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When you hear the words "short-term mission team", what comes to mind? For me: "Yeah! Yikes! What are they going to do? How are they going to handle the altitude? I'm excited to see Bolivia again through fresh eyes. I hope the Lord gives them a heart to serve. How will I organize their time? Will they return feeling like it was worth their time and the effort they put in to raising funds? I hope no one gets sick." These are just a few thoughts that fly through my mind when I think about a short-term mission team coming to Bolivia to work alongside us there.



I strongly believe that short-term mission trips are crucial for the future of missions, as they help expand one's world view, open one's eyes to needs and opportunities around the world and let them see that missionaries are nothing extraordinary, but people just like them. This past summer, we had the privilege of having two teams come from Parkside Church, one from Transit

Young Adult ministry and the other from Student Impact High School ministry.

serve in Bolivia with SIM. It's a great time of spiritual refreshment and encouragement as we hear from God's Word and share time together as a mission family. This year the conference was held in Santa Cruz, which is in southeast Bolivia. I served on the planning committee for the conference, which was a first for me. Scott Kennedy, a pastor of Parkside, and a team from Transit came to minister to the missionaries in Bolivia, as Scott preached and the team led worship and ran a vacation Bible school program for missionary kids. They did an absolutely fabulous job and the feedback I received was very positive.

Early the morning after the team left from Santa Cruz, I set off to drive 15 hours back to La Paz to finish last minute details and get ready to welcome the Student Impact team, who'd be arriving 48 hours later. With previous teams, I have always been a helper, but this year I was given the opportunity to lead one of our short-term teams, so with excitement and a bit of nervousness, I accepted the challenge. ☺ There were many reasons I was especially excited to host this team, among them were: 1) the fact that I've now been working with youth and young adults for over 20 years, 2) the relationship with Parkside and 3) my brother, Jim, would be one of the leaders on the team.

Three of my goals for the team were:

- 1) To build relationships with some Bolivian youth
- 2) Feel like they'd accomplished something
- 3) Exposure to Bolivian culture.

I had planned to have this be a work team, little did any of us realize just how physically challenging it would be. It's amazing how much work can be done with some work gloves, wheelbarrows and machetes! We all worked very hard and had a great time together.



Parkside Transit Ministry team



Bolivian cohorts:
Stephanie, Joshua, Nicolas, Claudia, Estefania



Parkside Student Impact team

more news...

Over the past year I added to my list of ministries:

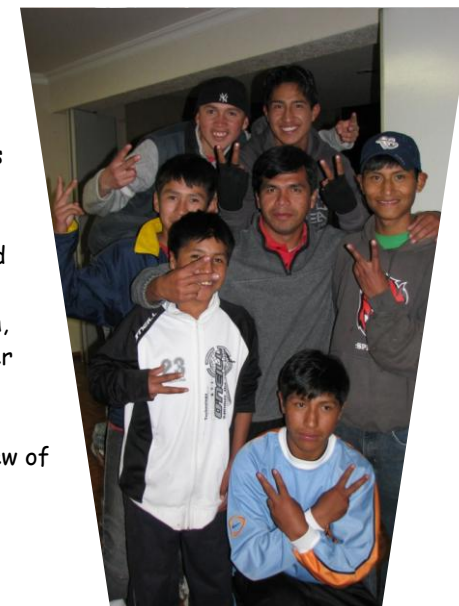
- ❖ ESI - Equipping Servants Internship, which is the 2 ½ - 3 year program developed by Kep James to help prepare and equip men and women for ministry. I'm currently taking the course, in order to add this to my ministry "toolbox" for future leadership training opportunities.
- ❖ Jóvenes - Ministry for youth and Young adults 16 - 24 years old. Actually this has been re-added to my ministry responsibilities

I've taken a step back in my involvement with the adolescent ministry regarding weekly youth group meetings, but am continuing with a discipleship/small group for the girls. During the year we also began a Bible study for the "jóvenes" young women, but due to lack of time and/or commitment, things weren't working out as we'd hoped, so I've now begun to meet one-on-one with a few that I believe truly want to grow and be challenged. The singles' "Jhethro" group continues to meet in my home. We've recently finished our study of I Samuel and have begun a study using The Discipline of Grace by Jerry Bridges. The Women Alone group has just finished that same book and begun a study by James MacDonald from Isaiah called "Gripped by the Greatness of God".



Prayer Requests:

1. Need more leaders for adolescent ministry, jóvenes ministry and singles' ministry, especially for women with a heart for discipleship.
2. Praising the Lord for the marriage of Gonzalo a.k.a. Dude, who's been my co-leader for many years in the Singles' ministry. Pray for him and his new wife, Faby.
3. Pray for the girls and young women that I'm discipling that they would fall more in love with Jesus and have a desire to be conformed into His image.
4. Pray for diligence in my studies and a renewed passion for Jesus, both for me to know Him better and a greater desire to make Him known
5. Pray for the boys in the boys' home, as there have been many changes, including the hiring of primarily non-believers within the administration and leadership of the home. Pray for restored relationships with our church, who began the home, and with a number of individuals, of which I am included. Praise the Lord for the relationship I continue to have with the boys, as a few of them call me "mommy"



*Joy in Jesus,
Kathy*



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