Church in Denver. Please pray for my transition to Colorado as I embark on this new season of life post grad. Thank you so much for your prayers and support! "

FAITH

My mom is battling the effects of a rare progressive neurological disorder that affects her body movement, balance, and speech. For that reason, we are living in my parents' home this furlough to play a more active role in their everyday care. Also, it was a joy to be present to celebrate my dad's 90th birthday!



Greg's mom made the move to a wonderful senior living community, The Tradition. Some lifelong friends from her church and earlier seasons of life also live in the same place. God has been watching over our parents, and we are grateful to spend time with them over this furlough. "

Ways to Pray

- **GOSPEL TRANSFORMATION** - Pray for the gospel to continue to sink deeper roots into our own hearts and lives as a family.
- **DISCIPLESHIP** - Pray for gospel transformation in the lives of the people participating in discipleship groups in 14 churches, some who will be sent out by their congregation on a church-planting team. (John 15:16).
- **CHURCH PLANTING** - Pray for wisdom in selecting 15-20 church planters who will participate in a two-year long "incubator", starting in May 2024 to train and walk alongside of church planters and their spouses. (James 1:5)



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